

ALMA

OLD HILL

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Enoch Morris [] – **1875**);
Jane Stevens (**1875** – []

ANCHOR HOTEL

1, St. Annes Road, (1, Dudley Wood Road), (1, Scholding Green Road), Five Ways, CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

Thomas Robinson
Mary Robinson
George Roberts Chatham
North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1896)
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1919], [1994]

LICENSEES

Thomas Robinson [1861] – **1868**); first
Mrs. Mary Robinson (**1868** – **1879**);
George Roberts Chatham (**1879** – **1896**)
Joseph Oldbury (**1896** – []
James Rowlands (**1897** – **1902**)
William Jones [] – **1903**);
George Day (**1903**);
Joseph Lowe (**1903** – **1909**);
Arthur Harvey (**1909** – []
John Davies [] – **1910**);
Victor Percival Dingley (**1910** – [1911]
Robert William Botfield [1912] – **1915**);
John Denning (**1915** – [1916]
William Thomas Walker [1919] – **1920**);
Henrietta Walker (**1920**);
William Tromans (**1920** – **1926**);
Harold Jasper [1924] ?
Major Allport (**1926** – **1930**);
William Thomas Hickman (**1930** – **1931**)
Jeston Victor Hall [1932] ?
Harry Layton (**1932** – **1937**);
Frederick Nelson Raybould (**1937** – **1938**);
George Pearson (**1938** – **1940**);
James Thomas Newton (**1940** – **1961**);
Stanley Hay (**1961** – **1963**);
Denis Priest (**1963** – [1968]
David Mugglestone [] – **1985**)
Linda Ranford [1993]

NOTES

1, Scholding Green Road [1881], [1891], [1911], [1904]

1, Dudley Wood Road [1908], [1916], [1924], [1932], [1939], [1940]
St. Annes Road [1993], [1996]
1, St. Annes Road [2001]

It was originally the ROYAL EXCHANGE. [1861], [1864], [1868], [1871], [1873], [1879]

It was the headquarters of Cradley Heath St. Lukes FC.

1861 Census

Five Ways Road – ROYAL EXCHANGE

- [1] *Thomas Robinson* (34), victualler, born Herefordshire;
- [2] *Mary A. Robinson* (33), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] *William Robinson* (31), brother, coal miner, born Herefordshire:

County Advertiser 27/8/1864

“Yesterday, the annual licensing of the Rowley division was held at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill.....
There were nine applications by beerhouse keepers for licenses, only one of which was granted.....
Thomas Robinson, ROYAL EXCHANGE, Five Ways (refused).”

County Advertiser 28/8/1865 - Advert

“Good News. *Thomas Robinson*, of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Five Ways Cradley Heath.

Begs to inform his numerous Friends and Supporters that he intends to sell them the Best Ales and Porter that can be manufactured at the following Prices.

Best Old Ale, 5d per Quart.

Best Fresh ditto, 4d per Quart.

Second Best, 3d per Quart.

Porter, Prime, 4d per Quart.

Glass of the Best Ale or Porter, 1d.

Grains, 4d per Bushel. Barm at any price.”

County Advertiser 12/12/1868

“The license of the ROYAL EXCHANGE public house was transferred from the executors of *Thomas Robinson* to *Mary Robinson*.”

1871 Census

Five Ways – ROYAL EXCHANGE

- [1] *Mary Robinson* (43), widow, publican, born Dudley;
- [2] *Phoebe Cook* (64), mother, widow, born Dudley;
- [3] *Matilda A. Cook* (12), niece, born Dudley:

County Express 31/1/1874

“*James Harris* was summoned by *Mary Robinson*, landlady of the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Cradley Heath, for assaulting her on the 25th inst. Complainant said that on the day in question the defendant came into her house in the afternoon and had some beer. After a little time had elapsed he became abusive and said her beer was sour. She requested him to leave and he did so, but returned again after, and was still more abusive and made use of bad language. She attempted to put him out and he struck her about the head and face and bruised her. She eventually succeeded in getting him out of the house. Defendant was fined 10s and costs or one month’s imprisonment.”

County Express 3/8/1878

“*Robinson v Whitehall Colliery Company*.

This was a mining action to recover damages for injuries to the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath, brought by Mrs. *Mary Robinson*, the owner, against the Whitehall Colliery Company carrying on business as coalmasters at Cradley Heath. Notice of trial was given for the last Stafford Assizes, but before the Commission day it was referred by Judges’ order to G. M. Dowdeswell, Esq, QC, Official Referee. The learned referee opened his Court at the Great Western Hotel, Birmingham, on Tuesday morning last, and the cause has been on all the week. Mr. Homfray (of the firm Homfray and Holberton, of Brierley Hill) conducted the plaintiff’s case, and Mr. Homer the defendants’. The case was opened by Mr. Homfray for the plaintiff, and that gentleman called on that and subsequent days the following amongst other witnesses: Mr. John Collis, Mr. Thos. Brettell, and Mr. T. T. Fisher, mining engineers; Messrs. George Dudley, J. M. Gething, John Bloomer, S. Insull, Samuel Leonard, Benjamin Billingham, John Billingham, Benjamin Attwood, T. Cook, W. Billingham, J. Adleston, Mrs. *Robinson*, the plaintiff, Mr. A. Homfray, and the Clerk of the Peace for the county of Stafford.

Mr. Homer stated the case for the defendants, the Whitehall Colliery Company, and called the following amongst other witnesses: Messrs. David Peacock, John Hughes, Wainwright, Broughall, B. Wooldridge, J. W. Buckley, M. Fletcher, D. Gill, and the defendants.

The case had not concluded at the time of our going to press.”

County Express 16/11/1878

“*Robinson v The Whitehall Colliery Company.*

This action stood for trial at the Stafford Assizes, but was by judge’s orders referred to Mr. Dodswell, QC, the official receiver. The reference took place at the Great Western Hotel, Birmingham, on the 30th and 31st July and 1st and 2nd August last. Mr. Homfray (of the firm Homfray and Holberton) conducted the plaintiff’s case, and Mr. Homer that of the defendants.

The case was opened by Mr. Homfray for plaintiff and the following among other witnesses were called by that gentleman: The Clerk of the Peace, Messrs. John Collis, Thomas Brettell, and T. T. Fisher, mining engineers; Mr. Gething, architect; Mr. Samuel Insull, Mr. Samuel Leonard and Mr. Jno. Bloomer, valuers; Messrs. George Dudley, B. Billingham, John Hughes, B. Attwood, John Cook and the plaintiff.

Mr. Homer opened the defendant’s case and called among other witnesses the following: Messrs. David Peacock, Wainwright John Hughes, Jeremiah Skidmore, John Skidmore and Mark Fletcher, mining engineers; Messrs. B. Woodridge, J. W. Beckley, and C. A. Horton, valuers; and Messrs. Broughall, Shakespeare and Gill.

The plaintiff is owner of the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Cradley Heath, and the defendants are Mine lessees of Mr. George Dudley and of also thick coal adjoining, belonging to the Earl of Dudley, part of the Rowley Enclosure which they worked together. The plaintiff’s husband bought the surface only of the land on which he built his Inn, a very small part of which was Mr. G. Dudley’s freehold and the rest was Enclosure. The conveyance to the husband of plaintiff contained the following reservation: ‘Except and always reserved unto the person or persons entitled thereto the mines of coal and ironstone and other mines and minerals in or under such portion of the said piece of land thereby conveyed as was coloured pink on the said plan together with such powers of getting and working the same as was vested in the owner or owners thereof, and also except and reserved unto the said George Dudley, his heirs and assigns all the mines of coal in and under such portion of the said plot of land as was coloured green in the said map or plan with full power for the said George Dudley his heirs and assigns to work and get the mines and minerals belonging to him near and adjoining to the said plot of land there conveyed without being liable to make any compensation to the said *T. Robinson* his heirs or assigns or other owner of the hereditaments thereby conveyed for any damage or injury either immediate or consequential that might then or at any time thereafter be occasioned by the working of the said mines or minerals to the surface of the said hereditaments thereby conveyed or to any building or erections that might be erected thereon, or any part thereof.’

The plaintiff’s statement set out the Rowley Regis Enclosure Act, and alleged that as to the Earl’s mines the defendants had not left the proper vertical and lateral support, and as to George Dudley’s mines had worked them negligently. The defendants alleged that all the damages to the inn had been caused by getting a boundary rib left by George Dudley, and that as to the Earl’s mines they had only driven rods with three feet openings, subsequently enlarged to four feet. The plaintiff’s witnesses were unable to get an underground inspection, as all roads had been closed, and so had to rely on surface indications which pointed to large clearings out of thick coal from a considerable area; and on cross examination the defendants’ plan broke down and their book showed sales when prices were high altogether inconsistent with mere trial roads. Mr. Dudley’s plan showed a clean boundary, and the existence of the rib of thick coal, the getting of which the defendant set up as the sole cause of the surface injuries, depended upon whether his shafts had been correctly laid down on the plan when his colliery was first commenced. The Official Receiver has now made his report wherein he finds that the allegations in the plaintiff’s statement are true, and the defendants excavated the thick coal under the plaintiff’s, the adjacent surface, in a negligent manner and awards her £405 damages, subject to a deduction of £108 should the Court be of opinion that the defendants were entitled under special reservation aforesaid to mine how they liked under George Dudley’s lands. The effect practically is that the plaintiff gets £297 and the costs of the action and reference, and £108 in addition should the Court order when the judgement is entered up.”

Mary Robinson died in the 1st quarter of 1879.

County Advertiser 15/2/1879 - Advert

“ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Five Ways Cradley Heath.

Household Furniture and Brewing Plant.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. T. Pateshall, on the Premises as above, on Monday, February 17th, 1879, the Household Furniture, Brewing Plant, and Effects, consisting of Hogshead, Half-hogshead, and other Casks, 100 gallons Wrought Iron Boiler, 150 gallons Cast Iron ditto, Vats, Mash-tub, Gathering Tubs, Malt Crusher, lot of Jugs, Cups, Glasses, Spirit Barrels, Ale and Spirit Measures, Six-pull Beer Machine and Piping, Cross-leg and Square Tables, Chimney Glasses, Mahogany Chest of Drawers, Eight-day Clock in Oak Case, Chairs, Mahogany Horsehair-seated Sofa, Fourpost Bedsteads, Painted Washhand Stands and Dressing Tables, and numerous other Articles belonging to the Executors of the late Mrs. *Mary Robinson*.

Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock in the Morning.

Catalogues may be had of the Auctioneer, Cradley Heath and Colley Gate.”

County Advertiser 30/8/1879

“Rowley Annual Licensing Sessions.....

The Bench allowed the transfer of the following alehouse licenses.....

ROYAL EXCHANGE, Cradley Heath, from the executors of *Mary Robinson* to *George Roberts Chatham*.”

George Roberts Chatham = George Robert Chatham

County Express 13/3/1880

“A complimentary dinner was given at Mr. *George Chatham*’s, ANCHOR INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath, on the 3rd inst, when about 30 gentlemen sat down. Mr. Turnley occupied the chair, and Mr. T. Taylor vice-chair. Among those present were Messrs. Boston Hayes, T. Mallin, W. Hipkiss, I. Rollinson, W. Round, W. Brettle and C. Yardley. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts were duly honoured, and the evening was enlivened by appropriate songs. A pleasant and enjoyable evening terminated at eleven o’clock.”

Dudley and District News 23/10/1880

“A meeting of miners was held on Thursday night, at the ANCHOR INN, Cradley Heath, to hear an address from Mr. Joseph Southall, miners’ agent for the Cannock Chase district. Mr. William Breakwell presided. Mr. Southall said both masters and men interested in the coal trade were suffering very acutely at the present time. In the Cannock Chase district coal was being sold too cheap, and consequently labour was not fairly remunerated. If the price of coal was advanced it would benefit both the employers and the employed. The masters at Cannock Chase were delivering coal into Staffordshire cheaper than it was being sold there. The best coal at Cannock was being sold for less than 7s per ton. Consequently, the men were being paid 2s 3d a stint, which was 6d lower than it had been in the Cannock Chase district during the last fifty-five years. Speaking of the sliding scale, he said it never had a fair trial, as it had not been tried in a rising market.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted: ‘That this meeting pledges itself to support the Union in carrying out the resolution of the recent conference, soliciting masters to grant an increase in wages.’”

1881 Census

1, Scholding Green Road

[1] *George R. Chatham* (29), licensed victualler, born Norton, Shropshire;

[2] Sarah Chatham (28), wife, born Quarry Bank;

[3] George R. Chatham (11 months), son, born Cradley Heath;

[4] Sarah Cooper (20), barmaid, born Old Hill;

[5] Rachel Cotton (19), general servant, born Netherton:

Dudley and District News 10/6/1882

“The following persons, all of Cradley Heath, were charged by Mr. John George Horder, one of her Majesty’s Inspectors of Weight and Measures, with infringing the Act.

George Robert Chatham, licensed victualler, Five Ways, an unstamped pint measure. Fined 1s and costs.”

Dudley and District News 21/10/1882

“On Tuesday night a large and representative meeting of colliers was held at the ANCHOR INN, Cradley Heath. A working miner, who presided, said that poor Staffordshire was 40 to 50 per cent worse than other coal producing districts in the country. He believed that at the present time pike-men were worse off than when they worked the long hours. The evils they were now working under were simply mountainous. The only remedy of these evils was union. He did not wish them to unite to terrorise over the masters; but he thought the masters had been very hard and bitter to them. (Hear hear.) Unless they combined to help each other they would never get their rights. Mr. Breakwell (delegate) said it had just come to his ears that at some local pits the men’s allowance of coal had been stopped. (Shame.) Other privileges that had been fought for and won by their fathers were now waning away, and it behove them as stewards of those privileges to see that they were protected. (Applause.) But there being no union among the men, at least one employer was trying to make his employèes work under the ten per cent advance gained by the recent strike. If the men in the district were to be bound by the sliding scale he thought that the masters ought to abide by it. But the present scale was useless, as it had no bottom, and allowed the masters to go into the market, reduce prices as they liked, and then take it out of the men. Were the men not in that assemblage earning less than 18s a week? (Plenty on us.) Well it was simply through their want of union that this state of things existed. If only they would get over that foolish distrust of each other and unite in standing up for their rights, the public, when they knew the true state of things would assist the poor Black Country colliers in getting a fair day’s pay for a fair day’s labour.

The Chairman said it was a great shame that the public should be paying 14s a ton, when the miners were only getting 3s 8d a day. At the close of the meeting a resolution was passed in favour of the total abolition of the sliding scale.

Complaints have been lodged as to the working of the ‘field pay’ system, which provides a small fund for sick allowance, a resolution was passed in favour of joining the Employers Liability Corporation Limited.”

County Advertiser 26/7/1884 - Advert

“Cradley Heath Grand Fete and Gala.

Will take place at Old Fields, near the New British Iron Company’s Works, kindly lent by Mr. David Bridge (the best that has been seen for many years), on Bank Holiday, August 4th, 1884.

The Cradley Heath Brass and Reed Band, under the direction of Mr. Joseph Westwood, will be in attendance, and play some of the most popular Music of the day.

The Cradley Hand-Bell Ringers will be in attendance under the direction of Mr. C. Southall.

The Committee have engaged, regardless of expense, the following well known Artistes, under the management of Mr. Ishmael Worton: Great and costly engagement of Middle. Zazar and Bros. Vollino, in their astounding performances on the Flying Trapeze; also their Champion Triple Trapeze Act, Acrobats, French Clowns, and introducing marvellous flights of 70ft by Miss Zazar, the smartest Flying Trapeze Artiste extant.

New and Original Sensations. Misses Creswick and Rezin, the greatest of all Lady Duettists and Dancers. See them! A treat!

Special engagement of the great Pat Riley, one of the best Irish Comedians on the British Stage.

Expensive engagement of the great Miss May Tillan, the charming Burlesque Actress, from the London Music Halls; costly Wardrobe. This lady has never appeared in Staffordshire before.

Old English Sports, Games, Coconut Bowling, Old Aunt Sally, &c. An Efficient Band will be in attendance for Dancing on the Platform. In fact, one constant round of Amusement. Eight hours Genuine Fun.

100 Yards Foot Race – First Prize, Silver Watch; Second, Silver Cup.

Quarter Mile Foot Race – First Prize, a valuable Watch; Second, Silver Cup.

Pig Chase, open to children under 12 years of age. Winner to take the Pig. Entrance 3d each.

Refreshments will be provided by Mr. *G. Chatham*, of the usual good quality, at town prices.

Ground open at Two o'clock. Admission, Sixpence each; Children under 12, Half-price. Tickets may be had of the following: Mr. Ishmael Worton, CROWN HOTEL; Mr. *G. Chatham*, ANCHOR INN; Mr. A. Griffith, Mr. J. Williams, Mr. T. Horton, Mr. Arthur Lane, and of the Secretary, Mr. E. M. Knott, Cradley Heath, to whom all entries and communications should be addressed."

County Advertiser 4/4/1885

"The Soirée Committee. On Monday evening the members of the committee who had management of the soirée held a short time ago, dined together with a number of friends at Mr. *Chatham's*, ANCHOR INN, Five Ways. After an excellent dinner, Mr. Williams was voted to the chair. It was stated that after paying all expenses of the soirée there was a balance of £1 19s 2d in hand, and with commendable generosity the committee decided to hand over that sum to the Cradley Heath Institute. The remainder of the evening was spent in a convivial manner."

County Express 9/4/1887

"John Parker and Benjamin Parker, labourers, Beggar's Row, Cradley Heath, were charged with stealing a copper kettle, the property of James Banks, hawker, 37, Hampton Street, Birmingham, on the 5th inst.

Prosecutor said that on Tuesday night he went to the ANCHOR INN, Cradley Heath, where he found the prisoners, and offered a copper kettle for sale. Prisoners then took him to the CROWN INN, stating that the landlord wished to buy a kettle. While they were in the house the prisoners made him pay for a pint of beer, and as he was going out the prisoner Benjamin Parker knocked him down. When he got up he found that his kettle had been taken, and he gave information to Police-sergeant Hayward. On the way to the station the prisoner John ran away, but was caught again by the officer. The kettle was afterwards found concealed behind the door at the CROWN INN.

The Bench thought there was not sufficient evidence to convict and believed the prisoners had been playing a practical joke on the prosecutor."

1891 Census

1, Scholding Green Road – ANCHOR INN

[1] *George R. Chatham* (39), licensed victualler, born Farlow, Shropshire;

[2] Sarah Chatham (38), wife, born Kingswinford;

[3] Blanche Chatham (6), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Marianne Chatham (3), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Eliza Beard (18), servant, born Dudley;

[6] Hannah Hampton (19), servant, born Dudley;

Smethwick Telephone 18/4/1891

"A meeting in connection with the Knights of Labour was held last Monday evening at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath the next meeting will be held at the PLOUGH INN, Oldbury Road, Smethwick on Monday May 11th."

County Express 20/6/1891

"A meeting of delegates from about 40 lodges of the Knights of Labour, at Birmingham, Cradley Heath, Smethwick, Lye Waste, Stourbridge, Dudley, and other places, was held at the ANCHOR INN, Cradley Heath, on Monday, to further consider the proposal to establish an independent national assembly for Great Britain. The movement originated about ten months ago, when effort was made to secure registration of the order on its American form; but the Registrar-General declined to sanction the registration of the order according to the American constitution. It was then decided to take steps to form an English society, the chief object being to get it registered in accordance with the laws of this country; but the promoters of the organisation were anxious at the same time to keep as close as possible to the American order, only modifying it so as to adapt it to the special requirements of English workers and national custom. At the meeting on Monday the preamble of the constitution was read and approved; and it was decided to establish a national assembly of the order in Great Britain.

The delegates discussed a code of rules which had been drawn up by a special committee appointed for the purpose."

County Express 5/9/1891 - Advert

"Cradley Heath. To Property Buyers, Investors & Others.

Sale of Important Freehold Butcher's Shop and Premises, with Land & Houses, at Newtown, Reddall Hill.

Mr. Herbert Humphries will Sell by Auction, at the House of Mr. *George Chatham*, ANCHOR HOTEL, Five Ways, on Tuesday, September 15th, 1891, at Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions of the Birmingham Law Society, the following very Valuable Properties....."

Birmingham Daily Post 20/2/1892 - Advert

“To Innkeepers, and Investors.

Sale of one of the most important Old-Licensed Inns in the District, the SHELTON INN, Belle Vale, Halesowen.

Mr. Herbert Humphries, FAI, begs to announce instructions from the Administrator of the late Nathan Smith, to Sell by Auction, at the ANCHOR INN, Cradley Heath, on Monday, February 29, 1892, at Six for Seven o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions incorporating the common form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/1/1894 - Advert

“10s Reward – Lost, Corngreaves Road or Pig Lane, Gold-rimmed Spectacles.

Chatham, ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 10/2/1894 - Advert

“Desirable Residential and other Properties and Choice Building Sites.

Mr. T. Pateshall is favoured with instructions to Offer for Sale by Auction, at the house of Mr. *G. Chatham*, the ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on Thursday, the 15th day of February, 1894, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions.....”

The Era 29/10/1894 - Advert

“‘At The Foot Of The Altar.’

Wanted, Gentleman for Juvenile Lead and Light Comedy. Former to Rehearsal at Once; latter, Nov 23rd, Lowest terms, references, height &c, address Sunday, W. E. Langley, ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

[A theatrical producer living there.]

George R. Chatham was also a brewer. [1895]

Birmingham Daily Post 5/12/1895

“At Old Hill, yesterday, Henry Alfred Ashwin (37), no home, was charged with obtaining food and lodgings by false pretences, from *George R. Chatham*, landlord of the ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath, between November 13 and 27.

Prosecutor said the prisoner visited his house on the evening of the 13th ult, and applied for lodgings. He said he represented the Midland Educational Company, Birmingham. He told witness about the commission he was getting, and said he had received orders from several persons in the locality for advertisements in the company's diary. He obtained lodgings, food, and drink to the value of £2 7s 4d. Prisoner went out every morning with a parcel, and appeared to be doing considerable business. Police-sergeant Newman, on the 27th visited the HOLLY BUSH INN, Cradley Heath, and questioned the prisoner about leaving the ANCHOR without paying what he owed. Prisoner said he could pay his debts, and witness requested that he should accompany him to prosecutor's house. Immediately prisoner got outside he bolted, and witness and Police-constable Winn, after a good chase, caught him. When charged he said, ‘I always represented to Mr. *Chatham* that I was employed by the Midland Educational Company. I am employed indirectly at a rate of 25 per cent.’ Witness searched prisoner and found upon him 4s 2d in money, two filled-up receipt books, whilst in a parcel which he carried with him 460 billheads belonging to various firms and tradespeople in the neighbourhood, upon whom he had called. Further evidence showed the prisoner was neither employed by the Midland Educational Company nor authorised to canvass.

Prisoner was further charged with obtaining 2s 6d by false pretences from Messrs. Holt and Willetts, pulley block manufacturers, Cradley Heath, and 12s 6d from Edgar Silvers Bloomer. It was stated that there were altogether about twenty charges against prisoner.

The magistrates committed him to the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.”

[Henry Alfred Ashwin had already served terms of imprisonment for like offences.]

County Advertiser 3/10/1896

“Rowley Annual Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Interim authorities were granted to *Joseph Oldbury*, ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 7/8/1897 - Advert

“ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath.

Arthur H. Sidaway has received instructions from the North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd, to Sell by Auction, at an Early Date, several Capital Brewing Plants, which will be removed to the above Premises for convenience of Sale.

Particulars will appear in future Advertisements.

Auctioneer's Offices, High Street, Cradley Heath.”

James Rowlands = James Rowland

County Express 9/10/1897

“The second annual parade of Foresters in the Cradley, Cradley Heath, Quarry Bank, and Dudley Wood districts, for the benefit of the home at Clent, took place on Sunday afternoon, with every element of success attending it – the day was fine, the crowd was large, and the collections were very satisfactory. A pleasing feature about the parade was the number of members who turned out, and the number of courts. The following courts were represented.....

Foresters Home, ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

The Era 14/1/1899 - Advert

“Mr. H. W. Ebbutt at Liberty shortly, termination ‘New Mazeppa’ Tour. Late ‘Cheer, Boys, Cheer,’ ‘Derby Winner,’ &c. ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”
[An actor living there.]

County Advertiser 8/7/1899

“The Midland Counties Trades Federation opened the two days Conference on Monday, at Graingers Lane School, Cradley Heath.....
The delegates were entertained to dinner at the ANCHOR HOTEL by the council of the Chain and Anchor Associations. An excellent spread was put upon the tables by the host, Mr. *J. Rowland*.....”

County Advertiser 15/7/1899

“The annual meeting of Court Foresters’ Home, No.4196, A.O.F, held at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath, was held on Monday evening. Bro. L. Cartwright, CR presided.....”

The Stage 15/6/1899 - Advert

“Miss Edie Preece Disengaged, Chambermaids. Offers Invited. Address, ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”
[An actor living there.]

West Bromwich Weekly News 9/6/1900 - Advert

“Girl, smart, wanted, to assist generally.
Rowland, ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 23/6/1900

“The annual meeting and dinner of the executive of the Best Chainmakers’ Association was held at the ANCHOR HOTEL on Monday evening, when the members partook of a repast well served by the landlord, Mr. *Rowlands*.....”

County Express 21/7/1900

“The members of Court Foresters’ Home, No.4196, of the A.O.F. dined at Bro. *J. Rowland*’s, the ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on Monday. About 40 sat down to a capital repast. Bro. L. Cartwright presided.....”

County Express 28/7/1900

“The third annual day in connection with the New Block Chainmakers’ Society was held on Monday, and the event was celebrated at the house of Mr. *Rowlands*, the ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath, when some fifty assembled.....”

County Express 6/10/1900

“On Tuesday evening Mr. E. O. Nightingale, auctioneer of this town, held a successful sale of properties at the ANCHOR INN. The property comprised five dwelling houses situate in Providence Street, being sold to Mr. Thos. Stone for £752. There was a good company present, and the price realised gave the greatest satisfaction. Mr. John Wright, solicitor of the town and Halesowen, acted for the vendors.”

Smethwick Weekly News 2/2/1901

“On Wednesday Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner), held an inquest at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath, respecting the death of James Cowley, aged three years and eleven months, who died on Monday from the effects of burns sustained on the 2nd ult. It appeared that on the morning of the latter date a sister of deceased was fanning the fire, when a spark flew out and ignited his shirt. He sustained serious burns, from which he died on Monday.
The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

County Express 16/3/1901

“Warwick Plant, fishmonger, High Street, Cradley, was charged with assaulting Hezekiah Bills, chainmaker, of Quarry Bank, on the 5th inst. Mr. G. Williams (Messrs. Wright and Williams) defended.

Bills story was that he went into the ANCHOR INN, Cradley Heath, with his daughter and a friend. He had a musical box with him, and started this playing. Plant and a few friends came in, and Plant began insulting witness, and wanted to fight him ‘for as many pounds as he liked.’ Witness told him he was no fighting man, and that he did not want any bother. Plant then hit witness on the head, and from the force of the blow, as he struck round, fell down. Mr. *Rowlands*, the landlord came in, and Plant went outside.

Cross-examined: Witness denied taking his hat round to collect money for the music. Witness started the musical box for his own amusement. He denied receiving a penny from anyone for the music; he also denied pushing Plant or touching him at all.

After John Smith, the man who was with Bills, had given evidence, Mr. Williams, for the defence, said the whole affair seemed to have been most trumpery and trivial. Bills started his musical box, and then went round with his hat. This annoyed Plant, who told him he ought not to go round cadging when he could earn £3 a week. The two men pushed each other, with the result that Plant tumbled down.

Plant and other witnesses were called for the defence, and the Bench, after hearing the evidence, dismissed the case.”

1901 Census

Scholding Green Road – ANCHOR HOTEL

- [1] *James Rowlands* (39), licensed victualler and glass painter, born West Bromwich;
- [2] *Emma Rowlands* (35), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] *Francis Allen Rowlands* (9), son, born Melbourne, Australia;
- [4] *Dorothy J. Rowlands* (7), daughter, born Melbourne, Australia;
- [5] *Reginald Rowlands* (5), son, born Smethwick;
- [6] *Grace A. Rowlands* (3), daughter, born Cradley Heath;
- [7] *C. Munton* (19), barmaid, born Nuneaton;
- [8] *Alice Berks* (18), domestic servant, born Cradley Heath;
- [9] *Bennie Doctor* (24), boarder, actor and musician, born Buffalo, New York:

County Advertiser 1/6/1901

“Last week a presentation dinner to celebrate the safe return of Corporal Thomas James Brown from South Africa was held at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Five Ways, under the presidency of Mr. Thomas Poole, sen. Mr. *James Rowlands*, the host, with his usual care and taste, provided for the ‘creature good’ in a manner highly commendable. Some forty friends sat down to table, including the guest, who looked the picture of health, albeit deeply tanned by the rays of an African sun, under which he has served for fifteen months.....”

County Advertiser 7/9/1901 - Advert

“Unreserved Sales of Dutch Flowering Bulbs, including Hyacinths, Tulips, Crocuses, Narcissus, &c.

Messrs. Cooper and Hill will hold their Annual Sales as follows:

ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath. Tuesday, 17th September, 1901.

STAR HOTEL, Halesowen. Wednesday, 18th September, 1901.

HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath. Friday, 20th September, 1901.

Sale to commence at Seven o’clock in the Evening.

Catalogues may be obtained from the Offices of the Auctioneers, Halesowen, Cradley Heath, and Blackheath.”

County Express 12/10/1901

“Block Chainmakers’ Society. The members of this society held their annual dinner at the ANCHOR HOTEL, on Monday, when a good dinner was provided by the host, Mr. *J. Rowlands*, and was greatly enjoyed. At the after proceedings Mr. J. H. Smith (secretary), presided, supported by Mr. C. Loates, of the Lock Makers’ Society, and Mr. J. Taylor, secretary of the Midland Counties Trade Federation. The chairman, in a few remarks about the condition of the trade, congratulated the society and the steady progress made during the last year, and upon the increased benefits and increased prices.

Mr. Loates gave an interesting speech in which he told the operatives the only way to maintain prices and to better their condition was to combine and keep the society intact. He also spoke of the condition of the lock makers before they had a society, and at the present time, when their conditions were greatly improved.

Mr. J. Taylor congratulated the operatives on the position they now occupied. He was pleased to say a better understanding existed between the employers and workers than had ever been the case. He was pleased to know the society gave sick pay, death benefits, &c, and he thought trade societies ought to deal with every phase of the workers’ life. Mr. Taylor went on to speak of the work of the Midland Counties Trades Federation, and of what it had accomplished for the working classes. He also touched upon the adverse decision of the House of Lords as affecting trades unionism.

Songs were given during the evening by several of the men, and a vote of thanks to the host and hostess concluded the proceedings. Mr. J. Clifton was accompanist.”

County Express 22/2/1902

“A complimentary dinner was given to the president of the [cricket] club (Mr. R. Fellows) at the ANCHOR HOTEL, on Monday evening, and a thoroughly enjoyable evening was spent by some 25 members and friends. Mr. L. Connop was in the chair, and amongst those present were Messrs. R. Fellows, B. Millward, G. Standish, E. Bissel, J. C. Teagau, T. L. Round, G. Mason, A. J. Pearson, and others. A capital dinner was served by the host, Mr. *J. Rowlands*. The loyal toast was proposed from the chair, following which Mr. G. Standish proposed the toast of ‘The President,’ making reference to the interest Mr. Fellows took in the club and his anxiety to do all he could to promote its welfare. The toast was most cordially received, and in reply Mr. Fellows thanked the proposer of the toast for the kind manner he had proposed it. He (Mr. Fellows) only wished that he deserved one-half or one-quarter the nice things he had said. He also thanked those present for the hearty way they had received the toast. He was fully conscious of his shortcomings. When they were good enough to ask him to become president of the club he considered it a great honour and he did not accept the office lightly, or without consideration. But having accepted it, he did his best to do his duty. If they were satisfied with the way he had filled the office he was delighted, and was amply repaid for any little loss of time, or any little inconvenience he might have been put to – (hear, hear). Looking back upon his term in office, he could honestly say that it had been one of great pleasure to him, and whether in or out of office they could rely on him doing all he could possibly for the Cradley Heath Cricket Club. After referring to cricket being the truly national game, Mr. Fellows went on to urge the playing members to practice regularly, so that they might have a large number of wins to their credit at the end of next season. In conclusion, he hoped they would again have some good sports for the public, and expressed his intention to offer a substantial prize for competition at the sports – (applause). Other toasts were given, and during the evening songs were nicely rendered by Messrs. J.

E. Mathews, Grice, and G. H. Mason. Mr. B. Heys presided at the piano.”

County Express 1/3/1902

“As briefly recorded in our issue last week, a strike is taking place among the outworkers of the dollied and block chain sections of the chain trade to get an advance of 10 per cent upon the 13-16in downwards, which the operatives say the employers agreed to concede at a conference held in Birmingham in November last year. A largely attended meeting of strikers was held at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on Saturday morning.....”

County Express 15/3/1902

“A meeting of the outworkers in the dollied and block branches of the chain trade, who are on strike, was held at the ANCHOR INN, Cradley Heath, on Saturday morning. Mr. James H. Smith presided, and said a few of the outworkers had been started at the advance, but there were more men out on strike than there were a week ago. Something like £250 per week was being expended in strike pay.....”

County Express 22/3/1902

“A largely attended meeting of the chainmakers in the dollied and block sections of the chain trade in the Cradley Heath and surrounding districts, who are out on strike, claiming an advance of 10 per cent in their wages, was held on Saturday morning at the ANCHOR INN, Cradley Heath. Mr. J. H. Smith, the secretary of the society, who presided, explained that no other masters had consented to concede the advance, but the men were being well supported. A resolution deciding to continue the strike until the whole of the employers concede the advance was carried unanimously, and at the close over £200 was distributed in strike pay.”

County Express 29/3/1902

“A further meeting of the chainmakers, who are out on strike to obtain a 10 per cent advance in wages, was held at the ANCHOR INN, Cradley Heath, on Saturday morning.

Mr. J. H. Smith presided over a large attendance, and said no employers had conceded the advance, but the numbers of those out on strike were decreasing, because the employers who had conceded the advance were employing more men.....”

County Express 17/5/1902

“A meeting of the operatives in the dollied and block sections of the chain trade who are out on strike was held at the ANCHOR HOTEL on Saturday morning.

Mr. J. H. Smith, who presided, stated that no other employers had consented to concede the advance of 10 per cent, but there had been a reduction in the amount of strike pay disbursed weekly in consequence of some of the men returning to work. During the week the factory and out-workers’ sections had amalgamated, and in future would be considered as one section.

It was decided to continue the strike until all the employers had conceded the 10 per cent advance.

After the meeting about £120 was distributed in strike pay.”

County Express 14/6/1902

“On Saturday evening the members of Court Foresters’ Home of the Dudley and Cradley Heath district of the A.O.F. met at Bro. *J. Rowlands*’, the ANCHOR INN, Cradley Heath, and during the evening the retiring chairman, Bro. Arthur Bloore, Quarry Bank, was presented with an emblem of the order and a PCR ribbon, in recognition of his valuable services in the chair.

The presentation was made by the Chief Ranger, Bro. Edwin Bloore, who referred to Bro. A Bloore’s work as being most successful whilst he had occupied the chair.

Bro. Arthur Bloore, in fitting terms acknowledged the court’s recognition.

Among those present were: Bro. D. M. Chapman, PDCR, Bros. L. Hill, PCR, J. Watters, PCR, J. Tromans, PCR, and M. Shaw, SCR.”

Manchester Evening News 2/7/1902

“At Rowley, Staffordshire, to-day, *James Rowland*, landlord of the ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath, was fined £5 for keeping his hotel open during prohibited hours. On the night peace was proclaimed a gentleman staying at the hotel, in celebration of peace being declared, entertained twelve gentlemen at supper in the hotel at eleven o’clock (Sunday night) and defrayed the cost. The defendant contended that under the circumstances he had not broken the law.

The magistrates said but for the fact that it was peace night a much heavier fine would have been inflicted.”

James Rowlands – see also VINE AND RAILWAY.

County Advertiser 13/12/1902 - Advert

“Cradley Heath. On Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, December 16th, 17th, 18th & 19th, 1902.

Highly Important Exhibition and Sale of a Highly-attractive Collection of Pictures (in Oil and Water Colour).

By the following well-known Exhibitors (and others).

Alfred de Breanski, RBA. Vincent Clare, Yeend King, AECA, H. Pennell, ARCA, J. Horace Hooper, T. Watts, café, EBA, Paul Jackman, Ernest Partos, RI.

Removed from the Fine Art Galleries, Glasgow, to the Large Assembly Room at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Five Ways, Cradley Heath, for Convenience of Sale.

Pictures on View and on Sale by Private Treaty, 11am to 6pm.

Sale by Auction at Seven o'clock in the Evening.
Catalogues from the place of Sale, and from Herbert Humphries, Auctioneer, Stourbridge and Brierly Hill."

County Advertiser 14/2/1903

"On Wednesday the annual licensing session for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held at the Court House..... Superintendent Spendlove had given notice that he should oppose the following licenses.....
William Jones, ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath, open for sale during prohibited hours.....
License renewed."

County Advertiser 14/3/1903

"On Wednesday the adjourned licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held at the Police Court, Old Hill.....

An application was made for the transfer of the ANCHOR HOTEL, Scholdings Green Road, Cradley Heath, from *William Jones* to *George Day*. Applicant stated that he had entered into an agreement with the North Worcestershire Brewery Company under which he was subject to a week's notice. The agreement was not in the possession of the company. Sir Benjamin Hingley said the Bench considered a week's notice insufficient, and they would accept nothing less than a month. As the agreement was not before the Court the application would be refused, but they would grant an interim authority until the next transfer sessions. Subsequently Mr. Thornton, the representative of the North Worcestershire Brewery Company, attended, and promised to alter the agreement to a month's notice before the application was again heard."

County Advertiser 4/4/1903

"*George Day* applied for the transfer of the license of the ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath, formerly occupied by *William Jones*. Mr. Cooksey (magistrates' clerk) explained that applicant had applied for the transfer seven days ago, but a temporary authority was granted until that day as the agreement only allowed seven days' notice. The Bench did not consider this enough, but thought the notice should be 28 days.

Inspector Hodgkins said the applicant bore a good character, and on the understanding that the notice should be 28 days instead of seven, the application was granted."

Tipton Herald 18/7/1903

"Mr. *Day*, of the ANCHOR HOTEL, has arranged a walking match to take place this (Saturday) afternoon. The route will be from the ANCHOR to the Sun at Hunnington. The first prize will be a silver cup, second a silver watch, third a pair of boots to measure, given by Mr. Griffiths, auctioneer."

Tipton Herald 12/12/1903

"Mr. D. M. Chapman has been appointed district secretary of the Dudley and Cradley Heath District of the Ancient Order of Foresters. The appointment was made on Monday evening at a meeting held at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath, and there were five names submitted for the post."

County Advertiser 24/6/1905

"At a meeting of Court Foresters' Home No.4196, Dudley and Cradley Heath District, A.O.F. held recently at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Bro. Frank Chapman was presented with a PCR ribbon and also a PCR certificate in acknowledgement of his services as CR to the court during the last eighteen months....."

County Advertiser 13/4/1907

"The quarterly district meeting of the Dudley and Cradley Heath District A.O.F was held at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on Monday. Bro. G. Thomas, DSCR, presided in the unavoidable absence of Bro. G. Court, through illness....."

County Express 4/1/1908

"Sick and Draw Clubs.... ANCHOR INN (Cradley Heath). On Monday night, when a large number of members sat down. Mr. J. Harris was voted to the chair. The chairman complimented the society on making such excellent progress and mentioned that the dividend was 10s 2d per member. The committee, treasurer, and secretary had all worked assiduously. Votes of thanks were accorded to the chairman, treasurer, and the host and hostess (Mr. and Mrs. *Lowe*). A musical programme was contributed to by the following: Messrs. H. Vernon, A. Billingham, W. Dunn, and P. Lowe (accompanist)."

County Express 1/8/1908

"The annual dinner of the members of the dividend society which meets at the ANCHOR INN was held in the club room on Monday evening, when about 40 members and friends enjoyed an excellent dinner provided by Mr. *J. Lowe*. Mr. John Harris presided, Mr. E. Willetts being in the vice-chair. Among those present were Messrs. T. Wilkes (secretary), B. Price (treasurer), T. Hill, Jos. Hanson, S. Hanson, J. Cartwright, A. Bradley, I. Homer, E. Cartwright, A. Clift, H. Hipkiss, A. Parkes, J. Biggs, Jos. Biggs, J. E. French, and F. Gould. After the loyal toasts the Vice-chairman prosed 'Success to the ANCHOR Sick and Dividend Society.' Referring to the trade of the district, he remarked that during the last 40 years a large number of people had made a considerable amount of money in Cradley Heath and had gone elsewhere to spend it. He thought that the least those who had made fortunes in the district could do was to take a little interest in the place – (hear, hear). The idea of such societies as theirs was to work together to help one another in times of distress. He wished the club prosperity.

The Secretary, responding, said the society was one of the oldest in the district. The first half of 1908, in spite of considerable trade depression, was one of the best periods they had had – (applause). All the members had worked extremely well together. The Chairman submitted the toast of ‘The Visitors,’ which was seconded by Mr. Wilkes, and responded to by the Vice-chairman. Other toasts followed, including that of the ‘Host and Hostess,’ to which Mr. *J. Lowe* responded. Songs were contributed by Messrs. R. Cole, B. Vernon, A. Billingham, P. Lowe, and A. Harris. Messrs. P. Lowe and Harris were the accompanists. A most enjoyable evening closed with thanks to the artists.”

County Express 12/9/1908 - Advert

“On Monday Next. Unreserved Sale of Choice Dutch Flower Bulbs.

Consisting of Hyacinths, Tulips, Crocuses, Daffodils, Polyanthus, Narcissus, Anemones, Snowdrops, Scillas, Ixias, etc, for in and outdoor growth.

H. Sidaway is instructed to Sell By Auction, on Monday, September 14th, 1908, at the ANCHOR HOTEL Assembly Rooms, Five Ways, Cradley Heath.

The sale to commence at 2.30pm.

Catalogues may be obtained at the office of the auctioneer, High Street, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 12/9/1908

“Friendly Societies’ Parade. On Wednesday evening the committee of the above met at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Mr. W. Coley presiding over a large attendance. The following was a complete list of those boxes which contained amounts of 1s and upwards.....

Mr. *J. Lowe*, ANCHOR HOTEL, 1s 7d.”

County Express 2/1/1909

“Dividend Clubs..... ANCHOR HOTEL (Cradley Heath). A capital meal was served by Mr. and Mrs. *Lowe*. Afterwards Mr. E. Willetts took the chair, and among those present were Messrs. E. Willetts, J. S. Harris (vice-chairman), Parkes, Biggs, Nutting, Cartwright, Hipkiss, Price, Barnbrook, Hanson, A. Hill, T. Wilkes (secretary), and S. Ray. The first toast was ‘The King,’ which was proposed by the chairman, and drunk with enthusiasm. ‘Success to the ANCHOR Sick and Dividend Society’ was proposed by the chairman, who said such institutions did good work in the district. Mr. Harris replied, and said the year had been a very successful one. They had paid nine or ten per cent, in sick pay, and had a substantial dividend per member. A man who did not join such a society as that made a great mistake. The best thing that working men could do was band themselves together for their mutual benefit.

Mr. T. Wilkes and Mr. S. Raybould also replied, the former stating that 27 members had joined the society for the next year.

The secretary submitted the balance sheet, which showed the total contributions £31 12s 9d, and the amount paid out to the 31 members 9s 2d each.

Other toasts included ‘The Auditors,’ ‘The Press,’ and ‘the Host and Hostess,’ special reference being made to the excellent manner in which Mr. and Mrs. *Lowe* and staff had cooked and served the dinner. Mr. *J. Lowe* briefly responded.

The artists were Messrs. H. Vernon, H. Billingham, Percy Lowe (piano soloist and accompanist), and S. Willetts.”

Tipton Herald 9/1/1909

“The annual dinner in connection with the Cradley Heath and District Fanciers’ Association was on Monday evening held in the assembly room at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath, the house of Mr. *Joseph Lowe*. An excellent meal was served, and it was heartily partaken of.

After the meal Mr. George R. Yates took the chair.....”

County Express 6/2/1909

“The death took place on Thursday morning, at the age of 84, of Mr. Thomas *Lowe*, father of Mr. *Joseph Lowe*, landlord of the ANCHOR INN, Cradley Heath. The deceased was for about 50 years manager of the firm of Messrs. Emanuel and Son, late of the Audnam Foundry, Brettell Lane. For some years he kept an off-licensed house at Camphill, Wordsley.”

Tipton Herald 13/2/1909

“On Tuesday the remains of the late Mr. Thomas *Lowe*, father of Mr. *Joseph Lowe*, of the ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath, were taken to their last resting place and interred at Wordsley Church, where the rest of the family are interred.....”

County Express 20/3/1909

“ANCHOR HOTEL Assembly Room, Five Ways, Cradley Heath.

A. H. Sidaway is instructed to Sell By Auction, on Monday, March 29th, 1909, a Manufacturer’s Stock of Carpets and Rugs, comprising English Axminster, Wilton Pile, Brussels, Tapestry, Stair and Corridor Carpet, Real Turkey Carpets, &c.

Sale at 2.30 and 7 o’clock pm.

Catalogues may be obtained from the Auctioneer, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 10/4/1909

“The death occurred on Saturday at the age of 47 years, of Mr. Joseph Husselbee, brother of Mrs. *Joseph Lowe*, ANCHOR INN, Cradley Heath. Deceased had been ill two months, his complaint being acute pneumonia. The interment was at Wordsley on Wednesday.....”

Tipton Herald 24/4/1909

“A serious accident occurred in the High Street, in Cradley, on Monday. A youth named Fred *Lowe*, son of Mr. *Joseph Lowe*, of the ANCHOR HOTEL, was riding with a friend in the direction of Cradley Heath, and whilst endeavouring to negotiate the main street the brake gave way, and the machine [cycle] tore down the incline at a terrific rate. As he approached Mr. Dentith’s confectioner’s shop – an awkward bend – he noticed a woman crossing the road, and it was while trying to steer clear of her that he ran with great force into the kerbstone. The result of the impact was that young *Lowe* was thrown headlong into Mr. Dentith’s shop window. He sustained a severe bruise on the head, and several small ones on the face. He was attended by Dr. Waugh. The machine, on which there was only one brake, was completely wrecked.”

County Express 5/6/1909

“The members of the Cradley Heath and District Fanciers’ Association held a members’ or table show on Wednesday at the ANCHOR HOTEL. Over 50 entries faced the judges, Messrs. Yates and Fox. The principal winners were Messrs Roper, Cox, Grainger, Willetts, Stevens, Boxley, Broadhurst, Capewell, Harris, and Palmer.”

County Express 3/7/1909

“A meeting of the Cradley Heath and District Fanciers’ Association was held at the ANCHOR HOTEL on Tuesday, when the following judges were appointed for the third annual show to be held on November 24th and 25th: Mr. P. Proud, Southport (poultry and cage birds), Mr. F. Machin, Moseley (pigeons), and Mr. E. Sidaway, Cradley Heath (rabbits). The society are offering six challenge cups for competition as follows: for open poultry, one given by Mr. F. G. Sykes, and one by the society; for members’ poultry, one given by Mr. G. R. Yates and one by Mr. C. P. A. Harris; for members’ pigeons, one by Mr. H. Stevens; and for open pigeons, one by Major Boscawen.”

Tipton Herald 14/8/1909

“On Wednesday night a billiard match for suppers was played on the table at the ANCHOR HOTEL, the supper being partaken of the following evening. After the meal Mr. A. Pearson was voted to the chair, and the evening was spent convivially.....”

Joseph Lowe – see also BULLS HEAD, Cradley, Halesowen.

County Express 8/7/1910

“Under the auspices of the Cradley Heath Fanciers’ Society a smoking concert was held in the ANCHOR INN, Cradley Heath on Monday evening. Mr. E. Bird (Cradley) presiding over a large attendance. To the programme the following contributed: Messrs. C. Taylor (tenor), F. Evans and Wall Clayton (comedians), W. Stevens (coon singer), A. Stitch and A. Wyre (Indian clubs). Mr. V. Dingley accompanied.”

County Express 6/8/1910

“At Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, an application was made for the transfer of the license of the ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath, from *John Davies* to *Victor Percival Dingley*.

Applicant stated that the outgoing tenant was not present, he having left the public-house and gone to reside in South Wales. He had given notice to Supt. Johnson, but it was not in accordance with the requirements of the Act. He asked, however, that the Bench should treat it as a case of urgency.

Supt. Johnson said he had no objection to that course being pursued, and the application was granted.”

County Express 1/10/1910

“Local Auction Summary.

Bulbs Today And Monday, October 3rd.

ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath, by Mr. T. Pateshall.”

County Express 14/1/1911

“Cross-Country. Cradley Heath and Halesowen Harriers.

On Saturday a large number of the Cradley Heath and Halesowen harriers journeyed to Yardley to run in the Small Heath harriers junior trial race.

The remainder of the branches ran from the ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath, and followed a very long trail laid by J. and A. Kirton. The route comprised Foxcote, Hagley Monument, Hagley Park, Clent Hills, and Luttlley. The slow pack received ten minutes start, but missed the trail owing to the semi-darkness, thereby curtailing the route by a mile, and were not sighted by the fasts. In a fast finish T. Turner (Halesowen) beat D. Reece (Cradley Heath). The fasts followed the legitimate course and were out 1 hour and 40 minutes, running three-quarters pace. A. Pateshall and T. H. Jones led the pack in.”

1911 Census

1, Scholding Green Road – ANCHOR INN

[1] *Victor Percival Dingley* (29), licensed victualler, born Cradley Heath;

[2] Mabel Valentine Dingley (24), wife, married 4 years, assisting in the business, born Maida Vale, London;

[3] Mabel Violet Dingley (3), daughter, born Cradley Heath;

[4] Harriet Walker (62), visitor, lady’s housekeeper, born Halesowen;

[5] Nellie Preece (19), domestic servant, born Quarry Bank:

County Express 22/4/1911 - Advert

“For Sale. About 30 yards of capital pitch-pine close boarded fencing, 6ft 6in high, complete with oak posts, iron stays, and earth plates in sections 8ft long so as to be easily bolted together, coated with pitch and tar; condition as new; Also garden Roller, 20in diameter, double cylinders, with well rounded edges, balance handle; weight about 4cwt; can be easily moved about by a boy, only slightly used since new. Very good Lawn Mower, 10in cutters complete with grass box (Silensmessor), Green’s patent. Good strong Wooden Shed, corrugated roof, 24ft long 7ft wide, about 10ft high, with doors and shutter complete, suitable as a tool house, small workshop, or convenient for a farmer’s use.

The above are now stored at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath, and can be seen on appointment on application to the Manager.”

County Express 15/7/1911

“Football. Cradley Heath & District League. The secretary had received applications from a number of clubs, and the committee have secured for headquarters the ANCHOR HOTEL, Fiveways, Cradley Heath (proprietor Mr. *Victor Dingley*). A silver challenge cup, together with gold-centre medals for runners-up, are on view at the shop of Messrs. Barran and Co., Tailors, High Street, Dudley.

Full particulars apply to league secretary, Joseph Stanton, 84, Mushroom Green, near Old Hill.”

County Express 29/7/1911

“On Saturday the annual meeting of Court Foresters’ Home, 1496, A.O.F., was held at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath, Bro. C. Southall presiding over a good attendance. The half-yearly accounts were presented, and showed a marked improvement. A vote of thanks was passed to the auditors. During the evening Dr. G. H. Waugh was made an honorary member of the Court, and in returning the thanks he paid a special compliment to the excellent work done by the friendly societies of the district. Drs. T. M. Tibbetts, G. H. Waugh, and E. Fryer were re-elected as medical men for the next year. The whole of the other officers were re-elected.”

County Express 23/9/1911

“Sports Notices. Football. A meeting of the Cradley Heath League will be held at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on Tuesday evening, at 8pm.”

County Advertiser 14/12/1912

“At Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, *Robert William Botfield*, licensee of the ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath, applied for an occasional license in respect of the Victoria Hall, Spinners End, Cradley Heath, on the occasion of the Cradley Heath and district fanciers’ annual show. It was, he explained, the first application to be made to that Court, although the show had been held for six years.

The Bench decided to grant the application as an experiment.”

Robert William Botfield – see also BEEHIVE and BELL, Cradley Heath, and BLUE BALL, Old Hill.

John Denning – see also CROWN AND ANCHOR.

Birmingham Daily Post 26/6/1918

“The dead body of a man named Alfred John Adams (26), a tea merchant’s traveller, residing at Corporation Street, Wednesbury, was found suspended from a rope attached to a ladder in the yard at the rear of the ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath, yesterday. Adams left home on Monday, but how he got to Cradley Heath is a present a mystery. He was a discharged soldier.”

County Express 26/3/1921

“On Thursday last week at the ANCHOR HOTEL the distribution of cups won at the recent open and members’ show of the Fanciers Society, took place.....”

Sports Argus 10/6/1922

“Cradley Heath and District League.

The eleventh annual presentation of trophies and medals will take place at headquarters, ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on Tuesday, 20, June. It is hoped that Mr. Charles Crump, the president of the Birmingham County FA, will be able to present, and also the league’s president, Mr. C. H. Sitch, MP, while several prominent members have promised their presence. Invitations will be issued by the secretary, but should anyone interested be over-looked a message to the secretary will bring a ticket of admission.”

Harold Jasper was married to Lilian.

See also HOLLY BUSH and SWAN.

Sports Argus 20/6/1925

“The Cradley Heath and District Amateur Football League will hold its fourteenth annual presentation of cups, shields and medals

on Monday next, 22 June, at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath, commencing at 7.30pm. The league is presenting nearly 250 medals.....”

Midland Advertiser 25/1/1930

“The South Staffordshire Roller Canary Club held its annual exhibition at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on Wednesday and Thursday. There were about 200 entries and the singing was of a high standard.”

Dudley Herald 24/1/1931

“The eleventh annual open exhibition of roller canaries, under the auspices of the South Staffordshire Roller Club, which is affiliated with the British Roller Canary Association, and is probably the second largest club in the country, having over a hundred members, was held at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on Wednesday and Thursday last.

The entries were rather less than last year, numbering just under 200, due, no doubt, to the condition of trade, but although the quantity was lower, the quality was higher, especially among the birds of local fanciers.

There were entries from all parts of the British Isles, but the major prizes were all carried off by Black Country fanciers.....”

Dudley Herald 31/1/1931

“The first open show of the recently revived Cradley Heath and District Fanciers Society was held on Saturday last at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Dudley Wood Road. Some splendid birds were included among the 250 entries, and the tasks of the judges were rendered an extremely difficult one. The cup for the best fowl in the show was secured by J. Baker, and that of the best opposite sex went to J. Taylor, whilst Messrs. Hobbs and Hope well carried off the trophy for the most points gained.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/2/1939

“The Rev. W. C. Chrimes, Methodist Minister of Cradley Heath, objected on behalf of the local Free Church Council, and some of the local clergy, to the removal of the license of the ANCHOR HOTEL, Five Ways, Cradley Heath to premises to be erected at Surfeit Hill, Cradley Heath, which is on the fringe of a municipal housing estate.

Mr. P. Thorneycroft, MP, in making the application, said the removal of the license from Five Ways would be no hardship to that part of the district because it was well supplied with public-houses, whereas there were 447 new houses in the vicinity of Surfeit Hill which needed catering for.

Mr. Chrimes said that already there were considerable arrears in rent on municipal estates, and he prophesied a considerable increase if the removal were granted.

The application was refused.”

1939 Register

1, Dudley Wood Road – ANCHOR HOTEL

[1] *George Pearson*, date of birth 31/8/1898, tenant, publican, married;

[2] *Miriam Pearson*, dob 29/1/1909, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[5] *Vera (May) (Round) Howes*, dob 12/6/1916, domestic servant, single:

Evening Despatch 5/3/1941

“Rowley Regis licensing justices at their adjourned annual meeting today renewed the licenses of the SALUTATION and ANCHOR public houses, Cradley Heath, deferred from the last meeting and referred that of the LION INN, Cradley Road, Cradley Heath, on the grounds of redundancy. It was stated that within a radius of 500 yards there were 20 fully licensed house, six beer-houses and one off license.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/5/1941

“County Licensing Confirmation Committee.....

Application for the confirmation of a grant for the removal of the full licence of the ANCHOR INN, Dudley Wood Road, Cradley Heath, to premises to be erected on land and premises now numbered 8, Surfeit Hill, Cradley Heath.....

Mr. H. A. Tucker (barrister), who appeared in support of the application, said the ANCHOR INN belonged to the Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd, who also owned the proposed new site. The ANCHOR INN was a fully licensed house doing a good trade, but there were other licensed houses in that area, whereas there was no proper provision for licensed refreshments in the area to which it was proposed to move the licence. The value of the ANCHOR INN was assessed at £5,000, and the value of the CHAINMAKERS ARMS, which it was proposed to surrender if the application were granted, was assessed at £3,000.....

Evidence was also given by Albert Thomas Butler, architect, who, in reply to the Chairman, said that under normal conditions it would take about 18 months to build the new house. He agreed that it was unlikely that building would be commenced until the war had ended.....

After a retirement the Chairman announced that the committee were unable to confirm the transfer that day, but they would be willing to consider another application when there was a likelihood of the new licensed house being erected.”

Tipton Herald 22/9/1956

“Cradley Heath Old Age Pensioners Christmas Party Fund will be richer on October 3rd by £55. The money, which will be presented at the SWAN INN, Cradley Heath, is the net result of the newly-formed Detheridge darts competition.

All told, 34 teams from Cradley Heath and its neighbouring districts took part in the competition which was eventually won in front of a 300 crowd by the BIRD IN HAND, Cradley Heath, who beat the ANCHOR ‘B’ team, also of Cradley Heath.

Secretary C. Burtlett tells me next year's competition will commence some time in March and is expected to attract an even greater number of entries."

Tipton Herald 27/8/1960

"Tipton team wins Butler Cup.

The final of the competition took place at the OLD SWAN on Thursday week, the finalists being FOUR WAYS, Cradley Heath, and NOAHS ARK, Tipton.....

Councillor Bill Harris presented the cup and four prizes to the winners, and the T. Lawton Cup and four prizes to the runners-up; H. Price Cup and four prizes to the JOLLY GOODFELLOW, Woodside, the best losing semi-finalists. Four prizes went to the GOLDEN CROSS, semi-finalists. The highest score prize went to G. Willetts (ANCHOR, Cradley Heath), highest finish prize to R. Langford (NOAHS ARK), and the Henn Cup and prize to GOLDEN CROSS for the highest collection. After meeting expenses £23 was handed to the Old Folks Fund."

[Darts]

Denis Priest was married to Joan.

A team from here took part in the Cradley Heath Darts League. [1970]

[2001]

Closed [2002]

Reopened

It was subject to Compulsory Purchase Order in December 2003.

Closed

It was demolished in 2004.

APPLE TREE

Hyatt's Colliery, (Dog Lane), Knoll, [Knowle], ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Joseph Danks [1847] – **1850**;

Richard Holmes (**1850** – [1854])

NOTES

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 1/11/1847 - Advert

"Sale of Cast Iron Rails and Sleepers.

To be Sold by Auction by Mr. Jesse Wright, Tomorrow (Tuesday), November 2, at twelve o'clock precisely, on the banks of the Netherton and Selly Oak canal, in the basin belonging to the Alkali Works, in the parish of Rowley Regis, about ten tons of Cast-Iron Rails and Sleepers, in such lot or lots as the company may agree upon at the time of sale, under a consignment for sale to Mr. *Joseph Danks*, of the APPPLE TREE Public House, near the said Works.

The whole to be sold without reserve."

Joseph Danks was also a steam boiler manufacturer. [1849], [1850]

[Was this the same Joseph Danks as at the HAILSTONE and RED COW?]

Richard Holmes = Richard Homes

1851 Census

Dog Lane

[1] *Richard Homes* (35), nail warehouse clerk, born Stourport;

[2] *Emma Homes* (30), wife, born Dudley;

[3] *Sarah Ann Plant* (19), servant, born West Bromwich:

Closed

BARLEY MOW

91, (60), Dudley Road, Knowle, (Springfields), ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

Joseph Tibbetts Snr. [1900]
Thomas Benjamin Williams and Lizzie Bates, Rowley Regis

LICENSEES

Benjamin Cope [1879] – [1884]
Joseph Tibbetts Snr. [1887]
James Bray [1891]
John Dunn [1895]
Joseph Tibbetts Jnr. (1896 – 1911);
William Arthur Moore (1911 – 1912);
Joseph Tibbetts Jnr. (1912 – []
Mary Ann Sidaway [] – 1919);
Edward Sidaway (1919 – 1926);
Horace Edmunds (1926 – 1928):

NOTES

It had an ante '69 beerhouse license.

Dudley Herald 13/9/1879

“Enoch Powell was charged with being unlawfully drunk on the premises of *Benjamin Cope*, landlord of the BARLEY MOW, Springfield, and also with refusing to quit the said premises, on the 4th inst. The case being proved, defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs.”

1881 Census

60, Dudley Road

- [1] *Benjamin Cope* (39), beerhouse keeper, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Matilda Cope (34), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] Sarah Ann Jones (19), domestic servant, born Dudley:

West Bromwich Weekly News 22/10/1881

“An inquest was held on Wednesday, at the BARLEY MOW INN, Springfields, before Mr. E. Hooper, touching the death of Samuel Millward (6), whose parents reside at Whitehouse’s Yard, Springfields.

Hannah Millward, mother, said the deceased complained to her about a pain in his knee on Wednesday last, consequent on the injuries he received. The leg began to swell, and he was unable to walk. On Saturday she brought him down stairs and in a short time he was taken with a fit, which was followed by another in which he died about nine o’clock.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned by the jury.”

Dudley and District News 17/6/1882

“Mr. Edwin Hooper (District Coroner) held an inquest at the BARLEY MOW INN, Springfield, The Knowle, on Wednesday, touching the death of George Stanford, aged one year and ten months, who was found dead in a well. During the temporary absence of his mother – who is a widow – on Saturday morning the deceased went into a garden, crept through a fence, and fell into a shallow well and was drowned. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Dudley and District News 15/9/1883

“An inquest was held on Monday at the BARLEY MOW INN, Springfield, Rowley, upon the body of Thomas Millward, an engineer, of Albion Street, Brades Village, whose body was found in the reservoir at the Twin Pits, Round’s Green. The deceased had been strange in his manner for some time, and consequently had been watched. On Thursday morning he left home to go to work, and was shortly afterwards prevented from leaping down a pit shaft by a man who happened to be passing. A verdict of Suicide whilst in a state of Temporary Insanity was returned.”

Dudley and District News 14/6/1884

“Luke Taylor, a youth, was charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of *Benjamin Cope*. The defendant went into the BARLEY MOW, Springfield on the night of the third inst, the worse for drink. He became very abusive, and refused to leave the house. *Cope* ejected him several times, and in the scuffles the defendant broke three panes of glass. He went into the yard, picked up a stone, and was about to throw it into a window when his arm was arrested. Defendant admitted the charge, and had nothing to say in reply. The Bench said this was a bad case, and with a view of teaching the defendant a lesson they fined him 40s and costs or one month.

Defendant: I'll have the month.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/7/1887

“At Old Hill Police Court yesterday, James Southwick, landlord of the YEW TREE INN, Blackheath; Isaac Mullett, landlord of the HAWTHORN INN; Joseph Tromans, landlord of the BOAT INN, Gosty Hill; James Lovatt of the PORTWAY TAVERN, Perry Lake, Rowley; Henry Cooper of the THREE FURNACES, Old Hill; and *Joseph Tibbets*, Spring Fields Rowley, were summoned by the Excise officials for adding sugar to beer after the duty had been taken, between the dates of April 18 and 27.

Mr. Davis stated that the defendants added a quantity of sugar to the beer after the Excise officers had been round and taken the duty. Books were supplied by the Inland Revenue, in which the quantity of sugar and other ingredients used was entered. Upon visiting the defendant's premises it was found that sugar had been added which was capable of raising the standard of ale from what was twopenny up to sixpenny.

Mr. Shakespeare, who defended, pleaded guilty to the charge, but pointed out that the defendants were ignorant of the law, and were not aware they were doing wrong. Their object in adding the sugar was to give the beer a ‘head,’ which made it clear and palatable. There was no intention of defrauding the Inland Revenue.

Mr. Davis stated that in one case the gravity of the ale was increased from 66 to 77 degrees.

Mr. Shakespeare asked that a nominal penalty be inflicted.

Defendants were fined £20 each, including costs, the aggregated amount of the penalties being £120.”

County Express 22/3/1890

“During Sunday thieves broke into the BARLEY MOW INN, Dudley Road, Springfield, and took 5s in money and a jacket. A pigeon-house was afterwards visited and thirteen valuable pigeons, belonging to Mr. Benjamin Woodhouse, were stolen. An examination of the premises by the police showed that the thieves gained admittance by forcing a cellar window.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/4/1890

“Yesterday, at the Police Court, Martha Crump, BARLEY MOW INN, Springfield, Rowley Regis was charged with assaulting Sarah Cooper, on the 25th of March. A dispute arose between the parties in question, when a fight ensued, in the course of which the complainant was knocked down by a blow from Mrs. Crump, and kicked whilst on the ground. The defence was that complainant was the aggressor. The Bench fined defendant 10s and costs, and bound her over to keep the peace for three months.”

1891 Census

60, Dudley Road – BARLEY MOW INN

- [1] *James Bray* (64), widower, publican, born Pansom, Herefordshire;
- [2] *James Bray* (25), son, assistant, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Martha Crump* (30), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *William Crump* (31), son-in-law, railway labourer, born Newport, Monmouthshire;
- [5] *Hugh Bray Crump* (2), grandson, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Helen Crump* (1), granddaughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *Gilbert Crump* (2 months), grandson, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] *Richard Lease* (51), visitor, living on his own means, born Dawley, Shropshire:

County Advertiser 13/10/1894

“*Joseph Taylor*, miner, Springfield, Rowley, was charged with assaulting *Reuben Musty* on the 30th ult. Complainant was in the BARLEY MOW INN, Springfield, about nine o'clock in the evening, when defendant, without any provocation, struck him a blow on the eye. Defendant was fined 13s, including costs.”

County Advertiser 14/9/1895

“*Luke and Matthew Taylor*, of Springfield, Rowley, were charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of the BARLEY MOW INN, Springfield, Rowley, kept by *John Dunn*, and further with assaulting the latter, on the 7th inst. Complainant stated that on the date named both defendants came into the house and commenced to create a disturbance by knocking on the table and making the glasses jump. Both the men were drunk. Complainant asked them in a civil manner to go out, and they refused to go. Complainant went up to them to put them out, and thereupon *Luke* caught hold of him by the throat. Witness had great difficulty in getting defendants out, and they afterwards came in again. It took nine or ten men to get them out, and they behaved like ‘ranging bears.’

Defendants denied the assault. Defendants were fined 28s each, including costs.”

County Advertiser 12/12/1896

“Thomas Hampton, collier, Springfields, Rowley, was charged with being disorderly and refusing to quit the BARLEY MOW INN, Springfields, on the 5th inst. The evidence showed that defendant went into the house and asked for some drink, with which he was supplied. He then became disorderly, and was requested to leave. Defendant refused, and as he had continued to create a disturbance was expelled. He came back to the house, and eventually the police had to be called in. Defendant said he did not want to leave the house as he was unwell. Defendant was fined 10s and costs.”

County Advertiser 1/5/1897

“William Crowe, a native of Rowley, was charged with assaulting *Joseph Tibbetts*, junior, and also with being drunk and disorderly on the licensed premises of the BARLEY MOW, Springfield, Rowley, and refusing to quit the same on 13th September, 1896. Prosecutor said that defendant came into the house about half-past eight in the evening, and asked for some ale. Witness refused to supply him as he was the worse for beer, and asked him to leave the house. Defendant refused to go until he had the beer, and struck him a violent blow in the eye. Defendant forced him to the ground, and struck him while on the ground. Defendant was fined 10s and costs in each case.”

Joseph Tibbetts, beer retailer, 60, Dudley Road. [1900]

County Express 28/7/1900 - Notice

“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 therein after mentioned is situate, and to all it may concern.

I, *Joseph Tibbetts*, junior, Beerhouse Keeper, now residing at Dudley Road, Rowley Regis, in the Parish of Rowley Regis in the County of Stafford, do Hereby Give Notice that it is my intention to apply at the General Annual Licensing Meeting, for the Division of Rowley Regis, to be holden at the Public Office at Old Hill, in the said County, on Wednesday, the 22nd day of August, 1900, for the Grant of a License or Certification, authorising me to apply for and hold an Excise License for the Sale by Retail, at a House and Premises known as the BARLEY MOW, and situate in Dudley Road, Rowley Regis, in the Parish of Rowley Regis aforesaid, of Wine to be consumed either on or off the Premises, in pursuance of the Act 28 Victoria, Cap.27, Sections 7 and 8, and Acts amending the same, of which said Premises *Joseph Tibbetts*, senior, is the owner, and the same are of the annual value and are otherwise qualified as required by law, and are now in my own occupation.

Given under my hand this 19th day of July, 1900.

Joseph Tibbetts, Jun.

Witness: W. Stanley Mobberley.”

County Express 25/8/1900

“The annual licensing sessions for the petty sessional division of Rowley Regis were held on Wednesday, at the Court House, Old Hill. The magistrates present were Messrs. W. Bassano (chairman), G. Green, and J. W. Tilley.....

Mr. W. S. Mobberley supported an application for a license to sell wine ‘on and off’ at the beerhouse, the BARLEY MOW INN, Springfield, Rowley Regis, kept by Mr. *Joseph Tibbetts*. Mr. Tinsley opposed on behalf of another licensed victualler in the district. It was stated that the house was situated about half-way between Rowley and Dudley on the main road. The applicant had kept the house for four years, and there had been no conviction or complaint against him. Travellers frequently asked for wine, but had to be refused, and were sent to the ROYAL OAK, a fully licensed house situated 180 yards away. Mr. Tinsley’s objection was that the district was adequately served by the other houses round, and the Bench refused to grant the application.”

1901 Census

60, Dudley Road

[1] *Joseph Tibbetts* (34), brewer, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Priscilla Tibbetts (31), wife, born Lye;

[3] George Hatton (23), brother-in-law, single, labourer at pipe works, born Lye;

[4] Florence Homer (21), domestic servant, born Quarry Bank:

County Express 22/11/1902

“Mr. *Tibbetts*, landlord of the BARLEY MOW INN, Springfields, Rowley, applied for the sanction of the Bench to erect a club room upon his licensed premises.

Mr. Bassano said the magistrates were strongly opposed to granting permission to provide facilities for increased drinking. Mr. *Tibbetts* explained that owing to the increased population in the district, and the desirability of holding clubs on his licensed premises, he found it necessary to apply for the increased accommodation.

The Bench deferred the consideration of the question until the Licensing Sessions.”

Tipton Herald 21/11/1903

“A harvest supper was held at Mr. *J. Tibbetts*’s, BARLEY MOW INN, Springfield, Rowley, on Thursday se-night, at which a good number were present. After ample justice had been done to the good things provided by the host and hostess the remainder of the evening was spent in harmony. Mr. James Shingleton, the famous singing collier, was voted to the chair.....”

1911 Census

91, Dudley Road – BARLEY MOW INN

[1] *William Arthur Moore* (25), brewer and retailer, born Dudley;

- [2] Ada Alice Moore (28), wife, married 4 years, assisting in business, born Rotherhithe, London;
[3] Ada Alice Stone (9), step-daughter, born Rotherhithe, London;
[4] Ivy Marguerite Moore (3), daughter, born Hamilton, Canada:

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-Berhouses, 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 8th, 1920, at Seven o'clock in the Evening precisely, subject to Conditions of Sale then to be produced, as follows.....

BARLEY MOW INN, Springfield, near Dudley (Beerhouse On), under Management, together with a Valuable Plot of Building Land adjoining, occupying an area of 850 Square Yards or thereabouts.....

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.....”

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.....

BARLEY MOW, Dudley Road, Rowley, on the ground of redundancy.”

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority, on the grounds of redundancy, on 7th March 1928.

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/7/1928

“The principal meeting of the Licensing Compensation Authority for the county was held at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Monday, when 14 licenses which had been scheduled by the licensing justices, mostly from the South Staffordshire area, came under consideration. Of these three were renewed and the remainder were referred for compensation.....

In the following cases no opposition was offered to the referring of the licences for compensation and the action of the justices in each case was confirmed.....

BARLEY MOW, Springfield, Dudley (*Horace Edmunds*), ante-'69 beerhouse.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/8/1928 - Notice

“The Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910. County Of Stafford.

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 16th day of July, 1928, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below, all persons claiming to be interested in the said premises for the purpose of the payment of Compensation under the said Act (other than the Licensee, and the Registered Owner of the said Premises) are required to send to the Compensation Authority notice of their Claims before the 14th day of September, 1928, for the purpose of enabling the Compensation Authority to ascertain in manner provided by the Licensing Rules, 1910, the persons entitled to Compensation under the said Act in respect of the said Premises.....

BARLEY MOW, Springfields, Rowley Regis. Beerhouse ante 1869. Licensee, *Horace Edmunds*. Registered Owners, Thomas Benjamin Williams and Lizzie Bate.”

Compensation was paid on 22nd December 1928.

The house closed on 29th December 1928.

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/1/1929

“County Quarter Sessions. Licensing Compensation Awards.

At the Supplemental meeting the committee awarded a total sum of £15,230 in compensation, and considered that the amounts agreed upon were satisfactory both from the point of view of the parties interested and the Compensation Fund. The amounts approved were as follows.....

BARLEY MOW, Rowley Regis, beerhouse, ante 1869, £1,375.

The amounts awarded had been apportioned between the interested parties and paid.”

BARLEY MOW

115, City Road, Oakham, (2, The City), Tividale, ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

Thomas Benjamin Williams and Lizzie Bate, Rowley Regis [1919]
Ansells Ltd. (acquired on 15th June 1946)
Holt, Plant and Deakin (1984 – [1991])

LICENSEES

John Bagnall [] 1st licensee
Joseph Cox [1855] – **1860**);
William Griffiths (**1860 – 1864**);
John Wainwright (**1864 – 1866**);
Sarah Wainwright (**1866 – 1867**);
Arthur Wise (**1867 – 1869**);
John Pleydon (**1869 – 1881**);
Henry Walton (**1881** – []
Thomas Plant [1888] – [1912]
Thomas **Frederick** Holland [1911]
Edward Cole [1916] – **1925**);
Ann Maria Cole (**1925 – 1927**);
Fred Harrison (**1927 – 1930**);
William Harris (**1930 – 1940**);
Thomas Smith (**1940 – 1949**);
John Clifford Smith (**1949 – 1959**);
John Smith (**1959 – 1961**);
Stanley Clarke Withers (**1961**);
Frederick Hewitt (**1961 – 1963**);
William Fox (**1963** – [1965]
John Stait [1982]
Colin Waring (**1984** – [1987]
Colin Sandel [1993]
Diane Murphy (**1998** – [2000]
Ivan Munnely (**2001** – [2003])

NOTES

City [1896], [1904]
2, The City [1881], [1891]
115, City Road [1940]

Black Country Bugle (October 1984) - Pub of the Month

“.....*John Bagnall*, who was transferred from farmer status to coal master almost overnight, when trial borings on his land struck coal at a depth of 230 yards and Bagnall’s Farm was quickly converted into a beer house.”

It was the headquarters of Oakham United FC. They changed here.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/8/1855

“Stewpony Annual General Licensing Meeting, for the granting and renewing of licenses, took place on Tuesday last..... There were 30 applicants for spirit licenses, out of which number the 11 under-mentioned were successful.....
Joseph Cox, in the ‘City’ of Rowley.”

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 originated 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 14th 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 29th 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 14th 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."

Worcester Journal 22/7/1865

"Worcestershire Summer Assizes.....

Mary Smith, domestic servant, was indicted for the wilful murder of her two male children, at the parish of Rowley Regis, on 14th March, 1865. Mr. Motteram and Mr. Warren were for the prosecution, and Mr. Sawyer, at the request of the learned judge was for the defence.

Mr. Motteram, in opening the case for the prosecution, gave the facts of the case, which are as follows. The young woman who is rather ordinary-looking, had the misfortune of falling a victim to the evil designs of a married man, named Vaughan, a miner, to whom she stood in the relation of niece, and on 14th March, a very cold day, she was walking across the Rowley Hills, from Dudley, and while pursuing her journey, she was suddenly seized with pains of labour, and was delivered of two male children, over which she seems to have sprinkled a small quantity of earth. She then, with considerable difficulty, made her way to the nearest public house, the BARLEY MOW, and sent for Vaughan, the father of the children, who, after staying with her for a few minutes, left her, saying he could not help her. The same afternoon two men, accompanied by a dog, were going over the hills, and their attention was drawn to a small heap of dirt by the dog scratching at the place. On their proceeding to the spot they saw the leg of a child, which moved. One of the men feeling afraid, went and stayed at a cottage until his companion, who had gone to Oldbury for assistance, returned and brought with him a police-constable and a surgeon. All three went to the place, where the child was, and, on the earth being removed, two newly-born male children were found, the one dead and the other alive. Both were placed in a basket, and taken to the PRINCE OF WALES public house, but before being placed in the basket the child found alive died. Having thus stated the case, the learned counsel said if the circumstances of the case did not lead the jury to find a verdict of wilful murder against the prisoner, they could either find her guilty of manslaughter or acquit her of the charge altogether.

Charles Archer, labourer, stated that on 14th March he, in company with a man named Reuben Wood, was on the Rowley Hills. They had a little dog with them. Their attention was drawn to a little heap of earth, and when witness moved the earth with his foot he saw a child's leg. The child began to cry and its leg moved before Wood came up. When Wood arrived he said he would go for a policeman, and started for Oldbury, while witness went to a cottage which was near, leaving the children as they were. When Wood came back with PS Simmons, they all went to the place where the children were, and witness saw Simmons pick up two children and take them to the PRINCE OF WALES public house.

Cross-examined: The dirt which covered the child was an inch and a half in depth. He removed the earth with his foot, the same as he should have kicked anything off. He remained at the cottage an hour before he went back. The earth appeared as if it had been put on by hand.

By Mr. Motteram: The children were completely covered over, and witness could not see the least of them. In removing the soil witness touched the leg of the child, and it cried. He did not think he injured it at all.

Reuben Wood, labourer, gave corroborative evidence.

PS Simmons stated that he saw part of the child's leg, body, and face. There was a thin sprinkling of soil upon the bodies, through which he could see. He knocked some of the soil off, and saw a leg and arm move. He then moved the child, and saw a second one lying underneath. The second child was dead. Afterwards apprehended the prisoner, and charged her with leaving her two children exposed on Rowley Hill, and thereby causing their death. She replied, 'I am aware of it.'

Mr. Cooper, jun, surgeon, of Oldbury, said the child lived for about three minutes. Witness made an examination of the child which had been found alive, and discovered a slight abrasion on the leg, but no marks of violence on either. His opinion was that the child which was found dead had died from exposure to the cold, and the one found alive from congestion of the lungs, also the effect of exposure to cold. Witness could form no opinion as to whether the child found dead was alive or dead when put under the soil.

By Mr. Sawyer: There were around the place where the children were found several caves where a child might be thrown. Mr. Cooper, sen, who attended the prisoner on the 14th March, stated that she had given birth to a child within twenty-four hours. On witness questioning her she said she had been delivered of twins when coming over the hills. She believed they were both born alive, and she heard one of them cry several times. She left them where they were found and did not put them under the ground. Witness had previously made no allusion to the children being put under ground.

Mrs. Esther Powell, Westbromwich, stated that prisoner lodged at her house, and left about half-past twelve on the day the children were born. Before she left she had made some baby clothes, and on Friday after she left witness went to see her at her lodgings at Oldbury. She said to prisoner, 'I wish you had picked your babies up and put them in your apron, if they had died on the road.' Prisoner said, 'I wish I had.'

Sarah Wainwright, landlady of the BARLEY MOW, near the Rowley Hill, said prisoner came to her house about four o'clock in the afternoon of the 14th of March, and stayed until eight. She had some brandy, cold. At prisoner's request witness sent for a man named Vaughan, who came, and after staying about five minutes went away. Prisoner then had some hot brandy and said she was cold.

Aron Vaughan, miner, said he had known the prisoner for twenty years. He could not say whether he was the father of the children. He was a married man, and was uncle to the prisoner. Gave the prisoner ten shillings on the Saturday night before the children were born. Saw her on the Tuesday at the BARLEY MOW, when she told him she had been delivered of two children, on Rowley Regis. He told her he could not help her. Prisoner told him that she believed the children were dead when she left them. Elizabeth Skelding, Ann Skelding, and Ann Warlow gave evidence, which contained no new facts.

Mile Overend, Superintendent of Police at Oldbury, said that at the adjourned inquest, held in April, he heard the prisoner make a statement to the effect that, as she was walking over the hills from Dudley the children were born, and she went as fast as she could to get some one to fetch the children away. She did not know where she was, and almost lost her own life, and was well nigh starved to death.

Mr. Sawyer for the defence, said that he thought all in court would agree with him in arriving at the conclusion that the unfortunate woman was not only not guilty of the crime of murder, but of any offence against the law. He alluded to the preparations made by the woman for providing clothes for her children, and said the evidence showed that she had behaved to her children in the most gentle manner possible.

The learned Judge, in summing up, laid before the jury the distinction between the crime of murder and manslaughter, saying that if the prisoner was found guilty those were the only two crimes brought into question, that the concealment of birth having no connection with the case.

The jury found the prisoner not guilty, and she was accordingly acquitted."

Sarah Wainwright died in the 1st quarter of 1867.

County Advertiser 13/4/1867

"At the Police Court, on Wednesday, the license of the BARLEY MOW, Tividale, was transferred from the executors of *Sarah Wainwright* to *Arthur Wise*."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 3/4/1869

"Tim Thomas of Tividale, will run Tom Tye of Birmingham 100 yards level, for £10 a side, and will take expenses to run at Aston Cross. Money ready at the BARLEY MOW, Rowley, or an answer through *Bells Life* will be attended to."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/1/1870

"At the Petty Sessions yesterday, before Messrs. E. Moore and L. W. G. Barrs, a publican named *John Pleydon*, of the BARLEY MOW, Tividale, was charged with selling ale during prohibited hours. On the evidence of Police-constable Satchwell, it was shown that on Sunday, the 9th instant, five or six men were drinking in a stable on the premises of the defendant, and that in the manger there were two quart jugs of ale. To the inquiry of the Bench as to what he had to say, defendant made reply in rhyme, thus, 'Well, I've nothing at all to say; please to tell me what I've to pay.'

Mr. Moore: You are fined 10s and costs.

Defendant: Why that's more than I have taken since I have been in the house – (laughter)."

Stourbridge Observer 29/1/1870

"James Haines, William Ashcroft, William Ratcliffe, and Matthew Davis, four men, were summoned for drinking in a public house on the 9th instant, during prohibited hours, at Tividale.

Police-constable Satchwell said: I visited *Playden's* public house about ten minutes past twelve o'clock on the above date, and found the four defendants in the stable. There were two quart jugs of ale, and a half gallon jug filled.

Defendants pleaded guilty, and were fined 1s and costs."

County Express 27/8/1870

"The annual licensing meeting for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division was held yesterday at COOKSEYS HOTEL..... *John Playdon*, BARLEY MOW, Tividale were all cautioned in reference to the future conduct of their houses."

1871 Census

City

[1] *John Pleydon* (38), licensed victualler and farmer, born Piplton, Worcestershire;

- [2] Emma Pleydon (30), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] William Pleydon (2), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Albert Pleydon (9 months), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Agnes Pleydon (4), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Jane Bennett (14), domestic servant, born Tipton:
[Pipton was probably Peopleton, south east of Worcester.]

John Pleydon was also a farmer. [1873]

County Advertiser 22/5/1875

“*John Bladen* [sic], landlord of the BARLEY MOW INN, Tividale, was charged with permitting drunkenness in his house on the 3rd inst. Mr. Shakespeare defended. Police-constable Given said that at nine o’clock on the night in question he visited the defendant’s house, and found a man present, drunk and asleep. He called the landlady’s attention to the fact, and she instantly requested the man to leave. The Bench thought that the man was drunk, but were not satisfied that the landlord was aware of it. The case was dismissed.”

1881 Census

2, City

- [1] *John Pleydon* (48), cattle dealer, born Pippleton, Worcestershire;
- [2] Emma Pleydon (40), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] Agnes Pleydon (14), daughter, born Tividale;
- [4] William Pleydon (12), son, born Tividale;
- [5] Caroline Pleydon (8), daughter, born Tividale:

County Express 1/9/1888

“*Thomas Plant*, landlord of the BARLEY MOW, Tividale, was charged with allowing gambling on his premises on the 18th ult. Police-constable Mannering, of Willenhall, said that at 6.50 on the evening in question he went to the defendant’s house in plain clothes, and in the kitchen were fourteen men. A man whom they called Farey reached down a pack of cards from the shelf, and challenged the company to play at cards for a quart of ale. Three men joined and played a game for a quart, and the landlord was near and supplied the beer. Another of the men, named Joe, who was one of the winners in the first game, said he would play anyone for ‘a dry 3d a corner.’ The same two men won again, and the money was paid to the winners. The men began to play another game for the same amount, and witness left. Police-constable Moreton corroborated. Defendant said he was not in the house until seven o’clock on the same evening, and did not supply any beer. The Bench said the case was clearly proved, and the defendant would be fined 20s and costs.”

1891 Census

2, The City – BARLEY MOW INN

- [1] *Thomas Plant* (32), licensed victualler, born Dudley;
- [2] Jemima Plant (31), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] Eliza A. Plant (7), daughter, scholar, born Dudley;
- [4] Ada Shingleton (17), general servant, born Dudley:

County Express 27/6/1891

“*Joseph Allmark*, Tipton Road, Tividale, was charged with being disorderly on the licensed premises of *Thomas Plant*, BARLEY MOW, on Sunday. Complainant said defendant came into his house drunk, and when requested refused to leave. When witness tried to get him out they fell, and witness received an injury to his head. Fined 5s and costs, or fourteen days.”

1901 Census

The City, Oakham

- [1] *Thomas Plant* (41), licensed victualler, born Kates Hill;
- [2] Jemima Plant (40), wife, born Kates Hill;
- [3] Eliza Ann Plant (17), daughter, born Kates Hill;
- [4] Jemima Plant (7), daughter, born Kates Hill:

1911 Census

near Dudley – BARLEY MOW INN

- [1] *Thomas F. Holland* (32), licensed victualler, born Thorne, Staffordshire;
- [2] Fanny Holland (32), wife, married 10 years, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Fred Holland (9), son, school, born Great Bridge;
- [4] Madeline Holland (6), daughter, school, born Rowley;
- [5] Leslie Holland (4), son, born Rowley;

[6] Thomas Holland (2), son, born Rowley;

[7] John Willie Holland (1 month), son, born The City, Rowley Regis:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/4/1926

“A horse driven by William *Cole*, who formerly lived at BARLEY MOW, Gipsy Lane, Tividale, took fright at Brades Bridge yesterday. In making a plucky effort to stop the runaway, *Cole* got entangled in the reins and fell beneath his own cart, being killed.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/4/1926

“A verdict of Accidental Death was returned at the inquest at Tividale yesterday on William *Coles*, aged 39, haulier, residing with his mother, the licensee of the BARLEY MOW INN, City, Oakham, Rowley Regis, who it was stated was in charge of a horse attached to an empty tip-cart when the animal took fright and bolted on Tuesday. *Coles* tried to hold the horse in check, but was unsuccessful, one of the reins snapping. He climbed over the front of the vehicle on to one of the shafts, and then apparently got his feet entangled in the reins. He fell to the ground, and one of the wheels passed over his head.”

AND

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 13th 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.”

It had a football team based here. [1935]

It was rebuilt in 1937.

1939 Register

115, City Road

[1] *William Harris*, date of birth 20/9/1891, innkeeper, married;

[2] *Nellie F. Harris*, dob 6/1/1897, paid servant, married;

[3] *William Harris*, dob 1/12/1918, professional footballer, single;

Tipton Herald 17/3/1956

“A musical cigarette box was presented to Mr. R. Walton, President of the Tividale and Oakham Horticultural Society, at the Society’s second annual ladies’ evening at the BARLEY MOW INN, Oakham, on Thursday, for his services to the Society. Alderman G. Palmer, a former President, who made the presentation, said the Society, which was ‘one of the strongest of its kind in the area,’ owed much of its success to Mr. Walton.

For his valuable work on the committee, P.Serg. D. Mole was presented with a set of pipes.

A dinner attended by members and their wives was followed by a concert.”

Tipton Herald 27/10/1956

“A popular feature of Tividale and Oakham Old Folk’s Gala, held each year in September at Tividale Park, is the flower and vegetable show organised by Tividale and Oakham Horticultural Society.

Many awards can be gained by successful exhibitors and these were presented to them by Mr. Redvers Walton, President of the Society, at a distribution held at the BARLEY MOW HOTEL, Oakham on Thursday.....”

Tipton Herald 15/12/1956

“Viewers of the ITV programme had an opportunity on Tuesday evening of seeing a recording of a presentation that took place in the town on Friday.

It was the handing over by Miss Patricia Cox, ATV's Midland Newscaster, of awards won in the annual domino competition staged by Mr. J. Monahan on behalf of the Guide Dogs for the Blind.

In this, his 11th year of arranging functions for this fund, Mr. Monahan hopes to top £300.

A crowd of some 1,200 people saw Miss Cox make the awards to the BRITANNIA, Dial Lane, West Bromwich, the winners of the Blackout Cup, and the runners-up, the BARLEY MOW, Oakham, Tividale.

Among the entertainers at a concert which followed was Alan Beasley, a blind pianist, who resides at 25, Coppice Street, Tipton. He is able to play several musical instruments."

Tipton Herald 26/10/1957

"Trophies won at the sixth annual flower and vegetable show of Tividale and Oakham Horticultural Society were presented by the Mayor of Rowley Regis (Alderman G. A. Smith) at the annual prize distribution and social entertainment at the BARLEY MOW INN, Oakham, on Wednesday evening....."

John Clifford Smith – see also FOUR WAYS, Cradley Heath.

Stanley Clarke Withers – see also BULLS HEAD, Rowley Regis, and ROWLEY RAG, Rowley Regis.

John Stait was married to Sheila.

Closed

It reopened on 3rd August 1984 as a Holt, Plant and Deakin pub.

Sandwell Evening Mail 23/9/1987

"Families in a busy Tividale main road are planning a human chain demonstration to block the entrance of a quarry site in a long-running battle over tipping. Householders and tenants in City Road plan to bar lorries from entering Darby's Hill Quarry where in-filling operations by up to 400 lorries a day are said to have led to nuisance from rats, flies, and mud on the road, causing potential traffic and health hazards. The families who staged a similar protest ten months ago, also claim the quarry site is used by gangs of rowdies for glue-sniffing, under-age drinking, motor-cycle riding and pellet-gun shooting.....

Mr. *Colin Waring*, licensee of the BARLEY MOW public house in City Road, complained, 'We are plagued with flies and have to keep the windows shut. We get rats and mice in the road and, because of the situation, we have paid for our own pest control officers to visit us once a month.' His wife, Hilary, said, 'Up to 400 lorries tip there every day. Sooner or later there is going to be a fatal accident.'....."

Colin Waring – see also BELL AND BEAR.

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 BARLEY MOW, City Road, Tividale."

Sandwell Evening Mail 1/7/1994

"Gigs Thursday Soul Survivors (BARLEY MOW, Tividale)."

Diane Murphy's partner was Steve White.

Dudley Chronicle 14/1/2000

"Bosses of a Tividale pub are set for a ghost watch they hope will explain strange events The couple have had gas cylinders turned off, alarms triggered with no apparent cause and have smelt toast where there was none....."

Ivan Munnelly was married to Elaine.

A new car park was opened on 29th September 2002.

[2008]

Closed [2009], [2010]

Demolished [2011]

BEECH TREE

111, Gorsty Hill Road / 61a, Beeches Road, (1, Tump Road), BLACKHEATH

OWNERS

Showells Ltd., Langley
Ind Coope and Allsopp Ltd. (acquired on 3rd July 1935)
Ansells Ltd.
Holt, Plant and Deakin **(1984 – 1996)**
Daniel Thwaites and Co. [2005], [2007]

LICENSEES

David Darby [] – **1870**);
Henry Hickton* **(1870 – [1871]**
William Henry Hickton* [1872]
Henry Hickton* [1874] – [1881]
Amelia Burgess [1883] manageress
William Henry Hickton* [1884]
Harry Letts [1888] – [1896]
Walter Harrison [1899] – **1905**);
Isaiah Baker **(1905 – 1922)**;
George Walker **(1922 – 1930)**;
James Fleetwood Cross **(1930 – 1936)**;
Isaac Sidney Lukeman **(1936 – 1940)**;
Ernest Slater **(1940 – 1943)**;
Alfred John George Garratt **(1943 – 1946)**;
Maurice Dillon **(1946 – 1949)**;
Ernest Harry Savage **(1949 – 1950)**;
Joseph Henry Sutton **(1950 – 1954)**;
James Alfred Wilson **(1954 – 1956)**;
Donald John George Harper **(1956)**;
Jack Lewis **(1956 – 1958)**;
Dennis Raymond Powell **(1958 – 1965)**;
Doris Marjorie Powell **(1965 – []**
Bob Wallace [1973] – [1981]
Sylvia Smith **(1984 – [1985]**
Leon Abecasis [1991]
Derek Manton [2001]

NOTES

1, Tump Road [1881], [1891]
22, Gorsty Hill Road [1901]
111, Gorsty Hill Road [1991], [1999]
61a, Beeches Road

It had a beerhouse license.

It was known locally as “The Big Beech”.

[Black Country Bugle 1/9/2021](#)

[Article by Steve James](#)

“BEECH TREE, Gorsty Hill allegedly haunted by a ghost in the cellar who turned off the gas and threw glasses around.”

* probably the same person

1871 Census

Black Heath – BEECH TREE

[1] *Henry Hickton* (21), unmarried, licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Elizabeth Harcourt (16), domestic servant, born Halesowen:

Henry Hickton married Annie Baker in the 1st quarter of 1873 at Bromsgrove.

Stourbridge Observer 18/4/1874

“Joseph Mason was charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the BEECH TREE INN, Blackheath, when requested on the 9th inst. *Henry Hickton*, the landlord, proved that defendant went into his house on the above date, quite drunk. Defendant refused to go out when requested, and witness was compelled to eject him. Fined 5s and costs; in default 21 days.”

Midland Counties Evening Express 10/1/1875

“Unfortunately there is yet no sign of the perpetrators of the brutal murder of the watchman, Bowater, being brought to justice. The police are making every effort to obtain some clue, and every precaution has been taken to discover any trace of the murderer or murderers, but up to a late hour last night, these efforts had been unsuccessful, and it seems too probable that those who committed the crime have got clear off, for the present at all events. The inquest on the body of Bowater is to be opened today at the BEECH TREE, Gorsty Hill, Blackheath, near where he resided. It is suggested that there shall be a reward offered for the production of evidence, and steps relating to this will be taken as early as possible.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 24/7/1875

“Staffordshire Summer Assizes Action for Damages by Mining Operations at Rowley Regis.

Mr. Thomas Pargeter Jones, one of the plaintiffs, said he was born at Olive House in 1832, and had known it all his life. It was now occupied by Mr. A. W. Jones, his brother. It was a good substantial house until about June, 1871. The garden wall then began to crack on the side nearest to the BEECH TREE INN. There were now many cracks in the walls of the house.

Mr. *Henry Hickton*, landlord of the BEECH TREE INN, said he had known the property in question for six years. His inn was near to Olive House. Six years ago there were no cracks in the garden wall. They began to appear about four years ago. His own house began to crack about the same time. It was now cracked in all directions. The cellar arches had given way, and the doors had had to be taken off. The cracks in the plaintiff’s wall and the cracks in his own house were all in the direction of the defendant’s workings.”

[The jury returned a verdict for the defendant, William Henry Dawes, an extensive iron and coal master.]

County Advertiser 7/4/1877 - Advert

“Wanted a strong, active Servant Girl. One used to the public-house preferred. Age about 18 or 20. Apply, Mrs. *Henry Hickton*, BEECH TREE INN, Blackheath, Rowley Regis.”

County Express 23/3/1878

“Quoits. Cradley Heath v Coomb’s Wood.

A match was played between the above clubs, on the ground of the latter, on Saturday last, which resulted in a victory for the visitors. At the conclusion of the match, the Cradley Heath Club were most hospitably entertained by their opponents at Mr. *Hickton*’s, the BEECH TREE INN, and after a pleasant evening returned to their respective homes. The following is the score.”

[Cradley Heath won 89-72.]

1881 Census

1, Tump Road – BEECH TREE

- [1] *Henry Hickton* (31), innkeeper, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Annie Hickton (25), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Mary J. Harcourt (19), barmaid, born Birmingham;
- [4] Mary Hickton (7), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Annie Hickton (2), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Phillis Clift (18), general servant, born Halesowen;
- [7] Agnes Barnsley (11), nurse, born Halesowen:

Birmingham Daily Post 31/10/1882 - Advert

“Woman Wanted, age 30 or 35, understanding Plain Cooking. Would not object to help in housework. A comfortable home for respectable woman.

Mrs. *Hickton*, BEECH TREE INN, Rowley, near Dudley.”

Dudley and District News 3/3/1883

“Thomas Hollis, of Birmingham, was charged with being disorderly and refusing to quit licensed premises. Mr. Homer prosecuted, and Mr. Cooksey defended. On Sunday night the 18th February, the defendant went into the BEECH TREE INN, Blackheath, and asked for some brandy. The liquor was supplied to him by Amelia Burgess, the manager for Mr. *Hickton*. *Hickton* shortly afterwards came in, and seeing Hollis there requested him to drink up and leave the house. Hollis threw out an insinuation about *Hickton* disgracing his wife, and he refused to leave. They got to words and Hollis challenged *Hickton* to fight. A man named Baker, a relative of Mrs. *Hickton*, interposed and asked Hollis why he challenged *Hickton*. The defendant thereupon divided his attention between the two parties, the bias being on the side of Baker. He took off his two coats, and a set-to ensued between the parties, the fight continuing for about ten minutes. In the meantime a policeman was sent for, but one was not to be found till the fight was over. The disturbance was quelled, and the defendant ordered to quit. He refused to go, and staked money to fight Baker in the morning. He heard that a policeman was coming, and just before the arrival of that functionary he made his exit.

Mr. Cooksey for the defence said that for some time past unpleasant circumstances had arisen between the parties, which caused

the defendant to abstain from visiting the house. He called in, however, on the night mentioned, and quietly asked for some brandy. As had been shown in the case for the prosecution he was perfectly quiet and well-behaved during the time he was drinking his liquor, and up to when the landlord came in and ordered him to go. Now, if this were the case he (Mr. Cooksey) considered *Hickton* was exceeding his duties and privileges as a landlord, and that the defendant was perfectly justified in staying in the house.

A witness named Parkes said defendant was orderly up to when he was ordered out by the landlord, who called him a returned convict and other provoking epithets.

The Bench considered the case proved and fined the defendant 40s and costs, or one month's imprisonment."

Dudley and District News 1/3/1884

"Henry Walters was charged with being drunk and disorderly and refusing to quit the BEECH TREE INN, Gorsty Hill, on the 25th. PC Leadbeater was asked by Mr. *Hickton*, landlord of the house, to eject defendant, who resisted and picked up a piece of wood to assault the officer. Assistance was obtained and defendant put out, and in the road he behaved himself very violently. Ann Bailey deposed as to the misconduct of the defendant. The Bench fined defendant 5s and costs in each case."

County Advertiser 6/12/1884 - Advert

"Valuable Freehold Property, situate at Gorsty Hill, Rowley Regis, Staffordshire.

Mr. Joseph Hackett will Sell by Auction, on Monday, 15th December, 1884, at Mr. *Hickton*'s, the BEECH TREE INN, Blackheath, Rowley Regis aforesaid, at Seven o'clock in the Evening punctually....."

West Bromwich Weekly News 5/2/1887

"Notice. The Large Pig at the BEECH TREE INN, Blackheath, will be killed on Friday, February 11th, and will hang for show until Tuesday the 15th. *H. Hickton*."

County Advertiser 19/11/1887

"Yesterday morning Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the BEECH TREE INN, Gorsty Hill, Black Heath, respecting the death of Robert Bradley, aged two years and seven months, residing in Tump Road, Black Heath. Sarah Ann Bradley stated that on the 9th inst the deceased was sitting up to the table for the purpose of having breakfast, when he, in reaching a cup of tea, upset it, the contents running over his chest. Dr. Standish attended the deceased. Ann Brant stated that she was called in by the last witness to see the child, when she applied oils to its chest. Deceased gradually grew worse, inflammation set in, and he died on Tuesday last. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Dudley Mercury 17/12/1887 - Advert

"To be seen alive, the Largest Pig in the World, at the BEECH TREE INN, Gorsty Hill, Blackheath, Rowley Regis."

[This advert was run in the newspapers until June 1888.]

County Express 9/6/1888 - Advert

"Wanted, a good General Servant, at once; age 25; must have good character; one from the country preferred. Apply, BEECH TREE INN, Gorsty Hill, Blackheath."

Dudley Mercury 16/3/1889 - Advert

"Wanted, an experienced General Servant, age 25.

Apply, BEECH TREE INN, Gorsty Hill, Blackheath, Rowley Regis."

County Express 24/5/1890

"At the Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, before H. T. Hickman and W. Holcroft, Esqs, *Harry Letts*, landlord of the BEECH TREE INN, Gorsty Hill, Old Hill, was charged with making an untrue entry in his brewing book, as to the quantity of sugar used in brewing on January 21st last. Mr. Davies prosecuted on behalf of the Commissioners of the Inland Revenue, and Mr. Shakespeare (Oldbury) defended.

In opening the case, Mr. Davies said in January last defendant was licensed as a brewer of beer, and in accordance with the 20th section of the Act, the officer of the Inland Revenue provided him with a brewing book in the prescribed form. According to the Act the defendant was required to give notice, by making an entry in that book, of every brewing he purposed carrying out. On the 21st of last January defendant made an entry to brew one quarter of malt, at five o'clock in the morning, and to dissolve 28 pounds of sugar at eleven o'clock the same day. There was no other entry of any other materials being used in that brewing. Section 20 of the Act said that if any person made an untrue entry of the materials used in brewing he should incur a fine of £100, and the Bench would see that it was necessary the reports were entered truly, because it was upon these entries that the charge for duty was based. On the afternoon of the day of brewing the officer visited the defendant's premises. By the time the officer arrived the whole of the wort was drawn from the mash tub, and was put in the fermenting vessel. The officer took part of the wort from the copper and the fermenting tub, and also a sample of the grain and the malt. All the samples were forwarded to Somerset House, and he should prove that no less than 41 pounds of sugar were used in the brewing, whereas the entry was 28 pounds. The grains and malt were also analysed with a view to show what quantity could be produced from them. It would be shown that the greatest quantity that could be produced from the malt that day was 150 gallons, leaving 27 gallons to be accounted for. It was utterly impossible for defendant to have produced 177 gallons from the entered quantity, and this clearly showed that an additional quantity of sugar than entered must have been used. For some time more beer had been produced than was possible to be produced with

the amount entered in the brewing-book, and suspicions arose.

Mr. Thomas Cruikshank, Inland Revenue officer, stationed at Gorsty Hill, said defendant was licensed as a brewer in January last. In December last year witness supplied him with the usual brewing-book. In the book witness found an entry on the 21st of January made by defendant for him to brew on the 22nd. He was to brew eight bushels of malt at five o'clock in the morning, and 28 pounds of sugar had to be dissolved at eleven o'clock. There was no entry of any other materials being used in that brewing. On the 22nd of January in the afternoon witness visited defendant's premises. The grains were then in the mash tub, and the wort from the brewing witness found in number one cooling vessel, and part in number two copper. Number one cooling vessel contained 88 gallons of the specific gravity of 69 degrees, and number two copper contained 97 gallons of the specific gravity of 38 degrees, making a total produce of 177 standard gallons. Defendant was present, and witness informed him that he should take samples of the brewing, and requested him to witness the samples. He took samples out of number one fermenting vessel, and out of number two copper, and also samples of the spent grains. He sealed up the samples and forwarded them to Somerset House. The samples were well mixed by him and defendant before he took them. The sample from the copper was taken after the contents had boiled for some time. On the 20th February he again went to defendant's premises and heard Mr. Letts' explanation with reference to the brewing of the 22nd of January. This was after he had heard the result of the analysis. The supervisor informed Mr. Letts that the analysis showed that a greater quantity of sugar had been used than entered in the book. Defendant replied that no more than the entered quantity had been used. He also said he had been getting more from the brewing during the last three months or so than previously, but he explained this by saying he was using malt of a better quality. A man who helped in the brewing was present, and the supervisor asked him a question with regard to the sugar used in the brewing. When the man was answering defendant interrupted him, but was requested by the supervisor to tell his story. Mr. Letts then said he was only trying to keep the man right, but the man walked away without answering.

Cross-examined: He could not tell whether the malt was new or old. His suspicions arose from a greater quantity of gallons being produced from the number of pounds of sugar used. He did not take any sample out of the cellar to which no sugar had been added.

Re-examined: He had been an Excise officer ten years, and he had never known this quantity of sugar and malt to produce 177 gallons.

Mr. Charles Proctor, analyst at Somerset House, said he received the samples (produced) on the 23rd of January. He examined the sample from copper number two, and found it to contain added sugar equivalent to no less than 32 pounds to 97 gallons. The fermenting vessel number one contained added sugar equivalent to no less than 9 pounds to the 88 gallons. That would represent on the total brewing on the two quantities 41 pounds of sugar.

Cross-examined: 14 pounds of sugar would produce 9 gallons, but if it were very good it might produce 10 gallons. The malt was of the ordinary quality.

Defendant was further charged with making an untrue entry of his brewing on the 26th of March.

Mr. Cruikshank said on the day in question he visited the defendant's premises and found defendant emptying a quantity of sugar into an underback at three o'clock in the afternoon. As soon as defendant saw witness he ran with the sugar in the direction of the sugar store. According to the brewing report defendant should have dissolved the sugar at eleven o'clock in the morning. When asked for an explanation, defendant said he only dissolved half the sugar in the morning, and he was just putting the remainder in. Witness found a 28-pound sugar bag empty in the mash tub, and the defendant was emptying another. The report stated that only 28 pounds of sugar was used in the brewing. Witness took samples and forwarded them to Somerset House. The total amount of beer brewed was 175 gallons.

Mr. Proctor said he examined the samples and found that the total amount of sugar in the 175 gallons was 48 pounds.

Mr. Shakespeare, for the defence, pointed out that the defendant had hitherto borne an excellent character, and during the five years he had held a license he had conducted his house properly. The whole amount of which the defendant could have defrauded the Revenue was 1s 6d.

The Bench considered the cases proved, and in the first case fined defendant £10 and costs, and in the second case £20 and costs. They considered the second case was more serious than the first, as the defendant had had a warning. The fines and costs amounted to £33 17s."

Harry Letts issued tokens from here.

1891 Census

1, Tump Road

- [1] *Harry Letts* (31), licensed victualler, born Halesowen;
- [2] *Ellen Letts* (34), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] *Ethel M. Letts* (6), daughter, born Birmingham;
- [4] *Alice E. Letts* (4), daughter, born Birmingham;
- [5] *Kate Hadley* (18), general servant, born Rowley Regis:

Birmingham Daily Post 20/7/1891 - Advert

"General Servant (good) Wanted; one who understands cooking.
Apply, BEECH TREE INN, Gorsty Hill, Blackheath, Rowley Regis."

County Advertiser 30/3/1895

"The Extraordinary Gale.

In the middle part of Sunday a gale of short duration but of exceptional violence passed over the greater part of the country, caus-

ing not a little loss of life and immense destruction of property.....

Blackheath. Here, as in other districts, a great deal of damage was done to the roofs of houses, but fortunately nothing of a serious nature occurred. Some alarm was occasioned at the BEECH TREE INN, kept by Mr. *Letts*, at Gorsty Hill, during the gale. One of the chimneys collapsed, and fell through the roof, damaging a piano, and the landlady narrowly escaped injury.”

County Advertiser 17/8/1895

“On Wednesday afternoon, Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the BIRCH [sic] TREE INN, Gorsty Hill, respecting the death of Amy Taylor, aged five months, whose parents reside in Tump Road, Blackheath, who was found dead in bed on the 12th inst. the child was put to bed in the afternoon, and two or three hours later was found dead. A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned.”

Dudley Herald 19/3/1898

“At the Police Court on Wednesday, Mr. Waldron made an application, on behalf of *Henry Letts*, for a temporary permit to enter into possession of the BEEHIVE INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill. He said that the applicant, at the termination of his apprenticeship at Halesowen, went to the BEECH TREE INN, at Blackheath, and kept that place for 10 years without any complaint on the part of the police. He subsequently became tenant of the FIVE WAYS INN, Stourbridge, under the North Worcestershire Brewery Company, and while there was convicted for permitting drunkenness. He contended that one offence ought not to prevent a man for ever managing a public house, and he hoped they would allow him to rehabilitate himself and again hold a license. The Bench granted the application, saying that *Letts*, who had suffered for the conviction, must be careful in future.”

Henry ‘Harry’ Letts – see also BEEHIVE, Old Hill and FIVE WAYS, Cradley Heath.

County Advertiser 3/12/1898

“On Saturday morning last Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest at the BEECH TREE INN, Blackheath, concerning the death of Arthur Taylor, aged eleven months, whose parents reside at Gorsty Hill, and who died on the 23rd ult, from the effect of burns received the same day. The evidence showed that on the afternoon in question the mother left deceased in the house, in company with his brother, Harry. Whilst she was away the children commenced to play with some paper near the fire, with the result that deceased’s clothing was ignited. The mother extinguished the flames, but the deceased was badly burnt about the face, arms, and chest. Nurse Mellor, who resides near, dressed the wounds, and Dr. Tatham was called in, but the child died about half-past nine the same evening. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

County Advertiser 15/7/1899 - Advert

“‘Tommy,’ handsome Chestnut Pony, 11 to 12 hands, suit lady, very quiet, showy; Trap and Harness to match if required. Bargain. *Harrison*, BEECH TREE, Blackheath, Staffs.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 18/8/1900

“On Wednesday, at Rowley Regis, *Walter Harrison*, landlord of the BEECH TREE INN, Gorsty Hill, Blackheath, was called upon to answer a charge of having assaulted Florence Falkner, a domestic servant. Mr. Darby, of West Bromwich, who defended, denied the allegation, and said it was a case of blackmail in order to get money. The magistrates said it was a case of grave suspicion. The defendant would have the benefit of the doubt and be discharged.”

1901 Census

22, Gorsty Hill Road – BEECH TREE INN

[1] *Walter Harrison* (30), wine, beer and spirit retailer, born Greenwich, London;

[2] *Mary Harrison* (26), wife, born Cradley Heath;

[3] *May Harrison* (3), daughter, born Blackheath:

County Advertiser 6/7/1901

“*Walter Harrison*, landlord of the BEECH TREE INN, Gorsty Hill, was on the evidence of Police-constable Pass, fined 5s and costs.”

County Express 14/6/1902

“Mr. A. A. Betham (Deputy Coroner for South Staffordshire) held an inquest on Saturday at the BEECH TREE INN, Gorsty Hill, with respect to the death of Thomas Hall (68), ironworker, Gorsty Hill, who died very suddenly. The deceased left his home on the night of the 4th inst and was subsequently found dying in an outbuilding. A son of the deceased stated his father was a very healthy man, and had never been medically attended. His father told him he had never had a doctor in his life.

PS Bentley said the deceased was seen before death took place by Dr. Beasley jun. He had made inquiries, and had every reason to believe that death was due to natural causes. A verdict to this effect was returned.”

Smethwick Weekly News 13/12/1902

“At Old Hill Police Court on Wednesday, John Palmer, brickmaker of Hackett Street, Blackheath, was charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of the BEECH TREE INN, Gorsty Hill, Blackheath, and assaulting the landlord, *Walter Harrison*, on the 4th inst.

Prosecutor alleged that defendant created a disturbance and threatened him because he refused to serve him beer ‘on strap.’ He

refused to leave when requested, and when witness attempted to eject him, he knocked him down, placed his knees on his chest, and struck him several times. Defendant was fined £3 7s 6d, including costs, or six weeks' imprisonment."

County Advertiser 13/12/1902

"Yesterday (Friday) morning, Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest at the BEECH TREE INN, Gorsty Hill, Blackheath, on the body of William Siviter (61), banksman, Tump Road, Blackheath, who was killed at Haden Hill Colliery, Old Hill, belonging to Messrs. W. Bassano and Co., on Tuesday night. Mr. R. H. Makepeace (assistant inspector of mines) was present at the inquiry, and Mr. S. Dimmock, manager of the colliery, represented the firm. The deceased belonged to the night shaft, and, having received his instructions where to work, went to fetch his tools, and some time after he was discovered jammed against a piece of timber by a tub.

Thomas Brooks, a miner, stated that he wished to timber a portion of the road, and in order to do so he started a tub on the move. The candle by which witness was working fell off the tub leaving him in the dark. He rushed to the wires and stopped the tub, but before he could give a further signal to the engine driver the engines commenced to work again. The rope started but suddenly stopped again, and deceased was found crushed by one of the tubs.

Dr. McQueen said the skull of the deceased was fractured, ribs were broken, and the heart injured through being crushed.

Mr. Makepeace said in his opinion it was very important that when the night men went on duty the rope should be finally stopped, and should not be restarted before strict inquiries were made that everything was right. The management had consented to act upon his recommendation.

Brooks said if he had not clipped the tub on to the rope he should have been killed.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and suggested that Thomas Brooks should be cautioned not to commit an irregularity in future."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/3/1907 - Advert

"General Servant Wanted, respectable; references required.

Apply, Mrs. *Baker*, BEECH TREE INN, Beeches Road, Blackheath, Staffs."

Dudley Chronicle 10/12/1910

"Structural alterations at the BEECH TREE INN, Blackheath, were granted to *Isaiah Baker*."

County Express 14/1/1911

"On Saturday afternoon the annual meeting of the Lye district of the United Order of Free Gardeners was held at the BEECH TREE INN, Gorsty Hill, Blackheath, the district master (Bro. Canadine) being in the chair. Bro. H. Cooper (deputy master) was in the vice-chair. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: District Master, Bro. H. Cooper; deputy district master, Bro. J. Wiley; treasurer, Bro. G. Haddock; secretary, Bro. G. Rudge; trustees, Bros. H. Homer, A. Woodus, and W. Mallen; auditor, Bro. C. Wooldridge; delegates to the A.G.M. meeting, Bros. G. Brown and J. B. Downing. Bro. Rudge was nominated for the position of junior auditor of the Order. It was reported by the secretary that a sum of £31 15s had been paid throughout the district to widows and orphans as Christmas gifts."

1911 Census

Gorsty Hill Road

- [1] *Isaiah Baker* (34), publican, born Brades Village;
- [2] *Mary J. Baker* (36), wife, married 13 years, born Rotherham;
- [3] *Miriam F. Baker* (12), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Florrie Brookes* (20), servant, born Cradley;

Isaiah Baker check WHIMSEY, Oldbury.

James Fleetwood Cross – see also PRINCE OF WALES, Oldbury.

1939 Register

Gorsty Hill Road

- [1] *Isaac S. Lukeman*, date of birth 28/8/1885, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] *Jane A. Lukeman*, dob 27/9/1885, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] *William Lukeman*, dob 4/4/1906, constructional patterns helper, single;
- [4] *Fred L. Gray*, dob 14/2/1911, driver heavy goods lorry, married, ambulance driver;
- [5] *Madge Gray*, dob 25/1/1914, domestic duties unpaid, married;
- [6] *Geoffrey A. Gray*, dob 7/7/1937, under school age, single;
- [8] *Eliza J. Baker*, dob 28/6/1895, domestic servant, paid, single;

Alfred John George Garratt – see also BRIDGE.

Dennis Powell died in 1965.

It had four darts teams, four crib teams, a fishing club and a football team. [1981]

Closed

It reopened on 11th December 1984 as a Holt, Plant and Deakin pub.

Holt Plant & Deakin Beermat

“There’s a funny fella in the cellar at the BEECH TREE in Rowley Regis – the ghost of a customer long gone who murdered his family. On certain nights, he creates havoc – he turns off the gas and nips upstairs to throw glasses all around the pub.”

Express and Star 6/1/1985

“Trombone playing publican Andy *Smith* combines a musical career in the famous Syd Lawrence Orchestra with helping his wife run the BEECH TREE pub in Blackheath. Scotsman Andy, former musical director for P. J. Proby, has been a professional musician since he left school at the age of 14.

Now when Syd Lawrence plays in Black Country venues 38-year old Andy had his own fan club present – regulars from the pub in Gosty Hill Road. And for the two years since Andy and his wife, *Sylvia*, who have two children, have been at the BEECH TREE, known for its traditional beer, customers have been given other peeps into the world of showbiz. Syd Lawrence piano player Ken Williams is an occasional visitor, and he and Andy have played duets for customers. ‘My wife runs the pub really,’ said Andy, ‘But I help out when I’m not away with the orchestra.’”

Sandwell Evening Mail 24/6/1986 - Advert

“The BEECH TREE, Gorsty Hill, Rowley Regis, Invites You To Sample Holts Traditional Black Country Ales.

Home cooked lunches Monday to Saturday at reasonable prices.

Anything from a cheese sandwich to a Sirloin Steak.

12 noon – 2pm.

For a warm, friendly atmosphere come along.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 28/3/1991

“Beer drinkers at a Wednesfield pub are certain of a warm welcome after their local won a prize for the best cosy fire in the area. The PHEASANT INN in Wood End Road won the contest run by Black Country brewery Holt, Plant and Deakin. Licensee Mr. John Nicholls and his wife Diana won £400 in cash and solid fuel.

Runners-up in the competition to find the most welcoming fire were the BEECH TREE, Rowley Regis, and the SHOULDER OF MUTTON at Blackheath.”

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 BEECH TREE, 111 Gorsty Hill Road, Rowley Regis.”

Leon Abecasis – see also ROCK VILLA, Wolverhampton.

It closed in 1996.

Reopened

Halesowen News 24/6/1999

“The BEECH TREE, 111 Gorsty Hill Road, Rowley Regis B65 0EX.

Come and enjoy a friendly relaxing atmosphere in a traditional Black Country Pub.

Now under the new management of sisters Margaret and Rose.

Live Entertainment Every Saturday Evening.

Traditional Ales served here.

Open all day Friday, Saturday & Sunday.

Pool Table – New Team Members required.

Darts – New Team Members required.

Free Juke Box.”

Closed

Reopened

[2010]

Closed [2011], [2013]

It was converted into housing. [2015]

BEECH TREE

158, (111), Halesowen Street, BLACKHEATH

OWNERS

City Brewery Co. (Lichfield) Ltd. [1919]
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1942], [1950]
Marstons plc

LICENSEES

William Siviter [1861] – **1869**);
David Darby (**1869** – [1878]
James Darby [1880]
Ellen Darby [] – **1881**);
Zephaniah Knowles (**1881** – [1891]
William Onions [1901]
David Harris [1904] – **1906**);
Joseph Neale (**1906** – **1928**);
William Henry Bennion (**1928** – **1934**);
James Francis Winmill (**1934** – **1938**);
John William Welding (**1938** – **1943**);
John Thomas Hardwick (**1943** – **1949**);
Thomas Jones (**1949** – **1952**);
William Lowe (**1952** – **1956**);
Sarah Lowe (**1956** – **1957**);
Charles Lowe (**1957** – **1958**);
Clifford Gomer ‘Cliff’ Williams (**1958** – [1965]
D Hill (**1970** – []
Maurice Hall [pre 1981]
Kenneth ‘Ken’ Platt (**1986** – **2004**)
Alun Gronow (**2009** – [2019]

NOTES

111, Halesowen Street [1881], [1891], [1904], [1901], [1911]
158, Halesowen Street [1939], [1940]

It had an ante ‘69 beerhouse license.

It was known locally as “The Little Beech”.

Brierley Hill Advertiser 18/4/1857

“As we stated last week, Mr. Joseph Shakespeare, the butty of the pit where the explosion took place, was so seriously hurt that little hope was entertained of his recovery. He has since died, and on Saturday an inquest was held over his body, at the CROSS INN, Old Hill, but was adjourned till the 28th inst, in order that one of the men who was injured, but is now recovering, might be able to attend. Mr. Brough, government inspector, was present during the enquiry. The older Mason has also since died from the injuries received. An inquest was held over his body on Friday morning at the BIRCH [sic] TREE INN, Black Heath, and was adjourned until Tuesday next, the 21st inst.”

Reynolds Newspaper 10/5/1857

“On Tuesday evening, at the BEECH TREE INN, near Halesowen, South Staffordshire, there was concluded an inquest upon the body of William Mason, who, with Joseph Shakespeare, was killed by an explosion of fire-damp at the New Gawne Colliery, in the parish of Rowley Regis. The inquest on the body of Shakespeare had terminated before Tuesday. On Tuesday, various witnesses proved that the pit in question was a new one, now being driven out in the thick coal measure by a process of gate-road and bolt-hole, in order to bring back the upper coal by ‘long-work.’ Also, that upon the thirling of an air-head, a few hours before the explosion, Mason, who is the charter-master (locally termed butty), was ordered by the ground-bailiff to clear it up for the laying down of wrought iron pipes, into the face of the main road, which would have the effect of clearing the main road of the dangerous gases. It was likewise shown that Mason was instructed not to permit any ingress to this straight road until such pipes were actually introduced. Evidence was then given that the butty having examined this straight road with the lamp, found sulphur in it, and that upon ascertaining this he and Shakespeare set to work to brush it out with their jackets; but that a candle had been so carelessly attached to the corner as to receive the first issue of the gas, whereby explosion immediately took place, and the two men were so burnt as to occasion their death shortly afterwards. Mr. Lionel Brough, the Government Inspector of Mines in South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire, after having examined the pit, pointed out the rashness and folly of brushing out sulphur, explaining, at the same time, that a current of air should have been carried to the far east, and that the dangerous gas removed by ventilation, and not by brushing – a vicious habit that during the past half-century had caused the destruction of hundreds of valuable lives.”

William Siveter = William Siveton

1861 Census

Black Heath

- [1] *William Siviter* (52), victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Elizabeth Siviter (48), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] Mary Siviter (17), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Sarah Siviter (15), daughter, dress maker, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] William Siviter (11), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Ann Siviter (9), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Emma Lloyd (23), visitor, dress maker, born Brownsley, Staffordshire:

William Siviter was also a shopkeeper. [1864], [1865], [1868], [1870], [1872]

Stourbridge Observer 16/4/1864

“William Mills charged *William Siveton* with having his house open for the sale of beer, between the hours of three and five, on Good Friday last. Police-constable (193) saw a woman go into the BEECH TREE, Blackheath, and when she came out she said she only had half a pint of fourpenny.

Aaron Mills said he was with the police constable about half past three. He asked the woman what she had there, and she said, ‘Only a half pint of fourpenny.’

Siveton said it was an old woman who did odd jobs for his wife, and he gave her the beer. Ann Rebecca Peatman said, ‘On Good Friday morning Mrs. *Siveton* sent for me to do something and she said ‘draw the old lady a half a pint of our beer.’ I told the man he was no gentleman to take the beer from me and spit it on the road as I had it given me. Dismissed.”

William Siviter died in the 3rd quarter of 1869.

County Express 19/3/1870 - Advert

“BEACH [sic] TREE INN, Blackheath, Rowley Regis.

To Publicans, Shop Keepers, Brokers, and Others.

Mr. John G. Wright will Sell by Auction, on Monday, March 21st, 1870, all the Public House Effects, Grocery Stock, Household Furniture, &c, of the late Mr. *Wm. Siviter*, BEECH TREE INN, Halesowen Road, Blackheath, Rowley Regis, comprising Four Pockets of Worcestershire Hops, Yellow and Mottled Soap, Bran, Beans, Sharps, Bacon, and other Grocery; Shop Fixtures, Five-pull Beer Machine, Hogshead and other Casks, Vats, Coolers, Boilers, Feather Beds, Chamber and Kitchen Requisites, &c. Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock in the morning.”

1871 Census

Halesowen Street

- [1] *David Darby* (33), grocer, born Halesowen;
- [2] *Ellen Darby* (24), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] Emma Darby (5), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 15/8/1874

“Solomon Roberts was charged with being drunk and quarrelsome and refusing to quit the BEACH [sic] TREE INN, Blackheath, on the 8th inst. Mr. *David Darby*, the landlord, proved the case. The defendant was drunk and quarrelsome in his house and, although he was asked, refused to leave. He was fined 5s and costs or fourteen days.”

County Express 30/9/1876

“On Monday a meeting was held at the BEECH TREE INN, Halesowen Street, Blackheath, under the auspices of the National Amalgamated Association of Nut and Bolt Makers. Mr. S. Parkes occupied the chair, and in opening the meeting said he believed that the object of the meeting was for the benefit of the members of the Blackheath branch. He called upon Mr. J. Richards, President of the Executive Council, to address them....”

County Advertiser 6/10/1877

“On Thursday afternoon Mr. Edwin Hooper, district coroner, held an inquest at the BEECH TREE INN, Blackheath, Rowley, respecting the death of Ellen Parkes (22), an unmarried young woman, who formerly resided with her parents in Hackett Street. Phoebe Mullett spoke to attending the deceased in April last, when she was confined with twins. One lived about an hour, but both were buried as still-born children.

Fanny Parkes, the mother of the deceased, said that after her confinement she seemed very well for a month, and was then taken ill. She had a quarrel with her brother a few weeks before, but never complained to witness of having been injured.

Mr. Beasley, surgeon, who had been in attendance on the deceased, said he first visited her on the 28th May. She was suffering from intestine inflammation, and he noticed three bruises upon her body, which she said were caused by her having been kicked by her brother. He did not think she was in a critical state until the 22nd or 24th ult, and he did not think it necessary to take her depositions. At 10.30 on the 28th ult, she died from peritonitis.

Joseph Parkes, deceased’s father, was also examined. He heard nothing of the injury to his daughter until she told Mr. Beasley about it.

The jury returned a verdict of died from peritonitis, caused by injuries to the abdomen; how, or by whom caused, there is no evidence to show.”

County Express 9/3/1878

“*David Darby*, landlord of the BEECH TREE INN, Blackheath, was charged with having permitted drunkenness in his house on the 19th ult. Mr. Hayes appeared for the defendant and pleaded not guilty.

Police-sergeant Cooper said that having received certain information, he visited the defendant’s house at about half-past ten o’clock on the night of the 19th ult, and there found a man named Wm. Hodgetts, who was drunk. The man sat in a stooping position, and was being supported by a man who sat next to him. He also noticed that a second man, named Priest, was so drunk that he could scarcely hold a pint cup to his lips. Witness instantly called the attention of the landlady to the men, and she said that she was not aware that the men were present, the landlord being away from home.

Cross-examined: He paid a second visit to the house shortly afterwards and then found that the men had left.

Police-constable Frost, who accompanied the sergeant, gave confirmatory evidence.

Police-constable McGourty stated that he was near to the BEECH TREE public house at half-past nine o’clock on the night in question, and hearing a noise he went in and asked what ‘discussion’ was going on. In the tap-room he found the man Hodgetts who with some companions was behaving in a disorderly manner. He told the landlady that she had better turn the men out.

Cross-examined the officer admitted that he ate some trotters with Hodgetts before leaving the house, but denied that he drank ale with him.

Mr. Hayes said he should prove that the man Priest entered the house just before the sergeant visited it, and that the landlady did not know that Hodgetts was drunk or even present. He was instructed that McGourty ate and drank with Hodgetts, the man who was now charged of having been drunk. His client had kept the house respectably for eleven years, and it was not to be supposed that he would risk his license by allowing a drunken man to remain on his premises. Drunkenness must be wilfully permitted to constitute an offence; the mere fact of a man having entered the house and remained there without the knowledge of the landlord would not constitute an offence against the license.

Mrs. *Darby* then swore that the man Priest had entered the house only a few moments before the police-officer came, and that he was not supplied with ale. She did not know that Hodgetts was present at the time although he had at an earlier period been supplied with ale for his wife. The sergeant first called her attention to the men, and she immediately ordered them out.

The Bench gave the defendant credit for good character, but they considered the case proved because it was clear that defendant’s servants were liable. They should inflict a small fine of 5s and costs as a warning to Mr. *Darby* and others.

William Hodgetts and Samuel Priest were then charged with having been found drunk upon licensed premises, and were fined 5s and costs, or 14 days’ imprisonment.”

Dudley Herald 6/3/1880

“Joseph Mason was charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of *James Darby*, the BEECH TREE INN, Blackheath, on the 24th ult. The charge was proved, and the defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs, or in default 7 days. Defendant was also charged with threatening to kill his wife, Mary Ann Mason, who deposed that she had been married 29 years, and her life had been a misery to her on account of his violent behaviour which grew worse day after day. Defendant was bound over to keep the peace for six months.”

David Darby died in the 4th quarter of 1880.

1881 Census

111, Halesowen Street

[1] *Ellen Darby* (34), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Dudley;

[2] *Emily Darby* (15), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *Ellen J. Darby* (8), daughter, deaf and dumb, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Sarah Millington (21), domestic servant, born Netherton:

West Bromwich Weekly News 21/5/1881

“On Monday, the rivet-makers in the Rowley, Blackheath, and surrounding districts turned out on strike for an advance of wages. A mass meeting of the men was held on Wednesday, at the BEECH TREE INN, Halesowen Street, Blackheath. Mr. Isaac Cashmore said he regretted to say that some of the masters appeared inclined to oppose the men. He hoped, however, that the good sense of the employers would prevail, and that in a few days the men would be called in to work at the advanced list. He thought both masters and men were agreed from their experience in the past that strikes were detrimental to the trade, and he personally was opposed to them, and thought they only ought to be resorted to under special circumstances. Under some circumstances strikes were absolutely necessary, and it was so in the present instance in the rivet trade. They had given the masters a fair fourteen days’ notice, and their employers knew and admitted their miserable condition, and yet, after all, they refused to make the concession which the men were entitled to. Not only had the men given the requisite notice, but before the notice expired a deputation of the men waited upon all the masters requesting them to pay the advance, and so avoid a strike.....”

West Bromwich Weekly News 4/6/1881

“A largely-attended meeting of the rivet-makers in the Rowley, Blackheath, and Old Hill districts, now on strike for an advance of wages, was held at the BEECH TREE INN, Blackheath, on Monday. Mr. Isaac Cashmore stated that the whole of the rivet-makers in the districts named were now on strike. A few, however, were at work at Halesowen, and by so doing were prolonging the strike. It was decided that a deputation should wait upon the operatives at Halesowen to induce them to join the strike. It was unanimously resolved to continue the strike until the masters concede the 4s list.”

Evening Express 21/7/1881

“*Ellen Darby*, landlady of the BEECH TREE beerhouse, Blackheath, was summoned for permitting drunkenness. Police-sergeant Cooper proved visiting the house on the morning of the 5th inst, and meeting a man named Bateman leaving the premises in a drunken state, and that in the house he found another man named Cook, who was also very drunk. The defendant’s plea was that she had only filled six quarts for these two men and another. A fine of 20s and costs was inflicted.”

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..... *Ellen Darby*, BEECH TREE INN, Blackheath, permitting drunkenness, fined 20s and costs..... The persons in the black list were called before the Bench with the exception of E. Corser, he having left that house, and had their licenses suspended till the adjourned licensing day.”

Dudley and District News 1/10/1881

“This being the adjourned licensing day the deferred cases were decided as follows..... *Ellen Darby*, BEECH TREE INN, Blackheath, convicted for permitting drunkenness on her premises, was reprimanded, and her license renewed.”

Ellen Darby died in the 4th quarter of 1881.

County Express 10/12/1881

“The Bench allowed the following license transfers..... BEECH TREE beerhouse, from *Ellen Darby* (deceased) to *Zephaniah Knowles*.”

County Express 10/12/1881

“Jonah Debaney, miner, of Rounds Green, was charged with being disorderly and refusing to quit the BEECH TREE beerhouse, kept by *Zephaniah Knowles*. He was fined 5s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/4/1882

“Yesterday an inquest was held before Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, at the BEECH TREE INN, Blackheath, respecting the death of Thomas Willetts (18), rivet-maker, formerly residing at No.103, Hales Owen Street, Blackheath, who committed suicide by drowning himself in a pool at Cakemore. Joseph Willetts, father of the deceased, said his son had notice to leave his employment a week ago, and this, he supposed, preyed upon his mind. Richards Brookes said on Monday morning deceased told him that he had a mind to go and drown himself. About a quarter of an hour afterwards deceased left the shop, and proceeded towards Cakemore Pool. He (witness) then went and gave information to the parents of deceased. James Westwood said, whilst at work near the Cakemore Pool, he saw the deceased standing on the embankment on the side of the pool with his hands set as if about to dive into the water. Witness shouted to him, and asked him what he was going to do. This caused deceased to pause, but upon turning round a short time afterwards he saw him plunging head foremost into the water. The

body was not recovered until half an hour afterwards.

The Coroner said he had no doubt that having had notice to leave his employment it had preyed upon the youth's mind and induced him to commit suicide.

The jury returned a verdict of Suicide whilst of Unsound Mind.

A juror remarked that the pool was a favourite place for suicides, this being the fourth that had occurred there."

Birmingham Daily Post 10/11/1882

"Yesterday a meeting of the rivet-makers who are now on strike in the Rowley and Old Hill districts for an advance of wages was held at the BEECH TREE INN, Blackheath; Mr. Silas Parsons presiding. A deputation of rivet-makers from Hales Owen attended the meeting, and intimated their intention of joining with the Blackheath men in the strike. It was reported that several of the employers were willing to pay the advance, but the question of allowing their operatives to return to work was adjourned until Monday, in the hope that by that time the majority of the employers would agree to pay the advance claimed. It was unanimously resolved to play on until the increase of 10 per cent is conceded."

County Advertiser 2/5/1885

"*Zephaniah Knowles*, landlord of the BEECH TREE INN, Halesowen Street, Blackheath, was charged by the Inland Revenue authorities with making a false entry in his brewing book. Mr. G. H. Dennis prosecuted.

Mr. Michael Burne, an officer of the Inland Revenue, said that on the 23rd of February he went to the defendant's premises, and found that he had made an entry to brew 14lbs of sugar. The produce of the brewing was equal to 21lbs of sugar.

The defendant pleaded that he was no scholar, and the mistake was made by his daughter, who made the entry in the book.

In reply to the Bench, Mr. Burne said that on seven occasions the produce of defendant's brewing had been more than could have been produced with the amount entered.

Defendant was fined £5 and costs."

Birmingham Daily Post 3/2/1886

"Birmingham Police Court.....

Zephaniah Knowles, landlord of the BEECH TREE INN, Black Heath, Rowley, was summoned for working a horse whist in an unfit state. Mr. Parker, veterinary surgeon, said the animal was suffering great pain, and totally unfit for work. The horse was stopped on Monday in Moor Street by Police-constable Beard, who found that it suffering from a large wound on its back. A fine of £1 1s was imposed."

Dudley Mercury 1/12/1888

"At a large meeting of nailers on Monday night, at the BEECH TREE INN, Blackheath, Mr. T. Lee, on behalf of a number of subscribers, presented Mr. John Price, who has been leader of the wrought nail makers for nearly forty years, with a purse containing £23. Mr. Lee remarked that Mr. Brooke Robinson, the member for Dudley, had subscribed £5 of the amount, and he was quite sure the sum would have been considerably larger had the workpeople been better off. Mr. Price, in responding, said now he was old and somewhat infirm he was unable to get about the district as he was wont to do. He very much appreciated the kindness of his friends, which would be of considerable benefit to him."

1891 Census

111, Halesowen Street

[1] *Zephaniah Knowles* (51), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Ann Knowles (50), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Olive Knowles (19), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Joseph Knowles (13), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[5] David Knowles (11), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Fred Knowles (8), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[7] Jane Westwood (16), domestic servant, born Halesowen:

1901 Census

111, Halesowen Street

[1] *William Onions* (49), beerhouse keeper, born Pattingham, Staffordshire;

[2] Elizabeth Onions (47), wife, born Newcastle, Staffordshire;

[3] Susan Onions (15), daughter, general servant at home, born Branstone, Staffordshire;

[4] Charles Onions (13), son, errand boy (crossed out), born Branstone, Staffordshire;

[5] Harry Onions (8), son, born Branstone, Staffordshire;

[6] Nellie Onions (3), daughter, born Branstone, Staffordshire:

County Advertiser 20/1/1906

"*David Harris*, landlord of the BEECH TREE INN, Halesowen Street, Blackheath, was charged with suffering gaming to take place upon his licensed premises on the 26th and 30th December last.

Mr. J. W. Clulow, who prosecuted, explained that on the 26th ult, Police-constables Walton and Clark visited the defendant's house in plain clothes. They entered the house at 2-45pm, and saw a game of dominoes being played. The landlord and three other men were playing, and the landlord and his partner lost the game. Defendant's partner put 6d on the table, and said to the landlord that

is a quart now. Defendant noticed that there were two strangers in the place, and he motioned to his partner to go into the passage where, in the presence of Police-constable Walton, the man handed 6d over to the landlord. Subsequently the partner said to the officers, 'Dave here took you for two coppers.' The officers remained in the house, but no other games were played. On the 30th of December Police-constable Walton, accompanied by another man, again visited the house, and saw two other games played for beer. The landlord stood by during the time the games were played, and said to one of the players, 'You look like winning this time.'

The defence was a denial that the men played for beer. The Bench, however, imposed a fine of £4, including costs."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/2/1906

"The annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held yesterday.....

The Superintendent objected to the renewal of the licenses of.....

BEECH TREE INN, Blackheath."

County Advertiser 10/3/1906

"The adjourned annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday.....

Mr. Bassano said the bench had under consideration the nine houses, five of which were objected to on the ground of convictions and four others on the ground of redundancy. It had raised a very large question, and the magistrates had had before them the consideration of the parish as a whole. He threw out a 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.....

BEECH TREE INN, Blackheath."

County Advertiser 15/9/1906

"Dudley Plant, a miner, of Hackett Street, Blackheath, was charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of the BEECH TREE INN, Halesowen Street, Blackheath, and also with assaulting the landlord, *Joseph Neale*, on the 9th inst.

Prosecutor alleged that defendant was drinking in the house when he commenced to create a disturbance by shouting. Witness requested him to leave, but this he declined to do, and as witness was walking through the passage he struck defendant a violent blow in the face.

Fined £1 10s or a month."

1911 Census

111, Halesowen Street – BEECH TREE INN

- [1] *Joseph Neale* (41), publican, born Long Lane;
- [2] *Amelia Neale* (39), wife, married 19 years, assisting in business, born Ladywood Road, Birmingham;
- [3] *Gladys Neale* (17), daughter, assisting in business, born Cradley Heath;
- [4] *Elsie Neale* (16), daughter, millinery, born Cradley Heath;
- [5] *Frank Neale* (14), son, tailor's assistant, born Malt Mill Lane;
- [6] *Annie Neale* (12), daughter, born Old Hill;
- [7] *Frederick Neale* (10), son, born Nunnings, Worcestershire;
- [8] *Albert Neale* (8), son, born Cakemore;
- [9] *Millie Neale* (5), daughter, no birthplace given:

Joseph Neale, beer retailer, 158, Halesowen Street. [1916], [1921]

1939 Register

158, Halesowen Street

- [1] *John W. Welding*, date of birth 3/4/1902, manager public house, married;
- [2] *Sarah A. Welding*, dob 20/1/1900, unpaid domestic duties, married;

John William Welding died in the 2nd quarter of 1947.

Cliff Williams played football for Blackheath Villa.

It was referred back to the Continuation Meeting for consideration of redundancy on 1st February 1958.

The license was renewed on 5th March 1958.

Maurice Hall was married to Edna.

See also CALIFORNIA, Blackheath, and BULLS HEAD, Whiteheath.

Ken Platt was married to Maureen.

He was known as 'Platty'.

He started work as a milkman.

See also BIRD IN HAND, Netherton and VINE, Blackheath.

The cribbage and domino teams from here won their respective leagues in 2005.

A team from here took part in the Blackheath Cribbage League. [2007]

[2019]

LITTLE BEECH [2021]

[Halesowen News 23/6/2022](#)

“A Blackheath pub wants to extend to create a larger premises. The BEECH TREE pub on Halesowen Street has applied to Sandwell Council for permission to build an extension to create a larger lounge and new toilets. The pub is opposite Blackheath Sainsburys. Notes to planners say the extension would be a single-storey side and rear extension. They state that the pub employs three full-time and three part-time employees. They state its opening hours are from 9.30am till 11pm Monday to Friday and from 9.30am till 1am on Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays. The application will be considered by Sandwell Council planners.”

BEEHIVE

49, Graingers Lane, (Corngreaves Road (Lane)), CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd.
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1909) [1921]

LICENSEES

Mary Ann Roberts [1849] – **1850**);
Thomas Botteley [1849] – [1850]
John Perks (**1850 – 1865**);
Mrs. Sarah Perks (**1865** – []
John Perks [1868] – [1873]
Mrs. Sarah Perks [1871] – [1881]
James T Perks [1883] – [1884]
Jeremiah Westwood [1886] – **1893**)
Walter Edward Mealand [1893]
Henry Rollings Pollard [1893] – [1896]
Alfred Price (**1897** – [1904]
John Pillow (**1904 – 1907**);
Robert William Botfield (**1907** – [1911]
Samuel I Salt [1912]
Edgar Randall (**1913 – 1915**);
Joseph Boswell (**1915 – 1921**);
Harold Harbach (**1921 – 1927**);
Frederick Adam Raybould (**1927 – 1937**);
Mrs. Rachel (Cunningham) Garrett (**1937 – 1956**);

NOTES

Corngreaves Road [1871]
49, Graingers Lane [1881], [1891], [1901], [1904], [1908], [1911], [1912], [1932], [1939], [1940]

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

[Worcestershire Chronicle 25/7/1849](#)

“On Monday last the Industry lodge of the Wolverhampton order of Odd Fellows celebrated its anniversary at Hostess *Roberts*'s, BEE HIVE, Cradley. Sixty of the members sat down to a splendid dinner, S. Hudson, Esq, surgeon to the lodge, officiating as president, and Mr. Willetts as vice.”

John Perks = John Perkes

Birmingham Journal 26/1/1850

“The transfer of the license of the BEEHIVE, Rowley Regis, to *John Perks*, was refused, it appearing from Sub-inspector Joynson’s statement on oath that he had repeatedly cautioned *Perks* against keeping improper hours while selling under the outgoing tenant’s license, and that about one o’clock in the night-time of Saturday last he (Joynson) found a great number of persons drinking in the house.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 27/2/1850

“On Saturday last an inquest was held before W. Robinson, Esq, at the house of Mr. Samuel Golding, SAMPSON AND LION, Netherton, on the body of a lad aged 15, named Samuel Pritchard, who was killed on the evening of the previous Thursday by accidentally falling out of a skip, by which he was ascending a pit (with ten others) connected with the Codsall Colliery, under the new British Iron Company. From the evidence it appeared that the accident (which had also resulted in the death of another lad, aged 13, named John Foley, who was likewise ejected from the skip) occurred through the bye-rope having caught the corner of the skip, and thus tilting it on one side, the deceased fell out to the bottom of the shaft (a distance of 75 yards). The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death. The coroner (Mr. Robinson) sent for the ‘doggy’ of the pit, and reprimanded him very severely for allowing so many persons to come up in the skip at one time, and stated that he should communicate with the ‘butties’ on the subject.

An inquest was also held on Monday, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, and jury, at the BEEHIVE, Rowley, on the body of the other ill-fated boy, Foley, when the jury returned a similar verdict.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 3/4/1850

“On Easter Monday the members, to the number of 50, of the Industry Lodge, of the Wolverhampton order of Odd Fellows, met at Host *Perks*’s, the BEEHIVE INN, Cradley Heath, and partook of their annual feast, which was served up in a satisfactory style by Mr. Perks.”

1851 Census

Cradley Heath

- [1] *John Perks* (27), victualler, born Brierley Hill;
- [2] *Sarah Perks* (25), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] *James Perks* (3), son, scholar, born Tipton;
- [4] Sarah Perks (1), daughter, born Tipton;
- [5] Jane Jones (18), house servant, born Stourbridge:

County Advertiser 27/12/1856

“On Wednesday last the colliers in the employment of the New British Iron Company, to the number of more than 300, were entertained to a very substantial repast in the Company’s School rooms. George Thompson, Esq, presided, and Mr. Macdonald, the Company’s Mine Agent, acted as vice-president, and the evening was spent in the most agreeable manner. The supper was supplied by Mr. *John Perkes*, of the BEE HIVE INN, Corngreaves, and reflected the highest credit on the catering of the worthy host.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/10/1858

“Worcestershire Michaelmas Sessions.....

Henry Watkins and Benjamin Yorke, on bail, were indicted for having on the 9th of October, at Dudley, stolen £4 12s 6d, the property of Francis Jones. Prosecutor on the above evening was returning to his home at Darby End, from a club at the BEEHIVE, Cradley, when he met a man named Falkner, to whom he applied for payment of a debt. Falkner immediately struck him, upon which prosecutor pulled off his coat to fight, and hung it on some palings. Falkner at once ran off, followed by prosecutor, when on his return he discovered his coat, containing his money, had been stolen by the prisoners, who were running away with it in their possession. Both prisoners were acquitted.”

1861 Census

Five Ways to Corngreaves

- [1] *John Perks* (37), victualler, born Brierley Hill;
- [2] *Sarah Perks* (36), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] *James Perks* (13), son, scholar, born Tipton;
- [4] Sarah Perks (11), daughter, scholar, born Tipton;
- [5] Martha Perks (8), daughter, scholar, born Rowley;
- [6] Elizabeth Perks (4), daughter, scholar, born Rowley;
- [7] Phebe Dimmock (17), house servant, born Rock Hill;
- [8] Henry Roberts (40), inn servant, born Rowley:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 26/2/1862 - Advert

“To Builders, Timber Dealers, and Others.

Sale of Capital Building Materials, Growing Timber, &c, at Cradley Heath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis.

Mr. Bateman will Sell by Auction, on Monday, the 3rd day of March, 1862, at six o'clock in the evening, at the House of Mr. *John Perks*, the BEEHIVE INN, at Cradley Heath, and subject to conditions then to be read.

The whole of the excellent Building Materials, in and forming Cradley Heath House, among which is a very superior three storey Staircase, with mahogany Handrail and dark polished Oak Steps and Landings, situate at Cradley Heath, in the parish of Rowley Regis, and which are required to be removed for the works of the Stourbridge and Old Hill Railway. Also about 160 Ash, Poplar, and other Trees, now growing upon Lands, part of the same estate, also required to be cut down for the same purpose.

The Building Materials will be divided into three lots, and the Trees scribe marked, full and descriptive particulars of which will be given in bills of sale, to be distributed, and which may be obtained upon the Premises, at the place of Sale, and, with any further information from the Auctioneer, Dudley.

The Tenant upon the Premises will show the Materials, and also point out the Timber for Sale.”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/8/1862

“At the Petty Sessions, on Wednesday, Phoebe Dimmack was charged with having stolen 1s 8d from John Whitehouse. The prisoner is waitress at the BEEHIVE INN, Cradley Heath, and on Monday night week prosecutor went there and had several glasses of spirits, and, according to his statement, he gave her, in payment for the last glass a two-shilling piece, from which he said she never brought him change. Defendant denied having received the two-shilling piece and said the prosecutor paid for his last glass with a fourpenny-piece. Prosecutor said it was the last glass but one which he had paid for with the smaller coin; and Mrs. *Perks*, the landlady of the inn, who gave defendant an excellent character, said there was not a glass of spirits drawn for prosecutor after the one which was paid for with the fourpenny-piece. The Bench had no doubt that prosecutor had lost his money somehow, but they did not consider that there was any evidence against defendant, who was accordingly discharged.”

Arise's Birmingham Gazette 29/4/1865 - Deaths

“On the 21st inst, at Cradley Heath, in his 42nd year, Mr. *John Perks*, of the BEE HIVE INN; whose death is deeply deplored by a large circle of friends, and all who knew him.”

Stourbridge Observer 29/4/1865

“On Tuesday last the mortal remains of Mr. *John Perks*, of the BEEHIVE INN, were conveyed to their last resting place in the burial ground in connection with the Church at the Four Ways. While the funeral cortege was passing up the High Street, tradesmen, with one or two exceptions, closed their shops, and the occupants of private houses drew down their blinds, the kindly feeling of heart, and the unimpeachable integrity of the deceased being such as to win the esteem of all who knew him.”

Stourbridge Observer 13/10/1866

“An inquest was held on Tuesday last, before Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, at the BEE HIVE INN, Cradley, touching the death of Mary Woodhouse (daughter of James Woodhouse, chain maker), aged four years and six months, who met with her death on the previous Thursday under the following circumstances.

On Wednesday week last, the deceased was returning from school, and whilst crossing the private line of the company [New British Iron Company], thus committing trespass, she was knocked down and run over by some trucks drawn by horses, and she received such injuries as resulted in her death on the day named.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and the Coroner expressed a hope that in future all persons found trespassing on the line should be prosecuted.

Mr. Kean, who represented the company, said he would see the recommendation of the learned Coroner carried out.”

County Express 19/10/1867 - Advert

“Money. £100 Can be Had, on approved Security, at Five per cent.

Application to be made to the Industry Lodge, BEEHIVE INN, Cradley Heath, near Brierley Hill.”

Stourbridge Observer 9/1/1869

“On Tuesday evening, about half past six o'clock, some person dressed in a long-tailed coat, and tall hat, attempted to obtain an entrance into the BEEHIVE INN. He mounted the railings in front of the house, and then sought to spring upon the top of the bow window. Very fortunately his foot slipped into the kitchen window, and the noise of the falling glass forced him to beat a hasty retreat. If he had successfully mounted the window, he would soon have been in one of the front bedrooms. Endeavours are being made to discover this would-be burglar.”

County Express 16/1/1869

“On Monday evening, the choir belonging to St. Luke's Church, were by the kind liberality of the Vicar, and various members of the congregation, entertained to a supper, at the BEE HIVE INN. A splendid and beautiful repast was provided by the Hostess, to which ample justice was done. After the withdrawal of the cloth, the weed, &c, was called into requisition, and glees, songs, and their usual accompaniments became the order of the evening. When the witching hour of eve drew nigh, home began to be recollected, but before the choristers essayed to seek its sacred precincts, they proposed a cordial vote of thanks to the churchwardens, Messrs. W. C. Barker and R. Green, who were both at the supper, for the great interest they had taken in the choir, during their wardenship, and also for the enjoyments of the evening, which their kindly thought and energy had provided. The thanks were accorded with musical honours, and after Mr. Barker had responded, the evening's festivities came to a close.”

County Express 5/2/1870 - Advert

“Cradley Heath, Rowley. Valuable Freehold Pasture and other Lands, comprising together upwards of 16 Acres; Also Excellent Dwelling House, and upwards of 20 Lots of Valuable Freehold Building Land, situate near the Corngreaves Iron Works, at Cradley Heath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford; and a Piece of Freehold Land, in Cradley Field, near Cradley Park, Cradley, in the County of Worcester.

Mr. Bateman will Sell by Auction, on Monday, the 7th day of February, 1870, at the House of Mrs. *Perks*, BEE HIVE INN, Cradley Heath, at Six o'clock in the Evening.....”

1871 Census

Corngreaves Road – BEEHIVE INN

- [1] *Sarah Perks* (45), widow, publican, born Tipton;
- [2] *James T. Perks* (23), son, born Tipton;
- [3] Elizabeth Perks (14), daughter, scholar, born Tipton;
- [4] Ellen Fowkes (22), general servant, born Dudley;
- [5] Isaac Bate (60), visitor, widower, iron worker, born Rowley:

Stourbridge Observer 19/8/1871

“Early on Monday morning Cradley Heath was all astir and hundreds of persons could be seen wending their way towards the Five Ways to witness the procession of Foresters, which was announced to take place that day. The weather being fine thousands of persons were present to witness the procession through the various streets. Ten o'clock was the appointed time for starting, but it was nearly half-past eleven before they got away, owing to their having to wait for some of the Courts from a distance.

The various Courts assembled at the Five Ways, and then formed themselves into order of procession. The following Courts were represented: No.3068, Hope and Anchor, QUEENS HEAD, Corngreaves Street, Cradley Heath; No.3595, Cable and Anchor, BIRD IN HAND, Cradley Heath; 4127, Good Samaritan, BEEHIVE, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath; 4196, Foresters' Home, VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath; 4233, Loyal Shenstone; 4340, Loyal Marlborough, COOKSEY'S HOTEL, Old Hill; 4398, Moss Rose, ROYAL OAK INN, New Town; 4546, Robin Hood's Merry Rangers, CROWN INN, Five Ways; 4970, Lye Reformed, WINDMILL INN, Lye. Although the district of Cradley Heath and Halesowen comprises 36 Courts, only nine took part in getting up the Fete.

The procession started from the Five Ways, headed by the Cradley Heath Brass Band. The Pensnett Victoria Brass and Reed Band and the Halesowen Drum and Fife Band also took part in the procession. Each band played lively quick steps passing through Lomey Town, Five Ways, Four Ways, Reddal Hill, Old Hill, and Haden Hill, en route for Halesowen, passing through the principal streets and then to the Leasowes. The procession was three-quarters of a mile in length, and was accompanied with three magnificent banners bearing suitable mottoes of the Order, and a large number of flags, the members wearing the various badges of the Order, and accompanied by Robin Hood, Little John, Will Scarlet, Friar Tuck, Shepherds, &c, &c.

On arriving at the beautiful and classic grounds, famed as having been the seat of the poet Shenstone, the procession passed round the house of B. Gibbons, Esq, who had kindly placed the whole of the grounds at the disposal of the Committee.....

There was a number of shooting galleries, Aunt Sallys, and other things to amuse all classes. During the day a number of balloon ascents took place.....

It is estimated that between six and seven thousand persons were present, upwards of £100 being taken at the gates, and it is expected there will be a good surplus in aid of the funds of the Order and General Hospital.

We must not close without a word of praise to the Committee, who were indefatigable in carrying out the arrangements according to the programme. The refreshments were provided by Mrs. S. Cartwright of Cradley Heath, and the tea and confectionery by Mr. J. Corns of Wolverhampton.”

Stourbridge Observer 23/12/1871

“An inquest was held at the BEEHIVE INN, Corngreaves, on Monday, before Mr. E. Hooper, on the body of John Mansell, 56, who came by his death through being crushed between two trucks at the Corngreaves Iron Works, on Thursday. Dr. Maland attended deceased. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Stourbridge Observer 13/7/1872

“On Monday last the anniversary of court Good Samaritan, No.4172, of the Ancient Order of Foresters, was celebrated at the BEEHIVE INN, where the members sat down to an excellent dinner provided by the worthy hostess. Bro. Humphries occupied the chair, and Bro. Homer the vice chair.....”

County Advertiser 19/12/1874 - Advert

“Wanted, a thorough General Servant.
Apply to Mrs. *Perks*, BEE HIVE INN, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 6/2/1875

“In the Divorce Court, on Thursday, the case of Gower v Gower, Rhodes, and Harris, came before Sir James Hannen. It was a petition presented by Mr. Alfred W. Gower, of Brierley Hill, Staffordshire, for dissolution of marriage on the ground of the adultery of his wife with the co-respondents.....

Sarah Perks, landlady of the BEEHIVE public house, Cradley Heath, proved the cohabitation of Mrs. Gower and Harris.....”
[A decree nisi was pronounced.]

County Advertiser 3/2/1877

“Mrs. *Sarah Perks*, landlady of the BEEHIVE INN, charged George Billingham with having been drunk and disorderly on her premises, and with having refused to quit, on the 22nd ult. The defendant pleaded guilty, and Mr. Hayes, who appeared for the complainant, wished to withdraw the case, but the magistrates inflicted a fine of 2s 6d and costs.”

County Advertiser 8/9/1877 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant. Age from 20 to 25. Good character required. Apply, Mrs. *Perks*, BEE HIVE INN, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 5/1/1878

“A meeting of the members of the Conservative Association took place last Monday evening, at the REINDEER INN, King Street, Cradley Heath. There was a small attendance, Mr. C. Lander presiding. After the minutes of the last meeting had been read, the Chairman introduced the business of the evening, which was successfully carried out. The next meeting will be held at the house of Mrs. *Perks*, BEEHIVE INN, when all Conservatives are respectfully invited to attend.”

County Express 18/5/1878

“A meeting of the members of the Conservative Association was held at Mr. Samuel Jones’s, REINDEER INN, King Street, Cradley Heath, on Monday evening last. There was a large attendance and Mr. C. Lander presided. After the transaction of some formal business, several gentlemen were elected to attend a Conference about to be held shortly at Dudley. Several members then spoke upon the Eastern Question, and other important political matters. The next meeting will be held at Mrs. *Perks*’s, the BEEHIVE INN, on the 18th proximo.”

County Express 22/6/1878

“A meeting of the members of the Conservative Association was held on Tuesday evening last at Mrs. *Perks*’s, BEEHIVE INN, Cradley Heath. Mr. R. Hamilton presided. After a few remarks from the chairman, the meeting proceeded to elect their representatives for the Executive Committee.....”

Wellington Journal 18/1/1879

“On Wednesday afternoon Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, opened an inquiry at the BEEHIVE INN, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath, into the circumstances attending the death of Frederick William Southall, aged seven years, of No.7 Cokeland Place, who died after an illness of only a few hours on the 10th instant.

John Southall, chainmaker, father of the deceased, said his son was taken ill on Thursday night, the 9th instant, and died the following day.

Mr. Thomas Standish, surgeon, said he had made a post mortem examination of the body, and was unable to ascertain the cause of death. He found indications of irritant poisoning in the stomach and intestines. In accordance with the instructions from the coroner, he had forwarded the stomach, with other portions of the body, to Dr. Alfred Hill, borough analyst, Birmingham. He also handed to Dr. Hill a small portion of tea from a packet of which the tea was made which deceased drank the night before his death. The Coroner said he did not propose to go further with the evidence on that occasion. The jury had heard from Mr. Standish that some portion of the body had been forwarded to the borough analyst for examination. He deemed it necessary to take that course on hearing from Mr. Standish that he could not ascertain the cause of death, because he considered it important for the whole of the neighbourhood. As there were symptoms of irritant poisoning, he thought they should know what the real cause of death was. It would be more satisfactory to adjourn the inquiry until they had the evidence of the analyst.

The inquest was then adjourned for a month.”

County Express 15/2/1879

“On Wednesday afternoon last Mr. Hooper, Coroner, resumed the inquest at the BEEHIVE INN, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath, on the body of Frederick William Southall, aged seven years, of 7, Copeland Place, Cradley Heath. It will be remembered that the child was supposed to have been poisoned, and an inquest having been held a month ago, it was adjourned in order that an examination of the contents of the stomach might be made by Dr. Alfred Hill, of Birmingham. This having been done the latter attended at the inquiry to report the result of his examination. He stated that he had analysed the whole of the contents of the child’s stomach and found no trace of poison whatever. He also examined a packet of tea which had been forwarded and found it pure and genuine.

Dr. Standish stated that the only way he could account for the child’s death was by suppressed scarlet fever, as a child had died in the same house on the day following from this disease.

A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was then returned.

The Coroner said he wished it to be distinctly understood that no suspicion had ever been laid upon the parents. It was only suspected that the child might, unknown to its parents, have eaten something poisonous, but he considered from the evidence that no other verdict than death from natural causes could have been returned.”

County Express 6/3/1880 - Advert

“The BEEHIVE INN, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath.

To Let, the above well-known Old-established Licensed Inn and Premises, advantageously situated in the midst of a large population, near the extensive Corngreaves Works and Collieries of the New British Iron Company, in close proximity to other large works and collieries, and opposite the Theatre Royal, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath. The House has every convenience for

carrying on a large trade, and includes well-fitted up Liquor Vaults, club room, brewhouse, &c. Opposite the house is a piece of Land, with piggeries, fowl-pens, quoit bed, large garden, &c. Two clubs, with about 120 members are held at the house, which has not changed hands for thirty years, and is to let in consequence of the landlady retiring from business. A seven years' lease may be had.

Apply to Powell and Brown, Auctioneers, Tipton."

1881 Census

49, Graingers Lane

[1] *Sarah Perks* (55), widow, licensed victualler, born Tipton;

[2] *James T. Perks* (33), son, manager, born Tipton;

[3] *Sarah J. Perks* (13), grand-daughter, scholar, born Rowley;

[4] *Elizabeth Jeff* (15), domestic servant, born Tipton:

Birmingham Daily Post 17/8/1882

"Quoits. TALBOT HOTEL, Colley Gate v BEEHIVE, Cradley Heath.

This match was played on Colley Gate ground, on Saturday last....."

[Colley Gate won 69-50.]

County Advertiser 10/2/1883 - Advert

"Notice! Notice!! Notice!!!

A Permanent Loan and Investment Society will commence at the BEEHIVE INN, on Saturday, the 17th February, 1883.

All Persons wishing to become Members, please apply to *J. T. Perks*, BEEHIVE INN, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath.

E. Willetts, Secretary."

Dudley and District News 24/5/1884

"*Job Haynes*, miner, was charged with being drunk and disorderly and refusing to quit the licensed premises of *James Perks*, the BEE HIVE INN, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath, and further with assaulting PC Tytherleigh, on the 19th.

Owing to the disorderly conduct of the prisoner in the BEE HIVE, and to his having refused to quit, *Perkes* [sic] sent for Tytherleigh. Together they ejected the prisoner, who turned round and kicked the officer on the leg.

Prisoner denied the charges, but was fined 5s and costs or 14 days."

J. T. Perkes [sic] issued tokens from here.

County Advertiser 10/7/1886

"*John Hill* and *Jesse Preece*, both of Cradley Heath, were charged with being disorderly on the premises of *Jeremiah Westwood*, and refusing to quit. The landlady said the two men were in the tap room and began quarrelling about the election, and they eventually ran out of the house and began fighting in the back yard. Witness then sent for the police and they were parted. Defendants were each fined 5s and costs."

County Advertiser 4/9/1886 - Advert

"Rowley Wake!!!

A Fete and Gala will be held in the Old Fields, Cradley Heath, on Rowley Wake Monday and Tuesday, September 13th and 14th, 1886.

A Fat Ox Will Be Roasted and Disposed of on the Grounds.

Grand Promenade Open-Air Concert, by the celebrated Dudley Glee Union (Messrs. *E. W. Smith*, *Alex Smith*, *G. H. Newns*, and *W. H. Smith*).

Important Engagement at a great cost of *Miss Kate McCoy*, one of the greatest Serio-Comics in the world. Expensive Engagement, and First Appearance in this town, of *Mr. C. P. Gill*, one of the Finest and Neatest Irish Comedians on the stage. The Renowned Serio-Comic Artistes of the London and Birmingham Concert Halls, will appear in their Side-splitting and Laughable Entertainments.

Old English Sports and Pastimes, Foot Racing, &c, each day for Valuable Prizes, by Amateurs residing within three miles of Cradley Heath. Entries on the Grounds.

The Cradley Heath Brass and Reed Band will perform Selections of Popular and Operatic Airs. Conductor, *Mr. Joseph Mansell*.

Fireworks and Scenic Displays, under the superintendence of *Professor Heaton, Adams and Co.*, Birmingham.

Refreshments of first class quality, and at town prices, will be supplied on the grounds by *Mr. Jeremiah Westwood*, the BEE HIVE, Cradley Heath.

Admittance 3d each. Tickets may be obtained from Messrs. *F. Hingley*, the HEATH TAVERN, High Street; *J. Westwood*, the BEE HIVE INN, Graingers Lane; *H. Hickton*, the QUEENS HEAD INN; *John Smith*, RAILWAY TAVERN, Corngreaves Road; and *H. Heaton*, New Town, Cradley Heath."

County Advertiser 11/9/1886

"*Jeremiah Westwood*, landlord of the BEE HIVE INN, Cradley Heath, for furiously driving a horse at the Lye on the 2nd inst, was fined 5s and costs.

Thomas Matthews, grocer, Cradley Heath, was charged with furiously riding a horse on the same date and place, and was fined 2s

6d and cots.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 15/10/1887

“*Jeremiah Westwood*, landlord of the BEEHIVE INN, Graingers Lane, was charged with selling intoxicating liquors during prohibited hours.

PC Wickstead stated that he was instructed to visit defendant’s premises on Sunday morning the 2nd and about 8.30 he saw Samuel Jones, who looked round, and went to the back door and pulled money out of his pocket. He then went into the house through the back door. When he came out again he stopped him and asked him what he had got in his pocket, when he replied only a little rum. He took him back into the house and asked Mrs. *Westwood* why she had supplied the rum, when she answered that he had been ill all night. She asked to be forgiven, and said her master would kill her.

PC McHugh corroborated.

Mr. Waldron, who defended, said he did not dispute the facts, but stated that Jones had been dangerously ill and went for some rum to relieve him. He handed in a medical certificate from Dr. Thompson in confirmation of this.

Mr. Bassano said they did not regard it as a very bad case, and he would only be fined 5s and costs.”

County Advertiser 19/5/1888

“*Jeremiah Westwood*, publican, Graingers Lane, was charged with assaulting Jesse Weaver, on the 10th inst. Complainant’s case was that on the day in question he was at the Salvation Army Barracks where a number of boys were making a row by hammering some buckets. Complainant told them to be quiet, and defendant told them to make the row again. Defendant told his son to make a row, and complainant struck defendant’s son, though, the complainant said, he struck him with a stick. The complainant Weaver was charged with assaulting Benjamin *Westwood*, the son of defendant in the last case. Both cases were dismissed, each party having to pay his own 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.....

Jeremiah Westwood, landlord of the BEE HIVE INN, fined 5s and costs for selling rum. License granted.”

County Advertiser 1/9/1888

“William Dunn, chainmaker, Quarry Bank; Joseph Davis, chainmaker, Cradley Heath; and Walter Garratt, chainmaker, Cradley Heath, were charged with stealing ten live fowls, one dead fowl, and six bottles of bottled ale, value 33s, the property of *Jeremiah Westwood*, BEEHIVE INN, Cradley Heath, on the 20th inst.

Mr. Waldron appeared to prosecute, and said the first charge was that one dead fowl was stolen. The prisoners had been drinking in prosecutor’s house, and afterwards went out into the yard. Here they appeared to be holding a consultation. After a little time they came into the private kitchen. Prosecutor and his wife were away at the time, and the house was left in charge of Mary Hardy, prosecutor’s mother-in-law. While in the kitchen they ordered some beer, which was supplied to them. In the kitchen was a sofa, beneath which was a kind of cupboard, in which was a dressed fowl when Mr. and Mrs. *Westwood* left the house. While the prisoners were drinking two women named Billingham and Woodhouse came into the kitchen. Mrs. Woodhouse saw Dunn pick up what she afterwards saw was the liver of a fowl and throw it on the fire. During the evening Dunn was lying on the sofa. The only evidence against Garratt was his going out into the yard and being in the conversation. Prisoners left the premises soon afterwards. The next morning Mrs. Hardy went to the fowl pen to feed the fowl, and then discovered that ten live fowls were missing. The police were informed of the matter, and Police-sergeant Hayward went to Dunn’s house at Quarry Bank. The premises were searched, and a roughly dressed fowl and a half one were found. Some feathers were also found at the back of the grate. The feathers and the fowl were shown to Mr. *Westwood*, who identified them readily. Police-sergeant Hayward afterwards went to the prisoner Davis’s house. There he found concealed in a closet upstairs a bottle of Bass’s bitter beer, also two empty bottles corresponding with the one containing the beer. The bottles were the same as those missed from prosecutor’s store room. On being charged with stealing the beer, Davis said, ‘*Jerry* (meaning the prosecutor) gave it me.’ Mr. *Westwood* would say that he never gave prisoner any bottled beer. Mrs. Hardy would also say that she never sold prisoners any bottled beer, or gave them any.

Mary Hardy, Mr. *Westwood*’s mother-in-law, gave evidence in keeping with Mr. Waldron’s statement.

Sylvia Billingham, wife of James Billingham, Cradley Heath, and Sarah Woodhouse, Copeland Place, Cradley Heath deposed to being in prosecutor’s kitchen on the date named, and to seeing what took place as described by Mr. Waldron.

Priscilla *Westwood*, wife of the prosecutor, deposed to the fowls being all right when she left the house, and to the dressed fowl being in the cupboard. Prisoners were in the house when she left. The next morning the fowls were missed from the pen, and Police-sergeant Hayward was informed of the fact.

Jeremiah Westwood, prosecutor, gave similar evidence. He could swear to the fowls.

Police-sergeant Hayward deposed to arresting the prisoners on the 24th inst.

After hearing other evidence the Bench said they could not see any clear evidence against Garratt, and that against the others did not appear conclusive, and they would, therefore, all be discharged.”

County Express 9/11/1889

“Elijah Reece, ironworker, of Cradley, and Benjamin Billingham, ironworker, of Cradley Heath, were charged at the Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, with committing a breach of the peace by fighting on Saturday last. *Jeremiah Westwood*, a publican, of the BEE HIVE INN, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath, was charged with aiding and abetting in the commission of the offence. Mr. Hugh Lindsay, excise officer, said that on Saturday, the 2nd inst, he was proceeding along the Cradley Road, towards the

bottom end of Corngreaves Road, to Messrs. Parsons and Cooper's colliery. When a short distance from the pit he saw a large number of persons gathered together, and they appeared to be in a very excited state. He stood still for some time for the purpose of ascertaining the cause of it, and after waiting a little while he saw *Westwood* and some other men come up to where he was standing. *Westwood*, it appeared to him, was trying to ascertain the cause of the commotion, when the two prisoners commenced to fight. *Westwood* wiped one of the men's faces with a handkerchief, and seated him upon his knee. Witness enquired who the fighting persons were, but no one would give their names. He then left, and after he had proceeded a short distance he met Police-constable Wynn, and informed him of the matter. They saw Billingham coming from the direction of where the fight had occurred.

Inspector Walters: How many rounds did the men have? – Witness: As far as I can recollect the men were each down three or four times on the ground, one after the other. The combatants were without their coats, and before the fray was ended they were in pants.

Police-constable Wynn said he left a summons at the residence of Billingham, who said he was struck by Reece first, and was obliged to defend himself. At the time Billingham was quite sober. When he served the summons upon Reece he stated that Billingham struck him first.

The whole of the defendants were bound over to keep the peace for three months, and were ordered to pay the costs. The costs in Reece and Billingham's case amounted to 11s, and in *Westwood's* to 18s 10d."

County Advertiser 14/6/1890

"*Jeremiah Westwood*, of the BEEHIVE INN, Graingers Lane, was charged with assaulting Samuel Rose on the 8th inst. Complainant said defendant struck him a violent blow on the face as he came out of his mother's house, he having offered no provocation whatever. This evidence was corroborated by John Williams, who saw the blow struck, and testified to there being no altercation before complainant was struck. Defendant admitted striking the blow, but said he struck it in self defence. Complainant and others had created a great disturbance near his house, and challenged him out to fight. Ann Hadley, a witness called by defendant, deposed to hearing the row. Defendant struck complainant, although the latter would have struck *Westwood* if his mother had not been between them. The Bench said they were afraid defendant was not a peaceful man, and, there being a bad record against him, he would be fined 30s and costs."

The Stage 15/8/1890 - Advert

"Miss Maino Donnell, Disengaged. Lead or Special parts.
Address, BEEHIVE HOTEL, Cradley Heath, Staff."

Birmingham Daily Post 26/3/1891

"Yesterday, at the Old Hill Police Court, Samuel Chatwin, of Cradley Heath, was charged with stealing 23s 6d, which had been placed in a pint cup, the property of *Jeremiah Westwood*, landlord of the BEEHIVE INN, Cradley Heath, on the 11th inst. Mr. Waldron defended.

Louisa Jones said she was the 'male barman' at the BEEHIVE INN, and went under the name of Louis St. George. On the night in question, about eleven o'clock, she was dressed in male attire, and she saw the defendant reach the cup from the shelf and put it under his apron and walk out. Witness followed him, and found the cup in his possession. Cross-examined, witness said she was not employed by Mr. *Westwood* as a singer, but as a male impersonator. John Alfred Hardy and Obadiah Raybould also corroborated.

For the defence, Mr. Waldron contended that the defendant did not reach the cup down with the intention of stealing it, but for the purpose of handing it to the barmaid.

The Bench imposed a fine of 20s and costs, or, in default, a month's imprisonment. The fine and costs amounted to £3 6s."

1891 Census

49, Graingers Lane – BEEHIVE INN

[1] *Jeremiah Westwood* (35), publican, licensed, born Rowley;

[2] Priscilla Westwood (34), wife, born Bilston;

[3] Benjamin Westwood (14), son, scholar, born Rowley;

[4] Florence Westwood (10), daughter, scholar, born Rowley;

[5] Amy Westwood (8), daughter, scholar, born Rowley;

[6] Pollie Johns (18), domestic servant, born Rowley;

[7] Minnie Donnell (37), visitor, born Rowley;

[8] Louis St. Johns (24), lodger, barmaid, birthplace unknown:

Jeremiah Westwood was also a brewer.

County Express 25/7/1891

"On Monday the members of court No.4172, Good Samaritan, of the Ancient Order of Foresters, held their annual meeting at Mr. *Westwood's*, BEE HIVE INN, Cradley Heath. Fifty-three sat down to a substantial dinner....."

County Advertiser 5/9/1891 - Advert

"Friendly Societies' Procession and Grand Fete and Gala will be held in the Picturesque Haden Hill Grounds (By kind permission of G. A. H. Haden Best, Esq) on Rowley Wake Monday, September 14th, 1891, on behalf of the Guest Hospital, Dudley Dispensa-

ry, and Birmingham Eye Hospital.

Mr. Jos. Darby, the Champion Jumper of the World, is specially engaged, and will beat all previous records.

Football Match – Causeway Green Villa (Holders of the Dudley Charity Cup) v Old Hill Wanderers.

Punch and Judy and other Amusements.

Grand Fireworks Display! Pool On Fire, &c, by Messrs. Brock and Co., London.

The following Bands will be in attendance, and give Selections of Music: Prince of Wales, Blackheath; St. Paul's, Blackheath; and the Cradley Heath Brass and Reed Band.

Refreshments will be supplied on the Grounds by Mr. *J. Westwood*, BEE HIVE INN, Cradley Heath.

Admission – Adults Sixpence, Children Half-price.

Tickets may be had from Messrs W. Bennett, Trinity Schools, and S. Mason, Halesowen Road, Old Hill; Joseph Rock, Cock Green; Philip Taylor, Springfield; William Beddowes and William Woodhouse, Rowley; Sampson Willetts, Birmingham Road, William Lewis, Tump Road, Job Cashmore, Hackett Street, and Samuel Harper, Halesowen Street, Blackheath; Richard Roberts, Dog Lane; Thomas Brookes, Ross; George Hollies, Four Ways; Nehemiah Homer, HOLLY BUSH INN, Cradley Heath; from any of the Bandmasters, or from the Hon. Sec. Mr. Isaac Cashmore, Powke Lane, Blackheath.

Grounds open at 2pm.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/12/1891

“Staffordshire Assizes.....

Arthur Arnold (19), labourer, was indicted for burglariously entering the house of *Jeremiah Westwood*, Cradley Heath, on the 15th July, and stealing 17s and number of cigars. Mr. R. H. Amphlett prosecuted.

Prosecutor's public house was entered on the night in question, and the day following prisoner, who lived next door, was found in possession of a number of florins and half-crowns, and several cigars, which it was alleged belonged to prosecutor. Prisoner had previously been in prosecutor's employ, and the day before the robbery was at work in the house.

He was found guilty, and was sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment, with hard labour.”

Jeremiah Westwood – see also RAILWAY TAVERN, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath.

The Era 2/4/1892 - Advert

“Wanted, Lady Pianist. Able to Read at Sight. ‘Warning Light’ Tour.

Maino Donnell, BEE HIVE HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

The Era 9/4/1892 - Advert

“Wanted, Good Responsible Gents, to complete Cast, ‘Warning Light,’ Fit-up Tour. Must be experienced.

Maino Donnell, BEEHIVE HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 29/4/1893

“*Walter Edward Mealand*, landlord of the BEEHIVE INN, Cradley Heath, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his premises, and, further, with selling ale to a drunken person on the 15th inst. Mr. Oliver Minster, Coventry, defended.

Inspector Bishop, in company with Police-sergeant Newman, said he visited the defendant's house at about 10pm. In the bar he saw the landlord and five other men. One of them, Benjamin Parkes, was very drunk, and leaning against the counter, next to the landlord. As witness went into the room defendant said to Parkes, ‘Now, come, drink up your beer and go,’ and upon that witness saw Parkes take hold of a cup and drink from it. A man named George Mallen, who was standing near, said to witness, ‘He has had nothing to drink here; he has been drinking wine.’ Witness said, ‘I heard the landlord tell him to drink up his beer and go, and I saw him drink from the cup.’ Witness then told the landlord he should not fill men drink when in such a drunken state, and the landlord said he had only filled a jug of ale for Parkes to take home with him. Parkes then went away with the jug, staggering as he did so, and spilling some of the ale. The landlord said he did not think he was doing any harm by filling him the ale to take home.

Mr. Minster, for the defence, said that defendant, when he saw Parkes was drunk, refused to supply him with any drink except the pint which he wanted to take home. Parkes refused to go, and the landlord tried to put him out. Parkes kept his ground, and said he would not go until he had had the drink. Mallen then said he could have some of his, which he did. He thought it was a trivial case, which at most a small fine would meet, and although defendant might be technically wrong he refused to supply him with drink.

Defendant and the others were called in support of this statement.

The Bench fined defendant 40s and costs in the second case, and ordered him to pay costs in the first, in all £2 18s 6d.

Benjamin Parkes was fined 5s and costs for being drunk on the licensed premises.”

County Advertiser 2/9/1893

“John Perry, chainmaker, Graingers Lane, was fined 10s for being disorderly and refusing to quit the licensed premises of *Henry R. Pollard*, of the BEEHIVE. Mr. Cross prosecuted.

A warrant was granted for *Jeremiah Westwood*, who, it was alleged, had badly assaulted the landlady.”

County Advertiser 7/10/1893

“*Jeremiah Westwood*, of Cradley Heath, was charged with being disorderly on the licensed premises of *Henry Pollard*, landlord of the BEEHIVE INN, and refusing to leave the same, and further with assaulting *Elizabeth Pollard*, his wife, on the 28th of August.

Mr. Cross (Birmingham) appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Ward defended.

Mr. Cross said it appeared that some time previous to the date named, defendant held the license of this particular house at Cradley Heath, and had become a nuisance and a source of annoyance to Mr. *Pollard*. On the date named Mrs. *Pollard* came back from Coventry shortly after ten o'clock, and defendant came into the bar and asked for a pint of ale. She declined to fill him any, saying he had had enough. Defendant, without their permission, then began to drink from some of the customers' cups, and the landlady remonstrated with him. The latter also asked him to go, but he refused, and upon his wife coming in and asking him, he refused her request that he would go home. Defendant then called Mrs. *Pollard* abominable names, and struck her in the chest. She thereupon pushed him to protect herself, and he took hold of her by the back of the head, dragged her down by her hair, and struck her several times. His wife ultimately got him away and home.

Elizabeth *Pollard* gave evidence in support of this statement.

Cross-examined: She was instructed by the Brewery Company who had the house not to serve defendant when he created a disturbance. Defendant was not drunk, but he had had sufficient. She did not say he was not a gentleman before he struck her.

Re-examined: She had supplied him with drink when he was sober.

Mr. *Pollard* gave evidence in support of the charge.

Mr. Ward, for the defence, said it was very plain that there was a motive in the case, and much feeling between defendant and complainant. The latter had been instructed by the Brewery Company not to supply defendant at all, and defendant was asked by a man in the house to have some of his drink. Defendant did not insult the landlady, was sober and quiet, and when the landlady said he was not a gentleman, he said she was not a lady. The case had been greatly exaggerated, and he did not strike the landlady. Mr. Ward called about half a dozen witnesses, who bore out this statement.

Defendant, in answer to Mr. Goodman (magistrates' clerk) said he did not receive the summons, as he went to Liverpool on Tuesday (the 28th) in the morning.

Inspector Bishop and Police-sergeant Newman deposed to seeing defendant in Cradley Heath on the same night in a drunken condition.

Defendant was fined 10s and costs in each case, in all £3 12s 6d."

County Advertiser 9/2/1895

"A petition was filed at the Dudley County Court on Tuesday last on behalf of *Jeremiah Westwood*, formerly of the BEE HIVE INN, licensed victualler, but now living in lodgings at the RAILWAY TAVERN, Cradley Heath, out of business. The liabilities are about £600. Mr. W. Waldron, Brierley Hill, is the debtor's solicitor."

London Gazette 15/2/1895

"*Jeremiah Westwood*, formerly the BEE HIVE INN, Cradley Heath, Staffordshire, afterwards Southalls Lane, Dudley, Worcestershire, now residing in lodgings at the RAILWAY TAVERN, Cradley Heath aforesaid, formerly licensed victualler, afterwards fish and fruit dealer, now out of business."

Jeremiah Westwood died in 1898 aged 43.

County Advertiser 23/2/1895

"Caleb Raybould, Cokeland Place, for refusing to quit the licensed premises of the BEEHIVE INN, Cradley Heath, on the 13th inst, was fined 10s."

Birmingham Daily Post 2/3/1895

"Bankruptcy Proceedings. Re *Jeremiah Westwood*, licensed victualler.

Yesterday, at the Dudley County Court – before Mr. Kettle – *Jeremiah Westwood*, formerly of the BEEHIVE INN, Cradley Heath, afterwards of Southalls Lane, Dudley, and now living in lodgings at the RAILWAY TAVERN, Cradley Heath, came up for his public examination in bankruptcy. Debtor's liabilities amounted to £587, and his assets, it was estimated, would produce £64, leaving a deficiency of £523. Mr. Martin (from the office of Mr. Waldron, Brierley Hill) appeared on behalf of the debtor, who was examined by the Official Receiver (Mr. E. P. Jobson).

About seventeen years ago debtor commenced business at the RAILWAY TAVERN, Cradley Heath, having previously been in business at the CROSS INN, Old Hill. The in-going valuation at the RAILWAY TAVERN was £160, of which £70 was advanced by the debtor's father. He traded at that house for eight years, and in the meantime he purchased the freehold for £360, of which £300 was advanced upon mortgage. When the debtor disposed of the premises and business he received £100 from his successor. This was not sufficient to pay his creditors 20s in the pound, so he used it in part payment of the in-going valuation (£230) at the BEEHIVE INN, Cradley Heath, then acquired by him. The payment was advanced by a local maltster, with whom was deposited, as security, a lease of the premises. He traded there about seven years, when a firm of brewers purchased the lease, and ultimately arranged for the debtor to remain on the premises as their tenant. They also paid him £100. His indebtedness at that period considerably exceeded his assets, and at the end of two years, also his connection with the brewery company ceased, his liabilities amounted to about £500. During the latter period of the debtor's trading at the BEEHIVE INN, he speculated with a theatrical company for the production of several stage plays. This company was sent on tour for two months to several provincial towns. The salary and travelling expenses averaged about £32 per week. The debtor did not personally superintend the finances of the company, being satisfied to leave them in the hands of his son, a youth of fifteen, who reported weekly. This speculation involved a loss of £250. He admitted that when he embarked on this undertaking he was insolvent. When he left the BEEHIVE, in March, 1893, his affairs were put into the hands of a solicitor to arrange with his creditors. An arrangement for the acceptance of a composition was not completed, and debtor was pressed for payment, and compelled to file his petition in bankruptcy. During

a portion of the last two years he had traded as a fishmonger, and his liabilities had been slightly increased. His wife carried on business as a fishmonger at Dudley. With regard to the theatrical business, he had to pay an agent 25s a week and his travelling expenses, and the first week he made 12s 6d profit, but the next week he lost £13. He came from Canada seventeen years ago, and during most of the time since he had been in difficulties. Debtor was allowed to pass.”

County Advertiser 11/5/1895

“Stourbridge County Court. Wednesday. Before Sir Richard Harington, Bart, Judge.

Westwood v Homer. This was an action brought by Benjamin Westwood, licensed victualler, of Cradley Heath, against Mr. Thomas Homer, Solicitor, of Brierley Hill, to recover the sum of £50, which had been paid to defendant for the purpose of arranging a composition. Mr. Kettle (instructed by Mr. Waldron) appeared for the plaintiff, and the defendant was not represented, neither did he appear.

It was stated that in 1893, the plaintiff’s son, who was then occupying the BEEHIVE INN, at Cradley Heath, got into financial difficulties, and consulted defendant on the matter. A meeting of creditors was held, when they decided to accept a composition of 4s in the pound. Defendant had at that time £64 in hand, the moneys of Mr. *J. Westwood*, and the plaintiff advanced the £50 to Mr. Homer on the understanding that the composition should be arranged with the whole of the creditors. That this composition should be made was laid down by plaintiff on a special condition of the advance of the £50 to make up £114; and if Mr. Homer failed to secure the acceptance of the composition he was to return the money. The money was advanced by plaintiff on May 15th, 1893, but no composition had been made. The present action to recover the £50 referred to had been adjourned twice at the defendant’s request. On the preceding day Mr. Waldron received from the defendant a cheque, which he did not think fit to accept, and that morning Mr. Waldron received a letter from defendant stating that he would be at the court with the cash, but he had not appeared. Mr. Waldron was called and gave evidence in keeping with counsel’s statement, and His Honour gave a verdict for plaintiff for the amount claimed.”

[Benjamin Westwood – see WIZARD AND GLASS.]

In May 1896 *Henry Rollings Pollard*, landlord of the BEEHIVE INN, Cradley Heath, was defrauded out of 10s by George Wilson, a photographic canvasser.

County Express 16/1/1897

“Thomas Baker, chainmaker, Cradley Heath, was charged with being disorderly on the licensed premises of *Henry Rawlings Pollard*, the BEEHIVE INN, Cradley Heath, on July 24th, 1896, also with assaulting Mr. *Pollard*, and with doing damage to the value of 7s 6d.

Complainant stated that on July 24th prisoner entered his house, and after singing a song commenced a bother with the customers. He ordered Baker out, but as he refused, witness put his hand on prisoner. Prisoner seized a cup and threw it at witness. It cut his arm severely, and a doctor put in two stitches. He destroyed a number of articles.

Prisoner said he supposed he might as well plead guilty. He hoped the Bench would send him to ‘another world.’ He had so many enemies round here that he could do nothing right.

Mr. Bassano said prisoner had been in gaol month after month, and he had nearly a whole page of convictions against him. He appeared to be of no use on earth at all. For refusing to quit he would be fined 10s and costs, or 14 days; for the assault one month with hard labour, and also to pay the doctor’s bill, and 6s costs, and 7s damage, or seven days.”

Henry Rawlings Pollard – see also FOUNTAIN, Pensnett.

County Express 24/4/1897

“A meeting of the small anchor-smiths section of the Amalgamated Anchor-Smiths and Shackle-Makers’ Association, was held at the BEEHIVE INN, Graingers Lane, on Wednesday morning, to consider the question of asking for an advance.”

1901 Census

49, Graingers Lane – BEEHIVE INN

[1] *Alfred Price* (41), publican, born Cradley;

[2] *Ellen Price* (45), wife, born Cradley;

[3] *Sarah E. Price* (18), daughter, dressmaker, born Cradley Heath;

[4] *Alfred H. Price* (16), son, machine minder (fitting shop), born Cradley Heath;

[5] *Fred Price* (12), son, born Cradley Heath;

[6] *Jane E. Price* (7), daughter, born Cradley Heath:

County Express 27/7/1901

“On Monday Mr. A. H. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest at the BEEHIVE INN, Cradley Heath, on the body of Mark Billingham (15), furnace labourer, 61, Beehive Street, Cradley Heath. Evidence was given by Ann Maria Billingham (deceased’s mother), Selina Jeavons (a neighbour), Police-sergeant Pitcher, and Dr. de Denne. From this it appeared deceased had for some years suffered with pains in his head and ears, but had not been medically attended. He was taken ill on Friday, became worse on Saturday, and died on Sunday. Dr. de Denne was called after death, and stated there was an abscess on the brain. A verdict of Natural Causes was returned.”

John Pillow = John Pellow

John Pillow – see also FIVE WAYS.

County Express 12/9/1908

“Friendly Societies’ Parade. On Wednesday evening the committee of the above met at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Mr. W. Coley presiding over a large attendance. The following was a complete list of those boxes which contained amounts of 1s and upwards.....

Mr. *R. Botfield*, BEEHIVE INN, 1s.”

County Express 10/7/1909

“At a meeting of the Cradley Heath Friendly Societies’ Parade Committee, at the BEEHIVE INN, Corngreaves Road, on Tuesday evening, there were present Messrs. W. Coley (chairman), T. Wilkes, F. Chapman, J. Dearn, A. Poole, *Botfield*, Furguson, Stonely, and S. H. Woodhouse (secretary).

The Secretary announced that the Rev. Jos. Pearce had written to the vicar (the Rev. R. E. Walker) asking him to take part in the service at Graingers Lane Primitive Methodist Chapel, on parade Sunday. The vicar replied as follows: ‘The Vicarage, July 3rd. Dear Sir, Thank you for your letter of this morning. Am sorry not able to accede to your request.....’

1911 Census

49, Graingers Lane – BEEHIVE INN

- [1] *Robert William Botfield* (30), publican, born Chelmarsh, Shropshire;
- [2] Phoebe Ann Botfield (32), wife, married 11 years, assisting in the business, born Netherton;
- [3] William Botfield (10), son, school, born Netherton;
- [4] Bert Botfield (8), son, school, born Netherton;
- [5] George Henry Botfield (7 months), son, born Cradley Heath;
- [6] Susannah Haynes (14), domestic servant, born Cradley Heath:

Robert William Botfield – see also ANCHOR and BELL, Cradley Heath, and BLUE BALL, Old Hill.

County Express 3/6/1911

“Old Cradley Heath. Chat with Mr. Thomas Hingley Parsons, sexton at St. Luke’s Church for Forty Years.....

Though in his 81st year, Mr. Parsons is wonderfully virile and active, the keenness of his intellect and memory is unabated, and he willingly discoursed upon the Cradley Heath of his younger days.....

In those days, he added, the inhabitants of the district were not quarter so many as they are now, and the only public houses were the HOLLY BUSH, High Street; Bannister’s Newtown; ‘Benny Fiddler’s’; SALUTATION, Lomey Town; BEEHIVE, Graingers Lane; and QUEENS HEAD, Corngreaves Road.”

Edgar Randall = Edgar Randle

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 BEEHIVE, Cradley Heath, 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.”

Dudley Chronicle 16/1/1915

“At Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, the license of the BEEHIVE INN, Cradley Heath, was transferred from the Executors of *Edgar Randall* to *Joseph Boswell*.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/8/1921

“On the ground that the out-going tenant denied that the signature on a certain document was his, the Old Hill magistrates had no alternative but to refuse to grant an interim authority to *Harold Harbach* in respect of the BEEHIVE INN, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath.

Joseph Boswell, who is at present in possession of the house, said he did not think the company should put another man in until the transfer was finally made. He had not been able to find anywhere else to live, and there were six in the family.

Mr. Thomas H. Smith, manager of the Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd., the owners of the house, said even if *Boswell* denied the signature or refused to sign, it would not make any difference, because according to his agreement with the firm the latter could fill in any forms which the tenant objected to sign.

The magistrates’ clerk (Mr. T. Cooksey) said the interim authority could not be granted, and a new application, properly signed, would have to be submitted.

The magistrates adjourned the case for a week and Mr. Smith said he would therefore close the house for that period.”

Harold Harbach was also a shopkeeper of 48, Graingers Lane. [1924]

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.....

BEEHIVE, Cradley Heath, 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 BEEHIVE, Cradley Heath.”

It was referred to the Compensation Authority on 6th May 1929, on the grounds of redundancy.

The license was renewed.

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/6/1929

“The Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910. Notice of Principal Meeting. County of Stafford.

Notice is Hereby Given, that the Principal Meeting to be held pursuant to the Licensing Rules, 1910, by the Compensation Authority for the above Area, will be held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Tuesday, the 30th day of July, 1929, at 11 o'clock am.

And Notice Is Hereby Also Given, that the Compensation Authority will at the Meeting be prepared to hear, with reference to the Renewal of the Licenses of the several Premises specified in the subjoined list, all those Persons to whom under the Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910, they are bound to give an opportunity of being heard.....

List of Licensed Premises.....

BEEHIVE INN, Cradley Heath. Alehouse. Licensee, *Frederick N. Raybould.*”

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/8/1929

“County Licensing.

Eleven licensed premises, mostly in the South Staffordshire area, were scheduled at the Principal Meeting of the County Licensing Compensation Authority held at the Shirehall Stafford.....

Application for renewal of the BEEHIVE INN, an alehouse at Cradley Heath was made by Mr. W. H. Thompson (Dudley). Inspector Hall considered the house was unnecessary and that there were too many licensed houses in the area. He admitted that quite a fair trade was being done compared with other licensed houses in the locality.

On behalf of the owners, it was stated that plans had been submitted to the local justices to improve the house, and particularly the living accommodation, by the acquisition of two cottages. The house, which was near a large chain works, had done a steady trade of five barrels of beer a week, apart from wines and spirits and bottled goods, for the last five years. It was estimated that, based on the past three years' trade, the sum of £4,000 would be required to compensate the owners for the loss of the license. The committee decided to renew the license.”

Rachel Cunningham married an *Ernest Garratt.*

1939 Register

49, Graingers Lane

[1] Ernest C. Garratt, date of birth 21/1/1884, warehouse foreman, married;

[2] *Rachel Garratt*, dob 11/8/1890, licensee, married;

[3] Joan (Cunningham) Willmott, dob 13/2/1930, at school, single:

The license was removed to the BRICKHOUSE.

It closed on 21st November 1956.

BEEHIVE

113, High Street, (Garratts Lane) / Elbow Street, OLD HILL

OWNERS

Thomas Darby and Sons [1898], [1918]

LICENSEES

Thomas Darby [1881] – [1882]

Henry Cole (1892 – 1897);

Josiah Weston (1897 – [1898])
Henry ‘Harry’ Letts (1898 – [])
George Edmund Miles [1900] – 1903);
Noah Windsor (1903);
Edwin Arthur Barnett (1903 – 1904);
David Jeavons (1904 – 1906);
John Mansell (1906 – 1907);
William James Newman (1907 – [])
Samuel Siviter (1908 – 1909);
George Henry Siviter (1909 – [])
Abel Siviter [1910] – 1918);

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

West Bromwich Weekly News 24/9/1881

“*Thomas Darby*, landlord of the BEEHIVE, Elbow Street, was charged with permitting drunkenness on the 3rd inst. PCs Rowlands and Rowe visited defendant’s house at 7.45 on the evening in question, and found a man named Green sitting in the room asleep and drunk. Defendant’s wife was behind the counter, and she told them that the man had been told to go a dozen times, but would not. The defence was that the man went to the house early in the evening. He was then sober and was supplied with ale. He then left, professedly with the intention of getting something to eat. In about half an hour he came in again, when it was noticed that he was drunk, and was refused ale. He was also told to leave but refused. Several witnesses bore out the above statement. Fined 40s and costs. Mr. Bassano said the license would not be endorsed, in consideration of the man not being supplied with ale the second time.”

Dudley and District News 1/10/1881

“William Green was charged with being drunk in the BEEHIVE beerhouse on the 3rd inst. PC Rowe stated the case. Prisoner: Well, I think it was quite excusable in my case. I only went to have a drop after getting through with my day’s business, and if I was a little the worse after it, I didn’t annoy anyone. Witness: His daughter was sent for to take him home. Fined 5s including costs, or 7 days.”

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..... *Thomas Darby*, BEEHIVE, Elbow Street, Old Hill, permitting drunkenness, fined 40s 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.”

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 objected to the renewal of the license to *Henry Cole*, of the BEEHIVE, High Street, Old Hill, on the ground of the house not being structurally adapted for a beerhouse. On the application of Mr. Waldron, the application for renewal was adjourned till the adjourned licensing day for the necessary alterations to the premises to be made.”

County Advertiser 5/9/1896

“On Wednesday evening the employes and licensed tenants of Mr. Thomas Darby, corn merchant and brewer, responded to an invitation they had received to dine at Mr. *Henry Cole*’s house, the BEEHIVE INN, in honour of the celebration of the marriage of Miss Annie E. Darby (Mr. Darby’s eldest daughter) to Dr. Tibbetts, of Cradley Heath. Thirty-two employes sat down, and about forty friends were subsequently entertained.....”

County Express 10/4/1897 - Advert

“To Let, a Pasture Field, near the Cross, Old Hill.
Apply, Mr. *Henry Cole*, BEEHIVE INN, Old Hill.”

Josiah Weston = Josiah Westwood

County Advertiser 2/10/1897

“The adjourned licensing sessions for Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division was held on Wednesday at the Police Court, Old Hill, before Messrs. W. Bassano, J. Walker, and G. Green.....

Henry Cole applied for the transfer of the license of the CROSS INN, Old Hill, from Mr. McWhirter to himself.

Inspector Given said the house was badly conducted. Applicant had formerly kept the house, and was fined £5 and costs for an offence against the licensing laws. Since 1892 applicant had kept the BEEHIVE INN, and had conducted that house very satisfactorily, there being no complaint whatever against him. If the Bench granted the application he hoped Mr. *Cole* would give an undertaking that the house should be properly conducted. The Bench granted the application, applicant giving the required undertaking that he would not have any inducements connected with the house.

An interim authority in respect to the BEEHIVE INN was granted to *Josiah Westwood*, there being no objection on the part of the police.”

Dudley Herald 19/3/1898

“At the Police Court on Wednesday, Mr. Waldron made an application, on behalf of *Henry Letts*, for a temporary permit to enter into possession of the BEEHIVE INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill. He said that the applicant, at the termination of his apprenticeship at Halesowen, went to the BEECH TREE INN, at Blackheath, and kept that place for 10 years without any complaint on the part of the police. He subsequently became tenant of the FIVE WAYS INN, Stourbridge, under the North Worcestershire Brewery Company, and while there was convicted for permitting drunkenness. He contended that one offence ought not to prevent a man for ever managing a public house, and he hoped they would allow him to rehabilitate himself and again hold a license. The Bench granted the application, saying that *Letts*, who had suffered for the conviction, must be careful in future.”

Dudley Herald 2/4/1898

“The following deed of arrangement has been gazetted: *Josiah Weston*, the BEEHIVE INN, Old Hill, publican. Trustee, Eli H. Boilstone, Old Hill, auctioneer. Unsecured liabilities, £537 5s; estimated net assets, £130.”

County Advertiser 3/9/1898 - Notice

“To the Overseers of the Poor of the Parish or Township of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, and to the Superintendent of Police of the District in which the House hereinafter mentioned is situate, and to all whom it may concern.

I, *Harry Letts*, Beerhouse Keeper, now residing at High Street, Old Hill, in the Parish or Township of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, Do Hereby Give Notice, that it is my intention to Apply, at the Adjourned General Annual Licensing Meeting for the Division of Rowley Regis, to be holden at the Public Office, at Old Hill, in the said County, on Wednesday, the 28th day of September, 1898, for the grant of a Certificate authorising me to Apply for and Hold an Excise License for the Sale, by retail, at a House and Premises known as the BEEHIVE INN, and situate at High Street, Old Hill, in the Parish or Township of Rowley Regis, aforesaid, of Wine to be Consumed either on or off Premises, in pursuance of the Act 23 Vict, c.27, s.7 and 8, and Acts amending the same, of which said Premises Thomas Darby, of Old Hill, aforesaid, is the Owner, and the same are of the annual value and are otherwise qualified as required by law, and are now in my own occupation.

Given under my hand this 25th day of August, 1898.

Henry Letts.

Witness, David Wall, Clerk with Mr. J. W. Clulow, Solicitor, Brierley Hill.”

Dudley Herald 24/9/1898

“Henry Howell was charged (1) with assaulting Emily *Letts*, wife of *Harry Letts*, landlord of the BEEHIVE INN, Old Hill, (2) with refusing to quit licensed premises, (3) with being drunk and disorderly in the highway, (4) with doing wilful damage to property belonging to Emily *Letts*. Mr. Tinsley, Dudley, defended.

Mrs. *Letts* said that on the 11th inst defendant came to her husband’s house and asked for a bottle of soda water. He was very drunk so she refused to serve him. He then said that he should demand a drink and immediately jumped the counter and struck her in the face. Her husband, who had been outside, at this period came in and defendant asked to be served with a drink. Mr. *Letts* also refused to serve him and ordered him to leave the house. He refused, however, and some men endeavoured to prevent him from striking her again. He then left the bar-room and went into the smoke-room and soon afterwards she heard a crash, and subsequently found that a pane in the smoke-room door and a drinking glass had been broken. She estimated the damage at about 2s 6d.

Henry Letts, corroborated.

Samuel Hughes said he saw the defendant leap the counter and demand a drink, and when refused, saw him strike Mrs. *Letts*.

Other evidence was given in support of these charges.

PC Beech said that on the 10th inst about 9.45 he saw the defendant drunk and heard him making use of very bad language. He was bleeding from the face and there was a mark on his forehead.

Mr. Tinsley, for the defence, said unfortunately he should have to ask the Bench to rely on the defendant’s statements, as he had no witness. He submitted that the damage was not proved, as there was no one who actually saw defendant break the glass. He

also submitted that defendant jumped over the counter to escape the taunts of some men who were in the bar-room, and contended that Mrs. *Letts* might have been knocked in the struggle which took place when the man was ejected. He could scarcely combat the charge of refusing to quit, but he suggested that there was undue violence used in ejecting the man, and this would perhaps account for his state of mind when seen by PC Beech.

The Bench fined defendant 20s and costs for the assault, 10s and costs for refusing to quit, the costs and 2s damage for malicious injury, and 10s for being drunk and disorderly.”

County Advertiser 1/10/1898

“The adjourned licensing sessions for the Rowley petty sessional division were held on Wednesday.....

Mr. J. W. Clulow applied, on behalf of Mr. *Harry Letts*, landlord of the BEEHIVE INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, for a wine license. The house was mostly used for the accommodation of travellers, and was eminently adapted for the purposes of a wine license. Applicant provided dinners daily, and there was no other house in the immediate locality. The rental was £25 a year.

Mr. *Harry Letts* was called, and gave evidence.

Mr. B. Shakespeare said he had just received instructions to oppose the granting of the license on behalf of Mr. Sidaway, a licensed victualler in Garratts Lane.

In cross-examination witness said he had occupied the house six months. His was the only house that supplied refreshments in that street. He did not know how far away the DUKE WILLIAM was. It was a full-licensed house. He knew the KINGS HEAD INN, and that was a full-licensed house.

The Bench said they should not grant the application.”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/1/1900

“General (good) Wanted, at once.

Address, Mrs. *Letts*, BEEHIVE, High Street, Old Hill, Staffordshire.”

Henry ‘Harry’ Letts – see also BEECH TREE, Gorsty Hill Road, Blackheath and FIVE WAYS, Cradley Heath.

George Edmund Miles = George Edmund Mills

County Express 1/9/1900

“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 hereinafter mentioned is situate, and to all whom it may concern.

I, *George Edmund Miles*, Beerhouse Keeper, now residing at Garratts Lane, Old Hill, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, Do Hereby, Give Notice that it is my Intention to Apply at the Adjourned General Annual Licensing Meeting for the Division of Rowley Regis, to be Holden at the Public Office at Old Hill, in the said County, on Wednesday, the 26th day of September, 1900, for the Grant of a License or Certificate authorising me to Apply for and Hold an Excise License for the Sale by Retail at a House and Premises known as the BEEHIVE, situate at Garratts Lane and Elbow Street, Old Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, aforesaid, of Wine, to be consumed on or off the Premises, in pursuance of the Act 23 Victoria, cap.27, Sections 7 and 8, and Acts amending the same, of which said Premises Thomas Darby is the owner, and the same are of annual value and are otherwise qualified as required by Law, and are now in my own occupation.

Given under my hand this 31st day of August, 1900.

Thomas Darby.”

County Express 29/9/1900

“Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

George Edmund Miles, of the BEEHIVE INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, applied for a wine ‘off’ and ‘on’ license. Mr. Green supported the application, and Mr. Shakespeare, jun, opposed. It was stated the house was owned by Mr. Thomas Darby, and the application was for a license to sell wine to be consumed on or off the premises. The applicant stated his house was practically the only house in Old Hill where dinners were provided, and he was frequently asked for wine to be drunk with the dinners. Cross-examined: He had not had time to file certificates of character. There must have been some mistake that Thomas Darby should have signed his application. There were three or four full licensed houses within 40 yards of the applicant’s house, where people could get wine if they wanted it. He had been cautioned about giving sweets on the Sunday to children. He was not aware that the magistrates disapproved of that, and he did not think he would get more trade by it. The application was refused, the Bench saying there were already too great facilities for drinking, without making them greater.”

1901 Census

Garratts Lane

[1] *George E. Miles* (30), married, publican, born York;

[2] Nancy A. Windsor (16), servant, iron chainmaker, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Annie L. Allport (18), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 22/11/1902

“A charge against *George Edmond Miles*, landlord of the BEEHIVE INN, Garratt’s Lane, Old Hill, of obtaining £2 4s 1d, the money of George Frederick Priest, of Cradley Road, Netherton, was withdrawn with the consent of the Bench. From the evidence it seemed that *Miles* was the president and treasurer of the Old Hill Brass and Reed Band, and made himself responsible

to Messrs. Mallett, Porter, and O'Dowd Ltd., clothiers, of London, for a sum of about £44 for the supply of uniforms. In August Priest paid the defendant £2 4s 1d for his uniform, and he had received other sums from other bandsmen. Since paying the defendant, Priest had received a demand from Messrs. Mallett, Porter, and O'Dowd for £2 4s 1d, the cost of the uniform.

Mr. Ward, on behalf of his client, said no criminal charge could be sustained against him. Unfortunately the defendant had made himself responsible for the payment of £44, and was retaining Priest's £2 4s 1d and the instalments until he had the full sum before forwarding it to Messrs. Mallett, Porter, and O'Dowd. He was willing at any time to refund the money, as he had no desire to do that which was wrong.

The defendant produced the money in Court, and the Bench allowed the case to be withdrawn."

County Advertiser 14/3/1903

"On Wednesday the adjourned licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held at the Police Court, Old Hill.

In respect of the transfer of the BEEHIVE INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, to *Noah Windsor*, it was pointed out that the out-going tenant, *Geo. Miles*, was not present. The Bench eventually granted the transfer, but Sir Benjamin Hingley intimated that would not act as a precedent. It must be understood that in all similar applications the out-going tenant must be present on the transfer day. No one would be excused in future."

Tipton Herald 15/8/1903

"*Noah Windsor*, landlord of the BEE HIVE INN, Elbow Street, was charged with permitting drunkenness, and also with supplying drink to a drunken person.

Mr. J. Walter Clulow (Brierley Hill) prosecuted, and in opening the case stated that PC Smith, on the 30th July, was standing outside the defendant's premises. There were three steps in front of the house and also a rail. While the officer was standing there he saw a man named William Skitt leave the premises in a very drunken condition. He staggered down the steps, and supported himself by the rail. He then turned the corner as best he could, and went his way home in Waggon Street, which was near to the defendant's premises. The landlord was at the time looking through the window facing Elbow Street, and the police officer called his attention to the condition of the man. Being near his own home the officer did not speak to the man, but watched him home. He then returned to the public house, where he first saw the landlady, who was assisting in the bar. She sent for her husband, on whose arrival a conversation took place between him and the officer. The officer said, 'This man's drunk,' to which Mr. *Windsor* replied, 'He's only had one or two pints here. He's been in about twenty minutes. I was not aware that he was that drunk.' There were two jugs on the table in the bar, one of which contained beer which belonged to a man named Johnson, who was in the place, and the other one was empty, which the police said was used by the drunken man, Skitt. Inspector Hodgkinson saw the defendant later in the day, and defendant, in answer to a question, said that Skitt had one or two pints in the house. He had been in about 20 minutes.

PC Smith and Inspector Hodgkinson were called, and bore out these statements.

The defendant said that the man, in his opinion, was perfectly sober when he came into his premises. He called William Johnson, who was in the house at the time.

Johnson stated that he went, in company with Skitt, into the house at about three o'clock, and Skitt went home about quarter to four. During that time they only had two pints of ale between them.

The Bench imposed a fine of £3 and costs for permitting drunkenness, and pay the costs in the other case – in all £5 19s 6d."

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 grounds of a conviction against the house.

BEEHIVE INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, kept by *Edwin Arthur Barnett*.

Mr. Green supported the application for the renewal of the license of the BEE HIVE INN, Old Hill, to *Edwin Arthur Barnett*. He pointed out that when the previous tenant was convicted Mr. *Barnett* was put in the house, and he had since kept it without complaint. The renewal was granted."

County Advertiser 16/4/1904

"*Edwin Arthur Barnett*, landlord of the BEEHIVE INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, was charged with permitting gaming on his premises on the 12th and 19th ults.

Mr. J. W. Clulow, who prosecuted, said that defendant had permitted the harmless amusement of air-gun shooting to be converted into an offence against the law. On the night of the 12th ult, Police-constable Haynes, of Smethwick, and a man named Daniel Williams, who were dressed as labourers, visited defendant's house, and saw two men shooting at the range for beer and pellets. On the 15th ult the officer, accompanied by Williams, again visited the house, but on this occasion no shooting took place. The landlord, however, gave them an invitation to attend on the 19th ult, when a competition was announced to take place for a bottle of rum. Haynes and Williams responded to the landlord's invitation, and took part in the competition. Eighteen persons entered the competition, and they each paid a penny. The landlord lost 2s 6d on the competition, so that there must be profit on the shooting. There was no intention on the part of the police to interfere with harmless amusements, but he regretted to say that in some districts this air-gun shooting had degenerated into a complete gamble. It was, therefore, in the interests of the publicans that the police should make some attempts to check it.

Evidence in support of this statement was given by Police-constable Haynes and the man Williams.

Mr. G. Green, who defended, submitted that a licensed victualler was entitled if he thought fit to put up any prize for competition,

and that there was no offence against the law. He further contended that there was no reliable evidence against his client that he had any knowledge of the shooting for ale.

The Bench imposed a fine of £5 and costs in each case, the total amount being £15 11s.”

County Advertiser 20/8/1904

“The licenses of the following public houses were transferred.....

BEEHIVE INN, Old Hill, from *Edward Arthur Barnett* to *David Jeavons*.....

In connection with the transfer of the BEEHIVE INN, Old Hill, Mr. A. H. Bassano pointed out that the previous tenant was convicted some time ago for permitting gaming upon his premises. There was a cloud hanging over the house, and it behoved the applicant to be careful how he conducted it. The case would be considered at the Licensing Sessions.”

County Advertiser 10/12/1904

“Mr. W. H.. Thompson made an application for the transfer of the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Wrights Lane, Old Hill, from John Bushby to *Edwin Arthur Barnett*. He explained that the applicant formerly held the license of the BEEHIVE INN, Old Hill, but on the 13th of April last was fined £5 and costs upon two charges of permitting gambling upon the premises. Mr. *Barnett* held an air-gun shooting club upon the premises, and the gambling consisted of shooting for beer. Applicant had held licenses in various parts of the Midlands for twenty years, and he urged them to give him another chance. Mr. Thompson produced a number of testimonials, and read one from Superintendent Hodkinson, of the Stone Division, who was inspector in charge of the Old Hill Division at the time of the conviction, to the effect that having regard to his previous good character, he thought the Bench would grant him the license.

The Bench, after a short deliberation, decided to grant the application.

Mr. A. H. Bassano (presiding magistrate) said the Bench were greatly surprised at the action of Superintendent Hodkinson. Superintendent Johnson said it was quite unusual and altogether contrary to the rules and regulations of the police force. An application was made for the return of the testimonial, but it was stated that the Bench wished to deal with the matter themselves.”

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.....

David Jeavons, BEEHIVE INN, Old Hill, fined £5 and costs in two cases on the 13th of April, 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.]

Tipton Herald 23/1/1909

“The license of the BEEHIVE INN, Old Hill, was on Wednesday transferred from *Samuel Siviter* to *George Henry Siviter*.

Applicant was questioned with reference to the license granted the grocer’s shop next door. Asked by the superintendent, applicant said his father was going to live with him and assist in the management.

Mr. W. H. Thompson, who appeared for Mr. Darby, the owner, pointed out that there was no communication between the grocery premises and the beerhouse.

It was stated that if the application were granted applicant would hold two licenses, but Mr. Thompson suggested that the grocery license could be transferred to the father.

The interim authority was granted, the application to be further dealt with at the licensing sessions.”

Abel Siviter = Abel Suiter

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/6/1909

“The principal meeting of the Staffordshire County Compensation Authority, adjourned from the 11th inst.....

The decision of the local licensing magistrates to refuse the renewal of the FOX HUNT alehouse, Old Hill, tenant, Arthur E. Jew, was opposed.....

Police Inspector John R. Needham admitted that the FOX HUNT did a good trade. Mr. Waldron made a formal application for the renewal of the licence, and Mr. Milward called Mr. A. W. Dando, auctioneer and valuer, who said that there were other beerhouses – the VINE and the BEEHIVE – in the locality, which were much inferior to the FOX HUNT.....”

County Express 12/2/1910

“On Wednesday the annual general licensing sessions for the Old Hill petty sessional division were held at the Police Office.....

Supt. Johnson read his annual report, which stated that the number of licenses for renewal in the division was 152.....

The Chairman said ... Last year the Bench gave a very strong pronouncement as to their wishes about the distribution of free bread and cheese and about the use of music in public houses, as a means of attracting customers. The Bench would like to know how far those wishes had been complied with. Supt. Johnson replied that so far as he knew they had been complied with in every

direction. He had received no complaints about it.....

Mr. Williams applied for the renewal of the license of the BEEHIVE INN, High Street, Old Hill, to *Abel Siviter*, who had been previously convicted. The Bench renewed the license.”

1911 Census

113, High Street

[1] *Abel Siviter* (48), publican, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Louisa Jane Siviter (50), wife, married 28 years, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Ethel May Siviter (20), daughter, grocer's assistant, born Rowley Regis:

Dundee Courier 6/1/1914 - Advert

“Fingers Began To Itch And Burn.

Trouble began like blisters, awfully inflamed. Got worse and spread. Cuticura Soap and Ointment cured.

BEEHIVE INN, High Street, Old Hill, Staffs, Eng.

‘It began like blisters. I had a red mark come on one of my fingers and it began to itch and burn. My fingers were inflamed awfully. I couldn't help but rub them, then they broke and it was like water that came out. It began to get worse and seemed to spread. At the end of the week I had it in four of my fingers and it went on till I had it in both hands. It was miserable; I didn't know what to do, it was itching and burning all the while. I used to put my hands in cold water to cool them.

They didn't get any better so I took a treatment. They said it was eczema. I was given some ointment to put on them and told to keep them wrapped up. I used it and had two or three boxes more and it didn't seem to do them any good. One day I saw the advertisement of Cuticura Soap and Ointment so I wrote for a sample which was sent. I washed with the Cuticura Soap and put Cuticura Ointment on all my fingers every night. By the time I had used the sample I found my fingers were a little better. Then I bought a tablet of Cuticura Soap and a box of Ointment. Cuticura Soap and Ointment cured.’

(signed) Miss May *Siviter*, Aug 7, 1913.

Cuticura Soap and Cuticura Ointment are sold throughout the world. A single set is often sufficient when all else fails. Sample of each with 32-p Skin Book free from nearest depot. Address: F. Newbery & Sons, 27, Charterhouse Square, London, or Potter Drug & Chem. Corp., Boston, U.S.A.

Men who shave and shampoo with Cuticura Soap will find it best for skin and scalp.”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/2/1918

“At the annual Licensing Sessions for the Old Hill Petty Sessional Division Superintendent F. Jukes reported that the number of licenses for renewal was 146, giving one license to every 253 persons. Seventeen persons were proceeded against and convicted, a decrease of eight compared with the previous year, and 53 compared to 1915.

All the licenses were renewed with the exception of the BEEHIVE INN, Old Hill, which was referred for consideration at the Adjourned Sessions.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 31/8/1918

“The Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910.

Notice as to Sending in Claims to be Treated as Persons Interested in Licensed Premises.

Notice is Hereby Given, that the Compensation Authority for the County of Stafford, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 3rd day of July, 1918, to refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below, all persons claiming to be interested in the said premises for the purpose of the payment of Compensation under the said Act (other than the Licensee, and the registered Owner of the said Premises) are required to send to the Compensation Authority notice of their Claims before the 8th day of September, 1918.....

BEEHIVE, High Street, Old Hill. Beerhouse, Cider and Perry (ante 1869). Licensee, *Abel Suiter*. Registered Owner, Thomas Darby and Sons.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/10/1918

“Adjourned Principal meeting of the Licensing Compensation Authority.....

The committee sat to consider the amounts to be offered as compensation in cases where the renewal of the license had been refused, and the following sums were fixed.....

BEEHIVE, Old Hill, £1,000.”

Closed

It became an off license and wine merchants shop. [Slater's]

BEEHIVE

7, (58), Hawes Lane, (Rowley Village), ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

Henry Bennett
John Rolinson and Son Ltd.
Daniel Morby, Old Hill (acquired in 1912 for £215)

LICENSEES

Eliza Rock [1859]
John Harrington [1861]
Joseph Hadley [1866] – [1881]
William Henry Hadley [1883]
Hannah Cooper [1891] – **1904**;
William Round **(1904 – 1907)**;
Harry Greaves **(1907 – 1909)**;
Alice Greaves **(1909 – 1910)**;
Edward Edmunds **(1910 – [1911]**
Frank Thomas Parish *[1912]*

NOTES

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

County Advertiser 30/7/1859

“William Adams, rivet maker, and Benjamin Perry, carter, two young men, who on Wednesday last were charged with uttering three counterfeit two shilling pieces, and remanded in order that the authorities at the Mint might be communicated with, this morning were again brought before the Bench. A letter, received from the solicitor to the Mint, was forwarded to the Bench by Superintendent Mills, in which the authorities expressed their unwillingness to take up the prosecution upon the evidence already adduced. Mr. Mills, therefore asked for a further remand until Wednesday next, in order that the matter might be fully investigated. Mr. Burbury, who appeared on behalf of the prisoners, objected to this, urging that the prisoners were undefended at the previous hearing, and he had no doubt he could convince the Bench that his clients were innocent. Mr. Mills replied that he was in possession of additional evidence to that given on Wednesday last.

The examination of witnesses was then proceeded with, and which occupied the attention of the Bench for a considerable time. Hannah Cooksey, who resides with her mother, at the RING OF BELLS public house, Rowley, said the prisoners came to the house on Friday, the 15th inst, and called for a jug of ale, which the prisoner paid for with a good two shilling piece. She saw the men drinking in the house the same evening, between seven and eight o'clock.

Elizabeth Adderley, the landlady of the RING OF BELLS public house, said the prisoners came to her house in the evening of the 15th inst, and called for a pint of ale, which Perry paid for with coppers. Adams shortly afterwards asked to be supplied with half a pound of tripe and some bread, and tendered a two-shilling piece in payment. Witness put the coin in her pocket, and gave the prisoner Adams the change. Police-sergeant Powell went to witness's house about ten o'clock the same evening, and asked her if she had received a two-shilling piece from the prisoners. Witness replied that she had, and produced the coin from her pocket, and upon examining it she found it to be spurious. Witness did not have any other coin of the same value in her possession that day. A boy, named William *Rock*, said he lived with his mother at the BEE HIVE public house, situate near Rowley Church. About three o'clock on the 15th the prisoners came to the house, and Adams called for a cup of ale. Witness took the ale to them in the kitchen, and Adams gave him a two-shilling piece. Witness took the coin to his mother, who put it in her pocket, and returned the men the change. A few minutes afterwards his mother gave him some money to make a few purchases with at Dudley, among which was the two-shilling piece received from the prisoners. The other portion of the money was shillings and sixpences. Witness tendered the two-shilling piece at a shop in Pig Street in payment for some purchases he had made there, but was told it was counterfeit. He then returned home with the coin in his possession.

Eliza Rock deposed to receiving the two-shilling piece from her son, and giving it him again to make the purchases with at Dudley. Also that a short time after he had left the house, the prisoner Perry asked her if she would let him have three pennyworth of bread and cheese. Witness replied that she would, and on supplying it received a two-shilling piece from Perry. She put the coin in her pocket, and was sure it was the only one of that description she had there. The prisoners stayed in the house about an hour afterwards. Her son returned from Dudley about nine o'clock, and told her that the two-shilling piece she had given him was counterfeit. She then took the other coin from her pocket, and found that that was a spurious one also. She went in search of the police, and gave them the two coins. On her return to the house the prisoners were there, and she told them what had occurred. Prisoners said they were not aware that the coins were counterfeit, and directly afterwards left the house. The prisoner Adams was her nephew.

Obadiah Rushton, a sinker, said that on the 15th inst he saw the prisoner Adams in Darby's public house at Rowley, and was called in by him. Prisoner asked him to drink, and said, 'Will you go and fetch half a pound of cheese and a 3d loaf for me.' Witness assented, and prisoner gave him a two-shilling piece to pay for it. Witness went to a shop a few yards from the public house, and asked to be supplied with the articles, but returned without them in consequence of the shopkeeper refusing to take the coin given

him by prisoner. When prisoner was told that it was a bad one, he put it in his pocket and smiled, but made no reply. Nothing more was heard of the prisoners until they gave themselves up on the following Wednesday. Prisoners were well known to the whole of the witnesses, who said they had never known them attempt to pass bad money before. Mr. Burbury addressed the Bench on behalf of his clients, and contended that as they were innocent of knowing that the coins were spurious ones. He argued that had they been aware they were counterfeit, would they have attempted to pass them in a place in which they were so well known? It was the custom for persons who were in the habit of passing counterfeit coins to repair to places where they were unknown, the risks being not half so great. The Bench considered there was sufficient evidence to warrant another remand, and adjourned the case until Wednesday.”
[At Staffordshire October Sessions, William Adams and Benjamin Perry were charged with uttering counterfeit coin, found guilty and each sentenced to 6 months’ imprisonment with hard labour.]

John Harrington = John Harington

1861 Census

Hawes Lane – Public House

- [1] *John Harington* (40), publican and coal miner, born Dudley;
- [2] *Amelia Harington* (37), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Joseph Summers* (43), boarder, boot maker, born Dudley;
- [4] *Sarah A. Bennett* (16), niece, born Rowley Regis:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/8/1861

“On Monday last, before Captain Bennett, W. Haden, and F. G. W. Barrs, Esqs, an old offender named George Parry Dimmack, was charged by John Rawlins, of Darby Hand, with fowl stealing. The fowls were seen safe on the 27th of July, and were missed the same evening. Prisoner subsequently sold them to a shoemaker, named Levi Smith, for 1s 9d. Police-constable Powell apprehended the prisoner. In a second case prisoner was charged with stealing fowls from John Burton, labourer, living at Dudley, on the 6th of July. Prisoner stole two, and sold them to Mrs. *Harrington*, of the BEEHIVE beerhouse, Rowley. In a third case prisoner was charged with stealing fowls from John Harris, a blacksmith, of Cradley Heath, on the 22nd of May last. The Magistrates committed him to prison for trial upon each charge.”

[George Perry Dimmack, boatman, charged with larceny, appeared at Stafford and was sentenced to 10 months.]

Birmingham Journal 8/2/1862 - Advert

“By Private Contract. BEEHIVE INN, Rowley Regis.

By A. G. Aintree. To be Disposed Of, that compact and pleasantly-situated Public House, having a good Tap and Club Room, excellent Bar and Kitchen, good Brewhouse, Stable, Piggeries, Cellars, Malt Room, walled-in Garden, hard and soft Waters, and entire Yard. Coming-in not to exceed £20. Payments low. Rent only £13.

For particulars, apply upon the Premises, or to A. G. Aintree, Auctioneer, &c, Hales Owen Street, Oldbury.”

County Advertiser 25/8/1866

“Rowley annual licensing meeting was held yesterday.....

The following are the new applications and their results.....

Joseph Hadley, Rowley, opposed by Honour Stanton, refused.”

Joseph Hadley, beer retailer, Rowley Village. [1868]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/1/1870 - Advert

“Found, a broken-haired Whipitt Dog; four white feet and breast. May be had, by paying expenses, at Mr. *Hadley*’s, BEE HIVE INN, Rowley. If not claimed in seven days, will be Sold to defray expenses.”

1871 Census

Hawes Lane – BEE HIVE

- [1] *Joseph Hadley* (50), retail brewer, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Sophia Hadley* (45), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Jane Hadley* (10), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

1881 Census

58, Hawes Lane – BEE HIVE

- [1] *Joseph Hadley* (59), beer retailer, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Sophia Hadley* (55), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Jane Hadley* (20), daughter, born Rowley Regis:

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

19th December 1883 - Frederick Luther, son of *William Henry* and *Jane Hadley*, victualler, 58, Hawes Lane.

County Express 23/11/1889

“On Thursday afternoon Mr. Edwin Hooper (the South Staffordshire coroner) held an inquest at the BEE HIVE INN, Hawes Lane, Rowley Regis, touching the death of Frank Ruston (2), who died on the 18th inst, from injuries received through being knocked down by a dog. It was shown that on the 30th ult, when the deceased was standing at the front door of his parents’ house, a blind man’s dog came up to the door to have some food, as was his custom, and in doing so he ran against the deceased, who fell down, the back of his head coming into contact with a large pebble. The dog barked, and the mother instantly went to the child’s assistance, and as he appeared to be ill Dr. Beasley was sent for, and he found that the child was suffering from concussion of the brain. He gradually grew worse and died.

In reply to the Coroner, Mrs. Ruston said the dog was not vicious, but was very playful, and it was his custom to go to the neighbours’ houses for food.

A Juryman complained of the bad state of the pavement, there being a large number of rough stones, one of which no doubt caused the boy’s death. He certainly thought the attention of the Local Board should be called to the bad state of many of the roads.

The Coroner said there was no doubt many of the roads and footpaths in the Rowley parish were in a bad state, and needed improvement.

The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and asked the coroner to communicate with the Local Board with respect to the bad state of some of the pavements.”

County Advertiser 20/9/1890

“The miners of the Rowley lodge of the Old Hill and District Miners’ Association held their annual dinner at the BEEHIVE INN, Rowley Regis. A miner, who presided, proposed a resolution in support of the National Federation of Miners and of the Eight Hours Bill. Mr. B. Winwood, in supporting the resolution, said it was a great blessing for the miners that such a powerful federation had been substituted for isolated unions. He regretted that the Black Country was still the weak link in the great chain of unionism, but hoped that they would soon be able to strengthen it, and advised them to use their best efforts to get the whole of the men into union. The resolution was carried unanimously.”

1891 Census

58, Hawes Lane – BEE HIVE INN

[1] Edward Cooper (35), labourer stone quarry, born Warwickshire;

[2] *Hannah Cooper* (44), wife, beerseller, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 20/2/1897 - Advert

“Preliminary Notice. Rowley Regis, Staffs.

Important Sale by Auction of Valuable Freehold Residences, Villas, Dwelling Houses, Eligible Building Land, also the Public House, known as the BEE HIVE INN, Rowley Regis.

The Property is situated in Hawes Lane, being the main Road leading to Dudley.

Full Particulars as to Date, &c, will be given in future advertisements and posters.

Further information from Thos. Cooksey, Esq, Solicitor, of Mr. R. Underwood, Auctioneer, both of Old Hill.”

County Advertiser 13/3/1897 - Advert

“Rowley Regis, Staffordshire.

Mr. R. Underwood has received instructions from the representatives of the late Mr. Henry Bennett, to Sell by Auction at the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, on Monday, the 15th day of March, 1897, at Six o’clock in the Evening prompt, subject to conditions, the following Freehold Properties.

Lot 9. All that Valuable and Important Freehold Double-Fronted Public House, known at the BEE HIVE INN, Hawes Lane, aforesaid, in the occupation of Mrs. *Hannah Cooper*. The House contains Two Bed Rooms, Large Club Room, Tap Room, Bar, Kitchen, and Parlour. There is also a Small Brewery, Wash-house, Stable, Store Room, Piggeries, and Large Garden approached by a covered Cartway Entrance; the whole covering an area of 462 square yards or thereabouts, and let on an annual tenancy. To meet the convenience of intending purchasers this Lot will be offered at Eight o’clock prompt.”

Dudley Herald 10/9/1898

“Mr. H. A. Pearson (district coroner) held an inquest on Wednesday at the BEEHIVE INN, Hawes Lane, Rowley Regis, concerning the death of Rhoda Taylor (76), a married woman, residing in Hawes Lane. On July 13th deceased fell down in her bedroom and broke her left thigh. She was removed to the Guest Hospital, but owing to her great age she could not be successfully treated. She was removed back again to her home and died. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1901 Census

58, Hawes Lane – BEE HIVE INN

[1] *Hannah Cooper* (65), widow, publican, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Alice Lowe (18), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

Edward Edmunds = Edward Edmonds

Birmingham Mail 8/2/1911

“The annual general Licensing Sessions for the Old Hill Petty Sessional Division were held today.....

The whole of the licenses were renewed excepting the OLD LION INN, Old Hill, BEEHIVE INN, Hawes Lane, Rowley, and the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Cradley Heath, which were deferred until the adjourned licensing sessions in order that notices of objection can be served upon the owners on the ground of redundancy.”

1911 Census

7, Hawes Lane – BEEHIVE INN

[1] *Edward Edmunds* (56), iron worker (puddler), born Cradley;

[2] Sarah Ellen Edmunds (50), wife, married 29 years, born Cradley:

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/7/1911 - Notice

“The Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910. County Of Stafford.

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 6th day of July, 1911, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below, all Persons Claiming to be Interested in the said Premises for the purpose of the Payment of Compensation under the said Act (other than the Licensee and the Registered Owner of the said Premises) are required to send to the Compensation Authority Notice of their Claims before the 21st day of August, 1911, for the purpose of enabling the Compensation Authority to ascertain in manner provided by the Licensing Rules, 1910, the Persons entitled to Compensation under the said Act, in respect of the said Premises.....

BEEHIVE INN, Rowley Regis. Beer ‘on’ ante 1869. Licensee, *Edward Edmonds*. Registered Owner, J. Rolinson and Sons Limited.”

Frank Thomas Parish was married to Evelyn.

Their daughter, Ivy, aged 3, died in 1912, and they were charged with wilful neglect. The case at Stafford was discharged.

Closed

Lichfield Mercury 5/1/1912

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

The County Licensing Committee presented their annual report.....

The Committee at the supplemental meeting went in great detail into all the figures submitted to them upon which the persons interested claimed compensation, and heard upon oath evidence put forward by the claimants. The Committee consider that the amounts of compensation agreed upon were satisfactory, both from the point of view of the parties interested, and the compensation fund. The Committee fixed the compensation as follows.....

BEEHIVE INN, Rowley Regis, beerhouse ‘on’ ante-1869, £700.

The money has been apportioned among the interested parties and paid.”

BELL

78, St. Annes Road, (88, (46), Dudley Wood Road), (53, Scholding Green), (46, (3), Scholding Green Road), (Five Ways Road), Five Ways, CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

Mrs. Sophia Elizabeth Hingley

Plant’s Brewery Ltd., Netherton (acquired in 1890)

Ansells Ltd. (acquired on 2nd June 1937)

Little Pub Co. [1988]

LICENSEES

Benjamin Billingham Snr. [1841] – 1888)

Benjamin Hingley (1888 – []

Mrs. Sophia Elizabeth Hingley [1889] – [1890]

William Henry Little [1890]

Charles Henry Partridge [] – 1891);

Alfred Guest (1891 – [1896]

Robert Horton [1898] – [1901]

Benjamin Billingham Jnr. [] – 1904);

Alfred Guest (1904 – 1907);

Benoni Buttery (1907 – 1914);

Robert William Botfield (1914 – 1923);

John Turner (1923 – 1925);
Robert William Botfield (1925 – 1927);
Phoebe Ann Botfield (1927 – 1929);
Richard Jones (1929 – 1932);
Thomas Joseph Harper (1932 – 1934);
William Botfield (1934 – 1946);
Isaiah Aston (1946 – 1955);
Ralph Windsor (1955 – 1957);
Cyril Rogers (1957 – [1965])
Mark Wagstaff []
John Whitlow (1988 – [])
Timothy Basche [1991]
Les Shardelow [1993] – [1994]
Paul Dangerfield [1996] – [1998]

NOTES

Five Ways Road [1861]
53, Scholding Green [1881]
Scholding Green Road [1896], [1897], [1901]
46, Scholding Green Road [1904]
46, Dudley Wood Road [1908], [1912], [1916], [1921]
88, Dudley Wood Road [1924], [1932], [1940]
78, St. Annes Road

It had a beerhouse license.

County Express 3/6/1911

“Old Cradley Heath. Chat with Mr. Thomas Hingley Parsons, sexton at St. Luke’s Church for Forty Years.....
Though in his 81st year, Mr. Parsons is wonderfully virile and active, the keenness of his intellect and memory is unabated, and he willingly discoursed upon the Cradley Heath of his younger days.....
In those days, he added, the inhabitants of the district were not quarter so many as they are now, and the only public houses were the HOLLY BUSH, High Street; Bannister’s Newtown; ‘Benny Fiddler’s’; SALUTATION, Lomey Town; BEEHIVE, Graingers Lane; and QUEENS HEAD, Corngreaves Road.”

Anecdote by T. H. Gough written between 1934 and 1935

“Benny Fiddler (real name *Billingham*) was a Cradley worthy. He scaled something over 20 stones, and for many years was the genial host of a well-known and popular hostelry in the neighbourhood of Five Ways. It was an old fashioned pub with stairs of the narrow winding type. Not being wide enough for his great bulk, Benny, when retiring for the night, had to be hauled up to bed through a trap door to his bedroom by the aid of pulleys and a rope attachment.....”

Benjamin Billingham was known as “Benny Fiddler”.

He was born in 1811 in Cradley Heath.

He married Ann Grove on 9th October 1831.

He played the violin.

He was also known as “The Chainmakers’ Friend”; he once lent their union £700 to provide for strikers’ families.

He weighed 29 stones at one time.

He died on 30th October 1895 and was buried at St. Luke’s Church, Cradley Heath.

1841 Census

Scholding Green

[1] *Benjamin Billingham* (30), chain manufacturer, born Staffordshire;

[2] Ann Billingham (25);

[3] James Billingham (9), born Staffordshire;

[4] Ann Billingham (1), born Staffordshire;

[5] John Billingham (3 months), born Staffordshire:

Worcestershire Chronicle 28/11/1849

“*Benjamin Billingham*, of Rowley Regis, beer-seller, was fined 15s and costs for keeping his house open for the sale of beer after eleven o’clock on the night of the 6th inst.”

Benjamin Billingham, beer retailer and farmer, Rowley Regis. [1850]

1851 Census

Five Ways

- [1] *Benjamin Billingham* (38), retail brewer &c, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Ann Billingham (37), wife, helps in business, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] John Billingham (10), son, helps in business, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Ann Billingham (12), daughter, helps in business, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Benjamin Billingham* (6), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Jeremiah Billingham (4), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Sarah Billingham (2), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] William Mullit (45), servant, brewer &c, born Dudley;

County Advertiser 16/10/1858

“A most barefaced robbery has been perpetrated at Cradley Heath, under the following circumstances. A farm servant, named John Howell, who thirteen years ago lived at Cradley, but who now resides at Mount Pleasant, near Wordsley, went over on Monday last to visit his old locale, and paid a visit to the BELL INN, where he remained all night. He left on the following morning, having first ascertained that his purse, containing about £20, was quite safe. In the course of Tuesday he went to Mr. Westwood’s beerhouse, also at Cradley Heath, and known by the sign of the BULLS HEAD. Here he remained drinking in company with a number of other men for some time, and ultimately fell asleep. While thus recovering from the effects of the drink he had imbibed, someone of the multitude of loose characters which infest that neighbourhood relieved him of his money, and made clear off, without leaving the slightest clue to their discovery. The landlord was out at the time, and his wife knew nothing about the affair till Howell proclaimed his loss on awakening.”

County Advertiser 16/10/1858

“At Brierley Hill on Thursday last, before J. Leigh, Esq, James Littlewood, a notorious character, and well known to the police, was brought up on suspicion of having stolen £80 and five watches, the property of *Benjamin Billingham*, landlord of the BELL INN, Cradley Heath. From the evidence of the prosecutor, a witness named James Wallace, and PC Farmer, it appeared that about half-past seven o’clock on the evening of Tuesday last, prosecutor went up into his bedroom and there discovered that a chest had been broken open and £80 in silver, with five watches, abstracted therefrom. The tools with which the chest had been forced open were left in the room, and the thief – however he had got in – had made his escape by a rope suspended outside the window in front of the house. Suspicion attached to the prisoner because he was seen lounging about the premises, and standing in the passage, and subsequently was seen running away from the house. When apprehended, however, by PC Farmer, nothing was found upon him; although he strengthened the suspicions entertained against him by swearing that he was no nearer to the house than the Five Ways on the evening in question, while it was distinctly proved that he was in the passage of the prosecutor’s house about the time when the robbery is supposed to have been committed. Mr. Leigh remanded him till Monday next at Wordsley.”

Birmingham Journal 23/10/1858

“At the Wordsley Petty Sessions, on Monday last, before Mr. Trow and Mr. Holcroft, James Littlewood, remanded from the Brierley Hill Sessions last week, was brought up on the charge of stealing from the house of Mr. *Benjamin Billingham*, Five Ways, £80 and five silver watches. There was another charge against the prisoner of stealing some pigeons, and the evidence being incomplete, he was remanded for a week and locked up.”

Worcestershire Advertiser 8/6/1859 - Advert

“Sale at the BELL INN, Cradley Heath, near Dudley.

To be Sold by Auction, by Charles Round, at the above Inn, on Saturday, June 11th.

A Large Assortment of Unredeemed Pledges, comprising Silver Watches and Chains, Coats, Trowsers, Vests, Gowns, Shirts, Blankets, Sheets, Shoes, Silk Handkerchiefs, and numerous other effects, pledged under the Act of Parliament in the months prior to April, 1858, with Mr. Hugh Lewis, Pawnbroker, Tipton.

Sale to commence at half-past 10 o’clock.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/8/1859

“The Strike In The Chain Trade.

It may be as well for our readers to know some of the causes which have led to the present strike. In 1847 the chain trade was at the acme of prosperity, so far as prices were concerned, and it appears that since that time the men’s wages have fallen as much as twenty per cent. The chain makers are almost all paid by the cwt, and not by day work. The criterion by which prices run in the half-inch iron, and the price given for thicker chain goes in proportion to the price given for the half-inch. For half-inch iron 4s per cwt is now given; the men at this rate getting 20s per week by making five cwt. The men who make the chain at their own shops have to pay out of this for firing and a boy to blow for them, which materially reduces the sum, even supposing a full week’s work is done, the men now ask that 5s per cwt to be given for half-inch chain, which would make their wages amount to about 24s per week. Those who get thicker chain would get a rather higher sum, viz, from 6s to 8s per cwt. The trace makers work by the pair, and on this an advance of 1d per pair is asked. We stated in yesterday’s *Daily Post* that of the 1,500 chain makers in the district, only from twelve to fifteen were now at work. It appears that all are now out. The men employed in the masters’ own works do not get such a high rate as the out-workers. We regret that bellows-cutting has again taken place to a serious extent, but it seems that it is only the men in the Union who have suffered.

Yesterday morning, a little after eleven o’clock, a meeting of chain makers was held in the club room of the BELL INN, Cradley

Heath. The room was quite full, some 300 men being present.....”

1861 Census

Five Ways Road – BELL INN

- [1] *Benjamin Billingham* (48), farmer and victualler, born Rowley;
- [2] Ann Billingham (48), wife, born Rowley;
- [3] John Billingham (20), son, born Rowley;
- [4] *Benjamin Billingham* (18), son, born Rowley;
- [5] Jeremiah Billingham (13), son, born Rowley;
- [6] Caroline Beasley (12), house servant, born Rowley;
- [7] Thomas Trapp (36), casual lodger, inland revenue officer, born Rowley:

Benjamin Billingham, retailer of beer, Cradley Heath. [1862]

Benjamin Billingham, beer retailer, Five Ways, Cradley Heath [1864], [1865]

County Advertiser 27/8/1864

“Yesterday, the annual licensing of the Rowley division was held at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill.....

There were nine applications by beerhouse keepers for licenses, only one of which was granted.....

Benjamin Billingham, of the BELL, Five Ways (granted).”

County Advertiser 6/10/1866

“On Wednesday an inquest was held at the BELL public house, Cradley Heath, before Mr. Hooper, Coroner, on the body of Maria Scoltock, aged forty-six, who died suddenly on Saturday night. The deceased came home from market about eight o’clock in the evening, and immediately began to vomit blood. She went into a neighbour’s house, and there she died almost immediately. Mr. Hodgson, surgeon, was called in to her, but of course he could do nothing. Verdict, Died from Natural Causes.”

Stourbridge Observer 30/11/1867 - Died

“On the 16th inst, after a long illness, the wife of Mr. *B. Billingham* of the BELL INN, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 29/2/1868

“On Shrove Tuesday Mr. *Benjamin Billingham*, of the BELL INN, in accordance with his annual custom, roasted a whole sheep in front of his kitchen fire. The sheep was a very fine one, and weighted 116lbs. The meat was given away to any person who visited the house.”

Stourbridge Observer 2/5/1868

“A supper took place on Tuesday night last, at Mr. *B. Billingham*’s, BELL INN. A good number sat down. Ample justice having been done to the things provided, the chair was occupied by Mr. A. Taylor, the worthy host acting as vice-chairman. During the evening a number of songs were sung by Messrs. J. Billingham, W. Smith, and others, and a convivial evening was spent.”

County Advertiser 22/5/1869

“Friendly Society. The Society of Miners, held at the BELL INN (Mr. *B. Billingham*’s) celebrated their anniversary by a dinner at the lodge house, on Monday last. The catering was of an excellent order. The club was stated to be in a satisfactory condition.”

County Advertiser 3/9/1870

“John *Billingham* of the BELL INN, Cradley Heath, was charged with assaulting Joshua Kempson, a lodger at the house. It appeared that complainant was in the act of throwing a spittoon at a person in the house, when defendant caught hold of him (complainant) and pushed him out of the room. The case was dismissed.”

County Express 5/11/1870

“The adjourned meeting of gas consumers was held at Mr. *Billingham*’s, BELL INN, Five Ways, on Tuesday evening last, and there was a good attendance.....”

1871 Census

Five Ways – BELL INN

- [1] *Benjamin Billingham* (57), widower, publican, born Rowley;
- [2] John Billingham (30), son, brewer, born Rowley;
- [3] *Benjamin Billingham* (26), son, barman, born Rowley;
- [4] Jeremiah Billingham, (24), son, labourer, born Rowley;
- [5] William Mullett (69), lodger, born Rowley:

Stourbridge Observer 9/11/1872

“An inquest was held on Thursday, before Mr. E. Cooper, Coroner, at Mr. *B. Billingham*’s, the BELL INN, Cradley Heath, on the body of Phoebe Ann Adlington, aged one year and 14 days, who met with her death on Monday last, through being scalded on the

previous Friday.

Priscilla Adlington, mother of the deceased, was called, and said deceased was her daughter. She was one year and 14 days old. On Friday last, deceased was in the house, and whilst she (witness) was getting the tea, the poor little thing caught hold of a hook, fastened it to the kettle, and pulled it over, the boiling water going on her head and back, and scalded her so badly that she lingered on until Monday, and then expired. Mr. Kerr's assistant attended the little sufferer up to the time of her death. Mr. Hingley said witness ought to have had some protection in front of the fireplace to keep the children away. Witness said her husband had been ill with rheumatism for a long time, and she could not afford it. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Western Morning News 23/1/1873

"A sad affair has occurred at Cradley Heath, a short distance from Dudley, which should make persons exceedingly cautious in the use of coke or charcoal fired in sleeping apartments. On Sunday night a family of four persons – Edward Whitehouse, his wife Phoebe, Joseph Edmunds, brother-in-law, and George Edward Edmunds, an infant eleven months old, nephew of the Whitehouses – retired to rest, all of them occupying one bedroom in the house. As they did not appear at the usual time on Monday, and could not be aroused, the neighbours forced an entrance. They found Edward Whitehouse and the infant Edmunds dead, and Mrs. Whitehouse and Joseph Edmunds in a state of coma. The latter survived only until Tuesday night, and Mrs. Whitehouse died yesterday morning. The cause of the calamity was apparent. In the centre of the room was an iron bucket, which they had filled with redhot coke, the deadly fumes from which they had inhaled while sleeping. The family were nailers, and the cottage where they lived contained only two rooms, both on the ground floor."

AND

Stourbridge Observer 1/2/1873

"On Wednesday, the adjourned inquest on the bodies of Edward Whitehouse (27), Phoebe Whitehouse (27), Joseph Edmunds (29), and George Edward Edmunds (1), was held before Mr. Hooper, at the BELL INN, Cradley Heath.

Mr. Thomas Standish, surgeon, said that he had made a post mortem examination of the body of Edward Whitehouse. It was a well-nourished and healthy body. Upon it there were no external marks of violence. Upon opening the chest he found that the lungs were perfectly gorged with blood, otherwise they were in a healthy condition. The left side of the heart was filled with black blood. The stomach was healthy, and quite empty. The coats of the stomach were not inflamed, and there was not the slightest sign of poison. The lining membrane of the stomach was as healthy as it was possible to be. The brain was congested. The cause of death was suffocation, the whole of the post mortem appearances tending to show that result and nothing else. Taking into consideration the evidence given before, and what he knew of the bucket of coke being found in the room, he held the same opinion, given at the opening of the inquiry, that the fumes which arose from the coke were the cause of death in this and the rest of the cases.

A Juryman having stated that he, nevertheless, considered there was some case for suspicion, the Coroner observed that supposing that were possible, he would again adjourn the inquest, but he would first call the police-officer.

The Coroner: Are you satisfied that a further adjournment would or would not throw any more light on this matter?

Inspector Price: I do not think it would throw any further light on the matter. I have made every inquiry into the various rumours which have been spread, but find that they have not the slightest foundation.

The Coroner then appealed to the jury as to whether they were still unprepared to give a verdict, and some of them declining, Mr. Hooper said, 'Well, I must look you up, and as I have to attend several other inquests today, I cannot get back until nine o'clock. If you are not then ready to give a verdict, I shall keep you till twelve, and afterwards discharge you.'

Some of the jurymen intimated that they were satisfied as to suffocation being the cause of death, but their minds were not made up as to whether it was a wilful act. They considered that there was a 'lurking suspicion' about the case.

The Coroner: I consider the medical evidence would satisfy 99 juries out of 100; but as it has not satisfied you, I must carry out the law, and look you up.

A Juryman: I hope, then, you will allow us something to eat and drink.

The Coroner: I cannot allow you either one or the other; nor, indeed, does the law permit either fire or candle. I am quite unwilling to take this course, but I have no alternative, unless you agree. I will, however, give you five minutes more.

At the expiration of this time, the jury returned the verdict 'That the deceased were accidentally suffocated by the fumes arising from a quantity of coke, from the effects of which suffocation they died.'"

Stourbridge Observer 1/3/1873

"On Tuesday last, Mr. *Billingham*, landlord of the BELL INN, roasted a whole sheep, according to his usual custom on Shrove Tuesday. The sheep weighed 124lbs. It is needless to say that a large number of persons were present to witness the roasting, and a larger number tasted the mutton."

Stourbridge Observer 1/11/1873

"*Benjamin Billingham*, landlord of the OLD BELL INN, was charged with having his house open during prohibited hours, on the 19th ult.

Police-constable Beard said that he visited the defendant's house at a quarter past twelve, with Police-constable Grady. He found in the kitchen two women. They had a cup of ale before them. A man was in the house drunk. He called for a quart of ale, and put down sixpence, but the ale was not brought. The defendant's son ran into the parlour, and said that it wanted 20 minutes to one o'clock. On going in to look at it, he found it was only 20 minutes past 12. He asked Mr. *Billingham* the man's name. He refused to give it, and said he did not know. Defendant's son was also drunk, and defendant himself was fresh and smoking a pipe. He tried to take the man into custody, but the defendant and others prevented him being taken. PC Grady gave corrobora-

tive evidence.

The defence was that the persons in the house were travellers and lodgers, and called Maria Perks, of Dudley, who said she had been to see some relations in Cradley Heath. On returning, went into the house of the defendant. It was just half past twelve. She saw defendant's son sitting on a bench, and asked him if she could have some refreshments. He said he would go and see what time it was. He said it was just half past twelve o'clock, and she called for a pint of ale. Just at that time two police officers came in. There was a man in the house drunk, but he had no beer in the house.

Elizabeth Reid gave corroborative evidence, and said that when the officer was going to take the drunken man into custody, defendant said the man was a lodger, and the police had no right to take him.

Defendant said he refused to let the man sleep any more at his house, because he refused to give the policeman his name. This being his first offence, he was ordered to pay the costs."

County Advertiser 8/11/1873

"William Turner was charged with being found drunk on licensed premises on the 19th ult. Police-constable Grady, said that he visited the BELL INN, Cradley Heath, kept by *Benjamin Billingham*, in company with Police-constable Beard, and he found the defendant in the house drunk. The defendant was fined 20s and costs, or 21 days."

Stourbridge Observer 8/11/1873

"An inquest was held on Monday, at Mr. *Benjamin Billingham*'s, the BELL INN, Cradley Heath, before Mr. E. Hooper, on the body of Henry Brooks, who was injured in a pit belonging to Mr. James Holcroft, on the 15th ult. The evidence went to show that whilst deceased was engaged in the pit, the cage fell upon him, and he was so injured that he died on the 30th ult. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Pall Mall Gazette 1/5/1874

"The Election Petitions. Dudley.....

James Whitehouse, auctioneer, said he was engaged in taking voters to the polling station in Dudley, and while doing so he was attacked, and some of the voters were severely injured by a number of roughs who were armed with bludgeons, stones, and cinders. Several times during the day he was attacked. He saw voters wearing the colours of both parties in Dudley. Some of the mob were Mr. Shenstone's supporters.

Benjamin Billingham, a very stout man, who could hardly walk, caused a great deal of amusement in the witness box. He said that he was a publican, residing at Cradley Heath, and as he could not walk far he tried to get a cab, but the cabman refused to take him, saying, 'You would be so long getting in and out that you will be murdered and me too.' (Laughter.) In answer to another question, witness said he threw all his weight into Mr. Shenstone's cause. (Renewed laughter.)

Mr. Samuel Rudge, a justice of the peace for the borough, proved that during the day messages were continually being received of the danger to persons wishing to vote for Mr. Shenstone, and that about two o'clock he went with the military through several parts of the district. Rioting was going on freely in all the places he visited, and the mobs were very violent."

County Advertiser 13/2/1875 - Advert

"Freehold Manufacturing Premises, Business Shops, and Dwelling Houses, Cradley Heath.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Hawkins & Son, at the House of Mr. *Benjamin Billingham*, the BELL INN, Cradley Heath, on Wednesday, February 24th, 1875, at Six o'clock in the evening, in the following or such other Lots as may be agreed upon at the time of Sale....."

County Advertiser 1/5/1875 - Advert

"Sale of Unredeemed Pledges.

S. Insull will Sell by Auction, on Monday Next, May 3rd, at Mr. *Billingham*'s, BELL INN, Five Ways, Cradley, without reserve, 200 Lots of Pawnbrokers' Pledges, consisting of Ladies' and Gentlemen's Wearing Apparel, &c, &c.

Sale to commence at Six o'clock in the Evening."

County Advertiser 13/1/1877 - Advert

"Wanted, a respectable middle-aged Housekeeper for private house.

Apply, Mr. *Benjamin Billingham*, BELL INN, Cradley Heath."

County Express 5/10/1878

"A meeting of the members of the Conservative Association was held on Tuesday evening last, at Mr. David Bridge's, New Town. There was a capital attendance, and several members were enrolled.....

The next general meeting will be held at Mr. *B. Billingham*'s, BELL INN, Five Ways, on Tuesday evening, October 29th."

County Express 2/11/1878

"A well attended meeting of the members of the Conservative Association was held on Tuesday evening last, at the house of Mr. *B. Billingham*, BELL HOTEL, Cradley Heath. A gentleman well known for his zeal in the cause of Conservatism occupied the chair, and delivered a lengthy speech upon the position of affairs with Afghanistan....."

Dudley Herald 20/11/1880

"*Benjamin Billingham*, landlord of the BELL INN, Scolding Green, Cradley Heath, was summoned for allowing his house to be

open for the sale of intoxicating liquors during prohibited hours.

Police-constable Sylvester stated that about eight o'clock on Sunday morning, the 7th inst, on his visiting defendant's house, he saw a woman standing by the back door, and he directly afterwards met defendant's son coming along the passage with a jug of ale in his hand. As soon as he saw witness he turned back and put the jug upon the taproom window. The ale was fresh drawn, and defendant's son, in reply to witness, said they always drew some out of the taps first thing in the morning. Witness asked the woman if the jug belonged to her, when defendant's son shook his head and she replied 'No.'

Defendant's plea was that the ale was drawn by his orders to feed his fowls with. His son swore also that the jug belonged to his father, and the woman referred to went into the box and denied that the ale was drawn for her.

The Bench dismissed the case, but characterised it as being strongly suspicious."

1881 Census

53, Scholding Green

[1] *Benjamin Billingham* (68), widower, licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Benjamin Billingham* (36), son, barman, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Thomas Westwood (31), lodger, butcher, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 21/1/1882

"James Hughes, blacksmith, Old Hill, and Philip Cope, joiner, Cradley Heath, were summoned for committing a breach of the peace. James Hughes, John Roberts, a blacksmith, of Old Hill, and James Bradley, fireman, Blackheath, were charged with assaulting Philip Cope; and Philip Cope was charged with assaulting John Roberts. Mr. Cooksey appeared for Cope, and Mr. J. Wright for the others.

The evidence of Cope was to the effect that he was at the BELL INN, Cradley Heath, and two girls named Wood and Spittle came in. The defendants also were there, and a dispute took place between him and Bradley about the girls, in the course of which Cope told him he was an ignorant fellow. Thereupon Bradley struck at him, and the blow caught one of the young ladies (Wood) on the chest. Outside the house Roberts and the other defendants took off their coats and ran at Cope. He warded off their blows with a stick, as he retreated, but they followed him for about forty yards, knocked him down, and kicked him.

The evidence for the complainant Roberts, in the charge brought against him by Cope, was that as soon as he came outside the public house Cope struck him on the nose with a stick.

Cope and Hughes on the first named charge were bound over to keep the peace for three months. The case against Roberts for assaulting Cope was dismissed. Hughes was fined 10s and costs, and Bradley 20s and costs. Cope for the assault on Roberts, was ordered to pay 10s and costs."

County Express 4/8/1883

"Mary Bellingham (45), was charged with violently assaulting Ann Arnold on the 23rd ult. The complainant went to the BELL INN, Cradley Heath, and upon going into the kitchen the defendant, without the slightest provocation, dealt her a violent blow in the face, rendering her insensible and blacking her eyes. The Bench fined the defendant 10s and costs, or in default twenty-one days' imprisonment."

County Express 11/6/1887

"Joseph Wassell, labourer, Bell Street, was charged with stealing three fowls, of the value of 7s 6d, the property of Mr. Samuel In-sull, auctioneer, High Street, Brierley Hill. About the 19th ult, the three fowls were missed, and on the same day the prisoner sold them to a woman named Narcisse Craddock for 2s each. The prisoner was arrested at Stewponney on Whit-Tuesday, and when charged by Superintendent Wollaston, admitted stealing the fowls.

Prisoner was also charged with stealing a hen, of the value of 2s 6d, the property of Mark Bullock, wagoner, Bell Street, on the 29th ult. Prosecutor, who lived next door to prisoner, missed a fowl and charged the prisoner with stealing it. Prisoner then knocked him down and kicked him. On the 30th ult prisoner sold the prosecutor's fowl to a man named Emanuel Billingham in a public house at Cradley Heath for 1s 9d.

There was a third charge against the prisoner of stealing four fowls, of the value of 10s, the property of Mr. W. M. Pritchard, The Moors, Brierly Hill, on the 30th ult. The fowls were missed from the prosecutor's pen, and on the 1st June prisoner sold three of them to *Benjamin Billingham*, BELL INN, Cradley Heath, at 5½d per pound. On the same day one of the fowls was boiled, and the other two were now produced. When charged prisoner said he only took three fowls.

Prisoner was also charged with stealing a hen and seven chickens, the property of George Elwell, Delph Brewery, but this charge was not gone into. Prisoner was committed to take his trial at the Sessions."

[Joseph Wassell, who had a very bad record, was sentenced to three calendar months.]

County Express 4/2/1888

"*Benjamin Billingham*, landlord of the BELL INN, Cradley Heath, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 24th ult.

Police-constable Peake said he went to the defendant's house on the morning in question and saw a man named Tromans, who was drunk, being led out of the house by two men. When he told Tromans that he was drunk he said, 'It don't matter a — if I am drunk; it's my own money.' Witness again saw Tromans drunk in High Street, Cradley Heath, on the same date in the afternoon, and also saw him drunk at the Five Ways, Cradley Heath, at night on the same date.

Police-sergeant Hayward said he went to the defendant's house on the day in question at half-past three in the afternoon, and there saw a man named Joseph Tromans, lying asleep on a screen. When Tromans got up he found that he was drunk, and saw him

drink out of a pint cup which was on the table. He asked the defendant why he supplied beer to a man who was drunk, and he said, 'He (meaning Tromans) can do what he likes with his own money.'

Benjamin Billingham, defendant's son, said that Tromans was drunk, and he refused to give him any beer, and helped him out of the house.

Caroline Guy said that Tromans was not drunk.

Defendant was fined £5 and costs."

AND

"Joseph Tromans, Beggars Row, Cradley Heath, was charged with being drunk on licensed premises on the 24th ult.

Police-sergeant Hayward said that he went to the BELL INN, Cradley Heath, on the day in question and saw the defendant very drunk.

Defendant, who had been previously convicted, was fined 20s and costs, or one month."

County Express 10/3/1888

"Annie Underwood (17), of Quarry Bank, was charged with obtaining by false pretences a fur cape, of the value of 5s 11d, from Henzey Dunn, draper, Quarry Bank, on the 7th inst. On Wednesday afternoon the prisoner went to the shop of prosecutrix and said she had been sent by her aunt, Mrs. Hartland, of Brickkiln Street, for a fur cape. Prosecutrix let her have a cape, of the value of 5s 11d. As prisoner did not return with the money for the cape enquiries were made, with the result that it was found that prisoner was not the niece of Mrs. Hartland, and had not been sent by her for the cape. Information was given to the police, and prisoner was arrested by Police-constable Styles at the BELL INN, Cradley Heath. She was in the company of a young man, and was wearing the cape (produced). Prisoner admitted the offence, and said she would pay double the value of the cape if prosecutrix would forgive her. When charged by the officer, she said, 'I hope you will forgive me. I will give you and Mrs. Dunn anything.' Prisoner was committed for trial at the Assizes, bail being allowed, in her own recognizances of £20 and two sureties of £20 each."

[Annie Underwood was sentenced to three calendar months.]

County Express 26/5/1888

"*Benjamin Billingham*, landlord of the BELL INN, Cradley Heath, was summoned for keeping his premises open during prohibited hours, and also for harbouring prostitutes on the 12th inst. Mr. Waldron prosecuted on behalf of the police, and Mr. Shakespeare defended. Mr. Shakespeare said he had received a letter from Dr. De Denne, which stated that the defendant was too ill with rheumatic fever to attend, and therefore he applied for an adjournment. Mr. Waldron applied for the costs of the adjournment to be paid by the defendant, because he (Mr. Waldron) was quite ready to fight it out that day, and he had all his evidence ready. The case was adjourned for fourteen days."

County Express 9/6/1888

"*Benjamin Bellingham* [sic], better known as 'Benny Fiddler,' landlord of the BELL INN, Cradley Heath, was charged with allowing his licensed premises to be the habitual resort of prostitutes, and also with allowing ale to be consumed on his licensed premises during prohibited hours, on the 12th and 13th ults.

The Bench said they had given the case their very careful consideration, and if there had been any doubt in the case they would certainly have given the girl the benefit of it. They thought the case was clearly proved, and they were of an opinion that the defendant knew the character of the girl he allowed to be on his premises. The defendant had been previously convicted for keeping his premises open during prohibited hours, and this time they would fine him £10, the solicitor's fee, and endorse his license, the fine and costs amounting in all to £17 3s. The defendant paid £3 3s in order to have the case adjourned a fortnight ago, and this, together with the fine and costs, made a total of £20 6s.

In the case of allowing the premises to be open during prohibited hours the Bench did not convict."

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.

Benjamin Bellingham [sic], landlord of the BELL INN, Cradley Heath, fined £5 and costs for permitting drunkenness, and £10 and costs for harbouring prostitutes. Mr. Tanfield said that Mr. *Bellingham* was an old gentleman, and had kept a license for fifty-three years, and believing that his old age kept him from controlling the house, it had been arranged for a respectable person to take to the license, and Mr. *Bellingham* would retire from the premises altogether. It was postponed to the adjourned licensing day."

County Advertiser 8/9/1888

"On the application of Mr. A. Tanfield an interim authority was given to John Thomas Lewis, in respect of the Old Hill Brewery, and a like authority to *Benjamin Hingley*, for the BELL INN, Cradley Heath."

County Advertiser 27/10/1888 - Advert

"Cradley Heath. Freehold Old-Licensed Inn and Premises.

Mr. T. Pateshall is instructed to Sell by Auction, at the BELL INN, Cradley Heath, on Wednesday, October 31st, 1888, at Six for Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions.

All that Highly Valuable Freehold Old-Licensed Public House, the BELL INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath, for many years in the occupation of Mr. *Benjamin Billingham*.

The Property occupies an important and commanding position in a very busy neighbourhood, and fronting a good thoroughfare.

The Premises are very conveniently arranged, and comprise Kitchen, Smoke Room, Bar, large Kitchen, Larder, spacious Club Room, Four Bed Rooms, and Three good Cellars. There is also large Enclosed Yard, with Brewhouse; Stabling for Eight Horses, and Coach House, together with a right of cartway from the High Street.

For further information and to inspect Plan, apply to Messrs. John Wright and Tanfield, Solicitors, Cradley Heath, Halesowen and Blackheath; or the Auctioneer, Cradley Heath.”

Dudley Mercury 11/5/1889

“John Billingham (25), Five Ways, Cradley Heath, was charged with being drunk and disorderly, on the licensed premises of the *Elizabeth Sophia Hingley*, BELL INN, Cradley Heath, on the 4th inst, and also with assaulting the landlady.

Mr. Tanfield prosecuted, and said that on the night in question defendant went to the BELL INN. This was the fourth occasion on which the defendant had been to the house and made a disturbance. He was a notorious character, and had been convicted in that Court nine times for various offences. When he came into the BELL INN he was drunk, and asked for beer, which was refused him. There were a number of people in the house, and some way or other defendant got some beer, which the landlady took from him. Defendant then used very bad language, and the complainant endeavoured to put him out. While she was doing so the defendant struck her several times in the face.

Defendant was fined 10s and costs in the first case, and 20s and costs in the second, the fines and costs amounting to £2 13s; with the alternative of six weeks’ imprisonment.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/1/1890

“At a special Police Court on Saturday – before Mr. W. Bassano – Samuel Siviter, ironworker, Netherton, and Robert James Ford, chainmaker, Cradley Heath, were charged with stealing 5s 6½d, 2oz of tobacco, and two boxes of matches, the property of *Elizabeth Sophia Hingley*, of the BELL HOTEL, on the 24th inst.

Prisoners were remanded until Wednesday next.”

County Advertiser 1/2/1890

“James Robert Ford, chainmaker, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath, and Samuel Siviter, Netherton, were charged with stealing 5s 6½d, the property of *Elizabeth Hingley*, on the 24th ult. Mr. Tanfield appeared to prosecute, and Mr. Waldron appeared for Ford. Mr. Tanfield stated, in opening, that at nine o’clock on the date named prisoners went to the BELL INN, Cradley Heath, kept by the prosecutrix, and remained there till about three o’clock in the afternoon. Siviter was hanging about the counter in a suspicious manner, and the waitress, Mary Ann Mason, removed a quantity of tobacco to a safer place, and locked up the till which contained about 8s, and placed the key in a bowl some distance away. She then went out of the room, and on returning a few minutes afterwards, the prisoner Siviter had his hand over the till, which was open. She asked him what he was doing, but he made no reply. Mrs. *Hingley* then came into the shop and asked Siviter to turn out his pockets as money was missing from the till. Mrs. *Hingley* got money out of his hand, and Police-constable Davies was then called in. Siviter told Davies that he had got no money, but eventually produced 3d. On being searched two shilling pieces were found, a sixpenny piece in the right shoe, two sixpenny pieces and a threepenny bit in the lining of his hat, and a penny in the lining of his waistcoat. Four half ounces of tobacco and two boxes of matches were also found in his coat pocket. Mrs. *Hingley* identified the tobacco and matches as her property. With regard to Ford, Mr. Tanfield stated that he was present during the whole of the time, and was in a position to see what took place. When asked by the officer to turn out his pockets, Ford produced 6½d in coppers.

Mary Ann Mason, waitress, gave evidence in keeping with Mr. Tanfield’s statement, and stated further that Ford since being bailed out had asked her to say he was reading the newspaper at the time of the robbery.

Prosecutrix and her daughter, Mary Jane Hingley, also gave evidence, the latter deposing that she served both men with drinks during the day. They were both customers. Ford was a respectable young fellow, and witness lent him a shilling that morning out of which he paid for something to drink. Siviter, after drinking for some time, called for half a pint of fourpenny, and remarked when paying that it was the last halfpenny he had got.

Police-constable Davies gave evidence to searching Siviter, and to finding the money, tobacco, and matches upon him. He arrested Siviter and Ford, who were both drunk. When they were sober he charged them. Ford said he knew nothing of the affair; and Siviter made no reply.

On behalf of Ford, Mr. Waldron said there was no evidence whatever to show that he was in any way connected with the robbery. As to him seeing what took place, he might have been asleep, because it was admitted by the police that he was under the influence of drink.

The Bench dismissed Ford, but said they were of opinion that his conduct was suspicious and blameable. The police were perfectly justified in arresting him. Siviter would be sent to goal for a month with hard labour.”

County Express 8/2/1890

“At the Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, before Messrs. W. Holcroft and W. W. Wiggin, Mr. A. Tanfield applied for an interim authority on behalf of the BELL INN, Cradley Heath. He remarked that the premises had been sold by Mrs. *Sophia Elizabeth Hingley* to Mr. Plant, brewer, of Netherton, who was desirous of putting a respectable person in management, named Mr. Samuel Henry Shaw.

Superintendent Woollaston opposed the application, on the ground that the present owner of the license – *Sophia Elizabeth Hingley* – was to be charged at the Court that morning with being drunk on licensed premises, and also with felony. The house had been badly conducted for some time. He asked the magistrates to withhold their decision until after *Sophia Hingley*’s case had been adjudicated upon. The magistrates pointed out if the landlady was convicted of felony there would be no license attached to the house, and they had no alternative but to adopt the superintendent’s suggestion.

Mr. Tanfield said such a course would be detrimental to his client.

Superintendent Woolaston: Mr. Plant must have known what had been going on at the house when he completed the purchase. The magistrates then proceeded with the business of the Court.

Later on Mr. Tanfield said three summonses were issued against *Sophia Hingley*, one of which was for being drunk on her own licensed premises, and, as it would be necessary to have a medical man, he asked for an adjournment of the case, to enable him to produce one. The other charge against the defendant was for larceny.

Mr. Waldron said his client, Mr. Rowland Morgan, brewer, was charged with the same offence, and he was willing to agree to an adjournment if the Bench were willing to accede to Mr. Tanfield's application.

The adjournment was granted."

Birmingham Mail 9/2/1890

"At the Old Hill Police Court to-day, *Elizabeth Sophia Hingley*, landlady of the BELL INN, Scholdings Green Road, Cradley Heath, pleaded guilty to being drunk on her licensed premises on the 23rd and 31st of January. Mr. Clulow prosecuted, and Mr. H. Jackson defended.

Police-sergeant Hayward stated that on the 23rd of January he visited the defendant's house, when he saw defendant sitting in an armchair, but upon being aroused it was found she was drunk. Other officers were in company with him. On the 31st, when he again visited the house, he found her intoxicated, and she invited him to have a drink and say nothing about it. Mr. Jackson tendered a plea of guilty on behalf of his client, and in extenuation said that the defendant was in an extremely nervous condition, and had been since her husband's death, two years ago. She had been engaged for sixteen years in the trade. The bench fined defendant 10s and costs in each case.

Elizabeth Sophia Hingley, of the BELL INN, Cradley Heath, and Rowland Morgan were then charged with stealing three fowls, the property of Josiah Heatheridge, of Cradley Heath. Mr. Clulow prosecuted, and Mr. Jackson defended.

From the evidence it appeared that prosecutor's fowls used to run over Mrs. *Hingley's* land and premises. The fowls, it was alleged, were caught upon the defendant's premises and killed, both defendants participating in the act. Prosecutor admitted accepting 9s as compensation. Mr. Jackson contended the charge should have been reduced to one of wilful damage. After the case had proceeded a short time this course was adopted. The defendants were ordered to pay the costs between them, the case being dismissed. The costs amounted to £3 9s 6d.

Mr. Jackson made an application for the transfer of the license of the BELL INN, Scholdings Green Road, from *Elizabeth Sophia Hingley* to Mr. Plant, brewer, of Netherton. Mr. Clulow opposed the application. The application was granted."

County Express 7/6/1890

"Joseph Bradley, Scholding Green Road, Cradley Heath, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of *William Henry Little*, the BELL INN, Cradley Heath, on the 27th ult.

Mr. Tanfield prosecuted, and said defendant damaged a glass window, value 15s, whilst being put out of the house.

For refusing to quit defendant was fined 5s and costs, for the drunkenness 2s 6d and costs, and for the damage he was fined 2s and costs and the 15s damage."

Birmingham Daily Post 16/10/1890

"Yesterday, at the Old Hill Police Court, *William Henry Little*, landlord of the BELL INN, Scholding Green, Cradley Heath, was charged with attempting to commit suicide on the 22nd ult, by shooting himself with a revolver. When he recovered consciousness he was questioned by a police sergeant, and he said he did not know why he had shot himself, as he had no cause for doing so.

Dr. De Denne said he found a gun shot wound in defendant's right temple, but could not trace the bullet. Dr. O'Dowd said he had for some years attended the defendant for rheumatic fever and severe pains in his head. Whilst suffering from these pains witness thought he was not responsible for his actions. Prisoner was committed to the next quarter sessions, bail being allowed."

County Express 13/12/1890

"At the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions on Tuesday, *William Henry Little*, on bail, pleaded guilty to attempting to commit suicide on September 22nd at Cradley Heath. He said he committed the offence not knowing what he was doing. Mr. Pearson, who appeared for the prisoner, said he was labouring at the time under circumstances of great mental and bodily anguish. He had the character of a most respectable man, but he had to work very long hours at a public house of which he had charge; and he suffered very seriously from rheumatic fever. Domestic complications ensued, and in a sort of desperation he rushed out and tried to kill himself.

Prisoner was sentenced to one day's imprisonment, the effect of which was that he was discharged."

Charles Henry Partridge (1863 - 1935) was known as Harry.

He married Louisa Beasley.

1891 Census

Scolding Green Road – BELL INN

[1] *Charles H. Partridge* (28), hotel manager, born Rowley;

[2] Louisa Partridge (28), wife, born Rowley;

[3] Laura Partridge (8), daughter, scholar, born Rowley;

[4] Samuel Partridge (5), son, scholar, born Rowley;

[5] Phoebe Davis (17), servant, born Greet's Green:

County Advertiser 29/8/1891

“The annual licensing sessions for Rowley Petty Sessional Division were held last Wednesday.....

The magistrates said they were pleased to learn that there had been a decrease in the drunken cases. They then proceeded to consider the ‘black list’.....

Charles Henry Partridge, of the BELL INN, Cradley Heath, convicted of supplying ale to a drunken person, May 23rd applied for a renewal of their licenses through Mr. Waldron, who commented on the respectability of the applicants, and urged that the Bench should not exercise their discretion and take away the licenses because of one conviction Renewed.”

AND

County Express 29/8/1891

“The annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis division of Staffordshire were held at the Police Court, Old Hill, on Wednesday.....

Mr. W. Waldron made the application on behalf of *Charles Henry Partridge*, of the BELL INN, Cradley Heath, for the renewal of the license to him. Inspector Bishop said Mr. *Partridge* was fined on May 20th last for supplying drink to a drunken person and was fined 20s and costs; and the previous occupier was fined twice. Since the last conviction Mr. *Partridge* had conducted the house well. Renewed.”

County Advertiser 10/10/1891

“Mr. J. L. Holberton (Brierley Hill), applied for the transfer of the license of the BELL INN, Scolding Green Road, Cradley Heath, from *Charles Henry Partridge* to *Alfred Guest*. The applicant bore a good character, and was to manage the house for Mr. Thomas Plant.

In reply to questions put by Inspector Bishop applicant said he had been addicted to betting and horse racing, but had now given that up. He had conducted the LOCOMOTIVE INN for four years without any conviction.

Inspector Bishop said in nine cases out of ten men who determined to give up betting could not do it, and there were large factories in the neighbourhood which employed young men who were liable to be led astray.

Ultimately the application was granted, the Bench cautioning the applicant as to the way he conducted the house.”

Midland Sun 22/4/1893

“John Sefton was charged with being drunk and disorderly on licensed premises on the 14th inst. Inspector Bishop deposed that at 9.40pm on the day in question he found the defendant at the bar of the BELL INN, Cradley Heath, kept by *Alfred Guest*. The defendant while in a very drunken condition had taken his clothes off and was trying to sell them to the bystanders. He was fined 20s and costs.”

County Advertiser 2/11/1895

“A notable figure has this week disappeared from Cradley Heath, by the death of Mr. *Benjamin Billingham*, better known throughout the district as ‘Benny Fiddler.’ On account of his remarkable obesity – he weighed about twenty-six stone – his name was a well-known one throughout the whole district. Notwithstanding that obesity is usually a token of physical weakness, he attained the ripe age of 84 years. For about 55 years he was a licensed victualler in Cradley Heath, and for fifty years of that time he kept the BELL HOTEL. For a long period he was hoisted up to bed at night instead of mounting the stairs in the usual way. Since retiring from business his health has been good, and until recently he has taken his customary yearly trip to Bromsgrove fair, where he was well known. During the last six months the increasing infirmities of age began to tell upon him; but he still managed to get out of doors when the weather was favourable, until a few weeks ago. Death came rather suddenly on Wednesday morning, at about five o’clock, at his residence at Scholding Green Road.”

County Advertiser 9/11/1895

“Mr. *Benjamin Billingham*, better known throughout the district as ‘Benny Fiddler,’ whose death was reported last week in our columns, was buried on Monday last at St. Luke’s Church. After his death, many acquaintances asked for the opportunity of a last look at the well-known figure; and a large crowd assembled on Monday to witness the funeral rites. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. E. A. Cooke, vicar of the parish, who also accompanied the funeral cortege from the house. Three sons and several grandchildren of the deceased attended as mourners. The service in the church was fully choral, and at the close the organist played the ‘Dead March,’ in Saul upon the organ. Wreaths were sent by several friends.”

County Advertiser 12/12/1896 - Advert

“*Benjamin Billingham*, Deceased.

Pursuant to the Act of Parliament 22nd and 23rd Vic, c.35, intituled An Act to further Amend the Law of Property and to relieve Trustees.

Notice is Hereby Given that all Creditors and other Persons having any Claims or Demands against the Estate of the said *Benjamin Billingham*, late of Scholding Green Road, Cradley Heath, in the County of Stafford, Gentleman, deceased (who died on the 30th day of October, 1895, and whose Will was proved in the Lichfield District Probate Registry of Her Majesty’s High Court of Justice on the 29th day of February, 1896, by John *Billingham* (since deceased), *Benjamin Billingham*, and *Jeremiah Billingham*, the surviving Executors therein named) are hereby Required to send the Particulars, in writing, of their Claims or Demands to me, the Undersigned, the Solicitor for the said Executors, on or before the 31st day of December Next, after which date the said Executors will proceed to Distribute the Assets of the said Deceased amongst the Persons entitled thereto, having regard only to the Claims and Demands of which they shall then have had notice, and they will not be liable for the Assets of the said Deceased

or any part thereof so Distributed to any Person or Persons of whose Claims or Demands they shall not then have had notice.
Dated this 8th day of December, 1896.
Joseph Wright, Cradley Heath, Staffordshire. Solicitor for the said Executors.”

Benjamin Billingham left a considerable estate of property which was sold at Auction.
There were several court actions over the will.

County Advertiser 20/3/1897

“On Monday morning an inquest was held by Mr. A. A. Betham (deputy coroner) at the BELL INN, Scholding Green Road, Cradley Heath, respecting the death of Millie May Moulding, sixteen months old, whose parents reside in Scholding Green Road. The mother, Harriet Moulding, stated that on the 11th inst, at 12-15 in the morning, she left the house, and deceased was playing with several other children at the time. When she returned she was told that deceased had been found in a tub. A doctor was sent for, but upon his arrival he said the child was dead. Edward Moulding, father of deceased, said he had just returned home from work when he heard the neighbours shout out that the child was in the tub. He rushed out of the house and pulled the child out. Police-constable Winn said the water in the tub was three feet deep. The Jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned.”

County Express 15/5/1897 - Advert

“For Sale, Cheap, a Capital Brown Horse, 16hs 3in, eight years, quiet; would suit a Hawker.
Apply BELL HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 12/11/1898

“James Homer, chainmaker, of Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, was charged with assaulting *Robert Horton*, landlord of the BELL HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on the 31st ult. Prosecutor stated that defendant and his brother had a quarrel in his house on the night in question. He was trying to get defendant out of the house when he struck him a violent blow on the mouth. Defendant, who admitted the offence, was fined 1s and costs.”

County Advertiser 17/6/1899

“Cradley Heath St. Luke’s Football Club held their first annual supper a short time ago at the BELL HOTEL, Cradley Heath, and the secretary presented a very satisfactory report. This stated that the matches played had been 28, of which 20 were won, 7 lost, and 1 drawn, while the number of goals scored for was 128, against 43. An excellent supper was provided, after which the evening was spent in harmony. Mr. Sykes proposed, and Mr. Evans seconded, a vote of thanks to the host and hostess for the way in which they had catered for them, and this was heartily accorded.”

County Advertiser 4/11/1899

“Stephen Harris, Queen Street, Cradley Heath, was charged with being disorderly on the licensed premises of *Robert Hawkes* [sic], and refusing to leave when requested, on the 28th ult. *Robert Horton*, landlord of the BELL HOTEL, Cradley Heath, said that on the date named, about nine o’clock at night, defendant came into his house and called for a pint of ale without giving him the money. Complainant refused to supply him. Defendant then began to be abusive, and was ordered out. Defendant would not go out when requested, but remained a quarter of an hour afterwards. Silvia *Horton*, wife of complainant, corroborated. Defendant was further charged with being drunk and disorderly, and this case was proved by Police-sergeant Pitcher and Police-constable Bucknell. Defendant was fined 10s and costs in the first case, and the latter was dismissed.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 1/9/1900

“On Monday, Mr. H. A. Pearson (Coroner) held an inquest at the BELL INN, Scolding Green Road, Cradley Heath, respecting the death of John Matthews (64), blacksmith, who was found dead in an attic of his residence on Friday night. Mrs. Matthews, the widow, stated that her husband had been very much depressed during the last few days in consequence of a son having left home. About 1.30 on Friday afternoon deceased went upstairs, saying he was going to have a nap. Later in the day, his daughter found him suspended from the bannister rails in the attic by means of a handkerchief. A man named Kimberley cut the body down, and Dr. Bell was summoned, but pronounced life as extinct. The jury returned a verdict of Suicide whilst Temporarily Insane.”

1901 Census

Scholding Green Road – BELL INN

- [1] *Robert Horton* (24), chain manufacturer, born Cradley Heath;
- [2] Annie Horton (24), wife, born Quarry Bank;
- [3] Walter Horton (3 months), son, born Cradley Heath:

County Express 5/10/1901

“Thomas Jones, a youth, living at Dudley Wood, was charged with stealing half-a-crown belonging to *Robert Horton*, landlord of the BELL HOTEL, Scholding Green Road, Cradley Heath, on the 27th ult. *Horton* said in consequence of thefts he put 19s 6d in marked coins in the till on the 27th ult. Soon after Police-constable Maisey produced a marked half-crown, and witness found

upon counting the money which he had put in the drawer that a half-crown was missing.

Annie *Horton* said the boy Jones went to the hotel and asked for some beer and cigarettes. She supplied him, and he paid for the cigarettes. She left him in the passage while she went to book the beer.

Police-constable Maisey said he was concealed on the premises, and saw the last witness serve the boy. As soon as he saw her go to book the beer, the defendant went to the till, opened it with his left hand, and took out half-a-crown. He then picked up his bottles of beer and went out of the house. Witness arrested him immediately, and found the half-crown in the boy's left trousers pocket. He charged the defendant, who said he had never taken anything before, and that he was very sorry. He was fined £2 and costs."

Benjamin Billingham Jnr: was the son of Benjamin and Ann.

He was born in the 3rd quarter of 1844.

In 1901 he was a boarder at 45, Scholding Green Road.

He died in the 4th quarter of 1903, unmarried and without issue, and was buried at St. Luke's Church, Cradley Heath.

County Express 18/10/1902

"An inquest was held at the BELL HOTEL, by Mr. A. H. Pearson, coroner, relative to the death of James Male, a miner, aged 37, formerly of 58, Foxoak Street. Deceased worked at No. 19 pit, belonging to the Earl of Dudley, and on Thursday morning went to work apparently in his usual health. About 11 o'clock he complained of internal pains, so he was taken home in a conveyance. He died about 12.30pm, and Dr. Fryer, who was summoned, could only pronounce life extinct. A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned."

County Advertiser 10/3/1906

"The Sick Room Requisites Fund.....

The sub-committee reported to a meeting of the committee held on Monday evening at the BELL INN, Five Ways, when there were present some 20 delegates representing the Foresters, Free Gardeners, Druids, Rechabites, Modern Masons, and the Parish Church Burial Society....."

Benoni Buttery was also a brewer.

In a newspaper advert he stated that he always kept "his famous Home Brewed Ales in splendid condition."

County Express 12/9/1908

"On Wednesday evening the committee of the Friendly Societies' Parade met at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Mr. W. Coley presiding over a large attendance. The following was a complete list of those boxes which contained amounts of 1s and upwards.....

Mr. *B. Buttery*, BELL HOTEL, 5s 9½d."

County Express 9/1/1909

"Dividend Clubs..... BELL HOTEL (Cradley Heath).

The annual supper was attended by about 50 members, who enjoyed the excellent catering of the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. *Benoni Buttery*. After the drawing of the cloth, Mr. A. Bate presided. Songs were rendered by Messrs. B. Bradley, I. Williams, S. Westwood, E. Westwood, S. Baker, W. Grazier, and *Benoni Buttery*. Votes of thanks closed a pleasant evening."

Tipton Herald 7/8/1909

"The annual supper in connection with the BELL HOTEL [Sick and Draw] Club was held on August 2nd, when about 40 sat down to an excellent spread, served by the Host and Hostess (Mr. and Mrs. *Benoni Buttery*), and to which full justice was done. After the cloth had been drawn Mr. Amos Bate was elected to the chair....."

County Express 26/3/1910

"Two freehold dwelling houses, situate in Surfeit Hill, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, in the occupation of Messrs. S. Stringer and J. Stringer, and estimated to produce a rental of £30 a year, were offered for sale by auction by instructions of Mr. S. Stringer, at the REINDEER INN, Cradley Heath, on Monday. They were sold for £425 to Mr. *B. Buttery*, of the BELL HOTEL, Dudley Wood Road, Cradley Heath. Auctioneer, Mr. E. O. Nightingale; solicitor, Mr. George Williams, both of Cradley Heath."

1911 Census

Dudley Wood Road – YE OLD BELL HOTEL

- [1] *Benoni Buttery* (39), licensed victualler, born Old Hill;
- [2] Martha Buttery (38), wife, married 19 years, assistant in business, born Cradley Heath;
- [3] Frederick J. Buttery (18), son, engineer's fitter, born Cradley;
- [4] Fanny Buttery (12), daughter, school, born Old Hill;
- [5] Annie Vincent (19), domestic servant, born Quarry Bank;
- [6] Lucy Forrest (21), domestic servant, born Old Hill:

Birmingham Mail 21/7/1914 - Advert

"General Servant (good) Wanted; character required.

Apply, Mr. *B. Buttery*, BELL HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

Benoni Buttery – see also BULLS HEAD and SALUTATION.

Dudley Chronicle 9/10/1915

“Saturday proved a wretched day for the cycle and fancy dress parade promoted by the Cradley Heath Patriotic Committee. For the first day for many weeks the sun decided to remain indoors, and from start to finish there was a steady downpour of rain which made it very uncomfortable for exhibitors and spectators alike.....

There were not many vehicles in the procession. Mr. *Botfield*, of the BELL HOTEL, accompanied by his son, who was dressed as a Chinaman, and Mr. Josiah Bloomer, was with a brewer’s dray advertising ‘the best that could be brewed’ the winners of the prizes were Tradesman’s turnout: 1. *W. Botfield*, BELL HOTEL, Cradley Heath.....

Mr. Edwards said he was sorry the weather had been so unfavourable. Still a good show had been made, and they would be able to hand over a good sum for the benefit of local soldiers and sailors.”

Robert William Botfield – see also ANCHOR and BEEHIVE, Cradley Heath, and BLUE BALL, Old Hill.

A meeting was held here on 25th August 1925 to form the Cradley Heath LVA. *William Botfield* was elected president.

Richard Jones was married to Edith.

1939 Register

Dudley Wood Road – BELL HOTEL

[1] Doris Botfield, date of birth 16/11/1900, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[2] Denis B. Botfield, dob 6/10/1922, spot welding apprentice, single;

[3] William Botfield, date of birth 28/5/1924, electric engineering apprentice, single;

William Botfield – see also WIZARD AND GLASS.

A team from here took part in the Cradley Heath Domino League. [1960]

Sandwell Evening Mail 16/8/1988

“Bangers with everything – that’s the boast of a new pub in Cradley Heath which will be relying on traditional grub to pull in the crowds. The CRADLEY SAUSAGE WORKS will open tomorrow night and is the latest in the Little Pub Company’s chain of novelty pubs.

Sausages are the theme of the new premises and on the menu will be bangers and mash as well as sausage, beans and gravy. The famous Desperate Dan Pie will also be served.

Little Pub Company owner Mr. Colm O’Rourke said, ‘The CRADLEY SAUSAGE WORKS is another of our unusual pubs. The new pub is all to do with sausages which is a traditional food. Many people get a craving for the old types of food, many of which are vanishing as modern day fast food stores shoot up everywhere. The pub is being fitted out like a genuine old sausage works and has Victorian style panelling.’

The Little Pub Company first became popular when the DRY DOCK was opened at Netherton with a canal boat put inside the premises to act as the bar.

Then other pubs were opened including the LITTLE WHITE LION at Colley Gate, the LITTE PIE FACTORY at Tipton and the Little Pack Horse at Bewdley.

Desperate Dan Pie was first served at the DRY DOCK and soon became a favourite dish.”

John Whitlow – see also LOYAL LODGE, Halesowen.

Sandwell Evening Mail 6/6/1990

“Sick of Soccer? Dreading the World Cup? For the next month football will flood telly and radio with live matches, action replays and expert opinion. But you can escape it! Our World Cup Survival Guide offers dozens of ways to get kicks elsewhere – and save some cash as well.....

Pubs with no TV CRADLEY SAUSAGE FACTORY, Five Ways Cradley Heath.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 30/3/1991

“People were injured by flying glass when a stag party fight broke out at a Black Country pub. Frightened customers ran for cover and others were dragged outside to safety when trouble flared at 10.55 last night at the SAUSAGE WORKS pub, St. Annes Road, Cradley Heath.

Fighting broke out after a man in a coach party of 30 young people started taking his clothes off. About 15 people started fighting and two dozen glasses, seven chairs, an antique mirror and an expensive leaded window were smashed.

Several people were injured by flying glass, including landlord Mr. *Timothy Basche*. Mr. *Basche* said today, ‘I received a telephone call from a coach firm yesterday morning to say that a stag group of 30 young men would be visiting the pub. They joined other customers in the bar but fighting broke out when one man started taking his clothes off. One of our regular customers was struck by a chair as he telephoned for help and I was cut by flying glass.’ One or two other people were also cut but at least half

the 30-strong party tried to calm the troublemakers. ‘Some people were dragged outside to safety and eventually all 30 were driven off in the coach,’ Mr. *Basche* added. The pub had a good reputation and that was the first of its kind at the premises, he said.

It was renamed SAUSAGE AND PORTER.

It closed as the SAUSAGE AND PORTER on 12th April 1998.

It reopened as the RED HEN.

It closed in 1999.

It was converted into housing.

BELL

Rowley Village, ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

LICENSEES

William Mills [1822] – [1834]

Joseph Hackett [1857] – **1861**);

Sarah Lowe (**1861** – []

Frederick Haynes [1869]

NOTES

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/10/1822

“Staffordshire Michaelmas Sessions.....

George Hodgetts, a youth of 16, was indicted for stealing three one-pound notes and divers silver and copper monies, the property of *Wm. Mills*, at Rowley Regis. The prosecutor, *Mills*, keeps a public house at Rowley Regis; the prisoner came to his house on the 19th September last, and drank some ale there, he remained in the house about two hours; a short time after he had left it, some person told witness that he was being robbed; and on going up stairs he found the prisoner escaping from one of the chamber windows; witness missed three pound bills from the desk, and some silver and copper from the top of a chest of drawers.

A woman of the name of Bennett saw the prisoner come out of *Mill's* window, and go to the next door (the house where he lodged), she followed him, and received four shillings in copper from the Mistress of the house, which she desired her to take to *Mills*, saying at the same time that Hodgetts had robbed *Mills*.

Thos. Partridge, the constable, apprehended the prisoner on the Monday after the robbery; found nothing on his person; he said he had taken no notes and silver, only the copper.

From the circumstance that this prisoner, although of such tender years, had been twice before charged with similar offences, and in one instance had received the punishment inflicted by the law, he was sentenced to transportation for seven years.

The prosecutor's expenses in the case were not allowed for his very blameable conduct in permitting a child, like the prisoner, to tittle in his house.”

Aris' Birmingham Gazette 1/1/1838 - Advert

“Young Horses, Prime Fat Cattle, and Farming Stock.

To be Sold by Jesse Wright, on Tuesday the 9th day of January inst, the Farming Stock upon the Cakemore House Farm, near Black Heath.....

Catalogues may be had on application to the Auctioneer, Dudley, or at the BELL INN, Rowley Regis.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 30/12/1857

“*Joseph Hackett*, landlord of the BELL INN, Rowley Regis, was fined 10s and costs, for having his house open on Sunday morning, the 20th inst, before half-past twelve o'clock.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/7/1858- Notice

“County Of Stafford. Weights And Measures. District C, or South Staffordshire.

Notice is hereby given that William Tullett, the Inspector of Weights and Measures for District C, or South Staffordshire, will attend at the undermentioned times and places, for the purpose of comparing and examining all such Weights and Measures as shall be brought to him for that purpose, and Stamping such of them as shall be found correct.....

At the BELL INN, at Rowley Regis, on Thursdays, July 15th, August 12th, and September 9th, 1858, at ten o'clock am.”

Frederick Haynes = Frederick Haines

Stourbridge Observer 18/4/1868

“On Tuesday an inquest was held at the BELL INN, before Mr. E. Hooper, Esq, Coroner, touching the death of a man named William Haycock, aged 54 years, who died very suddenly on Sunday night last.

From the evidence of Mrs. Haycock it appears that the deceased resided at Spring Field, near Rowley, and that on Sunday morning he, in company with herself, went to Netherend to see his son. In the evening they commenced their return, but deceased was taken very poorly, and when opposite the BELL INN he sat down on a Bench in front of the house, while she called up some of the inmates and obtained three-pennyworth of brandy. With some difficulty they got the deceased to swallow it, and then seeming to be very cold, permission was asked to take him into the house to the fire. He was led into the house, and in about five minutes afterwards he expired.

As soon as possible Mr. Hodgson was present, but deceased was quite dead.

The Coroner was very particular in ascertaining what he had had during the day, and whether his wife had partaken of the same things. Having been satisfied on this point, the jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes.”

Stourbridge Observer 1/5 1869

“At the Petty Sessions, on Wednesday last, before F. W. G. Barrs and N. Hingley, Esqrs, *Frederick Haines* was charged by William Laister with assaulting him on the 23rd ult. Mr. Addison appeared for the defence.

Complainant said on the above date he was at Rowley at defendant’s house, the BELLS. Defendant’s wife began to abuse him, and defendant came out and struck him a severe blow on the mouth. Did not strike defendant in return. Had not spoken to him. Gave him into custody of Police-constable Slinn, who was there.

Cross-examined: Had put defendant’s wife into the County Court, about some malt. Have been to Mr. Robinson’s, but did not tell him that they were not fit to live there. Did not put her in the Court out of spite. Was at a club on the Wednesday previous. Defendant was there in the doorway. Picked up a poker to defend myself. Defendant came to him and asked him what he meant. Put the poker down. Had some words with the defendant.

Police-constable Slinn said he was stationed at Blackheath. Was at the sale at the BELLS, on the 23rd. Saw defendant strike complainant on the face. Complainant got out of the way. Complainant gave the defendant into custody.

Richard Parkes proved seeing the defendant rip complainant’s jacket.

Fined 5s and costs; in default 14 days.”

Closed

BELL AND BEAR

71, (26), (8), Gorsty Hill Road, (33, Gorsty Hill), OLD HILL

OWNERS

Thomas Fereday [1860]

Fanny Wright Fereday

Samuel Lowe (acquired in 1895)

Messrs. Grigg and Brettell (acquired on 2nd February 1935)

Ansells Ltd.

Colin Waring

Punch Taverns [2007]

Star (Heineken UK) (acquired on 5th March 2018)

LICENSEES

Edmund Mason [1841] – [1856]

Thomas Fereday [1860] – **1865**;

Fanny Wright Fereday (**1865** – []

Sarah Lowe [1865] – **1865**);

John and Samuel Lowe (**1865** – []

John Lowe [1866] – [1881]

Samuel Lowe [1891] – **1934**);

Fred Lowe (**1934** – **1935**);

Isaac Bishop (**1935**);

Thomas Bishop (**1935** – **1941**);

Lilian May Trevis (**1941** – **1951**);

Robert Muir (1951 – 1952);
John Leslie Robinson (1952 – 1957);
Stanley ‘Stan’ Rogers (1957);
Samuel Horace Pugh (1957 – [1962]
Colin Waring [] – 1978)
Bill Valance [1983] – [1985]
Colin Waring (1988 – [1995]
Martin Corcoran [2001]
Stephanie Corcoran [2004] – [2011]
Stephanie Cox [2011] – [2012]
Stanley John ‘Stan’ Gardner (2014 – [2017]
Natalie and David Clynschaw (2014 – [2022] managers

NOTES

33, Gorsty Hill [1881], [1891]
8, Gorsty Hill Road [1901], [1911]
26, Gorsty Hill Road [1939]
71, Gorsty Hill Road [1992], [2018]

BELL INN [1851], [1880], [1892], [1896], [1904], [1908], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1924], [1940]

1841 Census

Gosty Hill

[1] *Edmund Mason* (35), victualler, born Staffordshire;
[2] *Amelia Hodgetts* (17), born Staffordshire;
[3] *Elizabeth Hodgetts* (4), born Staffordshire:

1851 Census

Gosty Hill

[1] *Edmund Mason* (48), unmarried, public house keeper, born Rowley Regis;
[2] *Elizabeth Hodgetts* (14), house servant, born Rowley Regis:

Birmingham Journal 29/3/1856 - Advert

“Left His Home.

On Wednesday, the 19th inst, Mr. *Edmund Mason*, of Gosty Hill, Rowley, Publican, Left his Residence, and has not since been heard of. He is 54 years of age, about 5 feet 6 inches in height, lusty, and stout built; had on, when last seen, a white smock frock, cassimere breeches, and a pair of new half-boots. Information respecting him will be gratefully received by his disconsolate relatives, *William Davies*, Oakeywell Street, Dudley; or *Mrs. Stainton*, the LORD WARD ARMS, Rowley, Staffordshire.”

Black Country Bugle - Pub of the Month

“....That was when the farmstead was first converted into a tavern with stabling and a wheelwright’s and a blacksmith’s forge The family prospered. In 1860, *Thomas Fereday* owned the property. He married into the wealthy *Wright* family of Old Hill, and when he died in 1865, the BELL and surrounding lands passed to his daughter *Fanny Wright Fereday*. She married *Edward Lloyd Gatacre* but they were divorced in 1877. Around that period the inn was known locally as ‘Fanny’s.’ She stayed at the BELL until 1895, when Mr. *Samuel Lowe* purchased the public house which he owned until his death in 1934. It was then acquired by Messrs. *Grigg and Brettell* who were subsequently taken over by *Ansells*.”

County Advertiser 25/8/1866

“Rowley annual licensing meeting was held yesterday....

There were 82 applications for the renewal of licenses, all of which were granted with the exception of that of *John Lowe*, of the BELL, Gorsty Hill, whose certificate was suspended till the adjourned meeting.”

John Lowe, beer retailer, Gorsty Hill [1870]

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 26/3/1870

“The common nail makers have been for some time complaining of deviations made by some of the masters from the list of prices unanimously agreed to on the 15th of September, 1869, when a disastrous and protracted strike terminated. It appears that a firm having an out-warehouse at *Kates Hill*, Dudley, have particularly offended in this respect. In consequence a meeting of the committee of the Amalgamated Association of Nailmakers was held a short time ago, at Mr. *Jno. Lowe*’s, the BELL INN, Gosty Hill, when Mr. *Price* presided; and it was resolved that he should wait upon the firm referred to, in reference to the reduction of 5 per cent, and in some instances of 10 per cent, which they were making from the recognised trade list. It was also resolved that, in the event of the firm refusing to abide by the trade list, Mr. *Price* should be empowered to put the nailers of the *Kates Hill* district on

strike.

After waiting upon the firm, and obtaining a promise that the list price should be conceded, Mr. Price took no further action till yesterday, when, ascertaining that the Kates Hill nailers were still being paid at the reduction, he instructed them to take out no more iron, and announced that whilst on strike they would be supported by the association.

He had also convened an open-air meeting, to be held at twelve o'clock on Monday, in Porters Field, Dudley.”

1871 Census

Gosty Hill

- [1] *John Lowe* (38), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Elizabeth Lowe (29), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Martha Lowe (14), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] John Lowe (10), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Arthur Lowe (1), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Mary Lowe (5 months), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Samuel Lowe (35), boarder, labourer, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 20/5/1871

“On Tuesday evening, at the house of Mr. *John Lowe*, the BELL INN, Gorsty Hill, a new Court was opened, called Bold Robin Hood, No.5595, of the Ancient Order of Foresters, when about sixteen new members were initiated. Mr. Joseph Gibson, DCR, presided. Mr. Standish, who was present, was appointed surgeon. Mr. Homer, the District Secretary, was present, and several other friends. An excellent supper was provided by the host, and the utmost harmony pervaded the whole proceeding. The company separated well satisfied with the evening’s enjoyment.”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/1/1874

“On Monday a meeting of delegates of the Thousand Nailmakers’ Union was held at the BELL INN, Gosty Green, near Hales Owen, at which it was resolved to postpone all business till Monday the 19th inst, in consequence of information having been received that the masters intended to hold a meeting in reference to the trade today.”

County Express 25/7/1874

“Court Bold Robin Hood, No.5595, held its third anniversary on Monday, July 20th, at the BELL INN, Gosty Hill, when between thirty and forty sat down to an excellent dinner provided by the host, Bro. *John Lowe*.....”

County Express 21/7/1877

“Court Robin Hood (5595) of the Ancient Order of Foresters held its sixth anniversary on Monday last, at the BELL INN, Gorsty Hill, Old Hill. About forty members sat down to dinner. The chair was afterwards occupied by Bro. J. Parsons, CR, and the vice chair by Bro. E. Parsons, SCR.....”

County Express 24/7/1880

“The annual meeting of Court Bold Robin Hood, No.5595, of the Ancient Order of Foresters, was held on Monday last at the BELL INN, Gosty Hill. Forty members sat down to an excellent repast provided by the host, Bro. *John Lowe*. After the cloth had been removed the chair was occupied by Bro. Jos. Parsons, PCR, and the vice-chair by Bro. B. Tibbetts, SCR. After the usual loyal and patriotic toasts had been given and duly responded to, the Chairman, in a few well chosen words, proposed ‘Prosperity to Court Robin Hood,’ coupling with it the name of Bro. John Owen, their Secretary, who in responding, read the report of the past year, which showed the Court to be in a very flourishing condition. The rest of the time was spent in harmony, and a very enjoyable evening was spent.”

1881 Census

33, Gosty Hill – BELL INN

- [1] *John Lowe* (47), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Elizabeth Lowe (39), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Martha Lowe (23), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Arthur Lowe (11), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Mary Lowe (9), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Annie Lowe (8), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Edward Lowe (7), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] Amy Lowe (4), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [9] Lucy Lowe (3), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [10] Sarah Ann Lowe (1), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [11] Samuel Lowe (44), lodger, labourer at tube works, born Rowley Regis:

1891 Census

33, Gorsty Hill – BELL INN

- [1] *Samuel Lowe* (32), victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Mary Lowe (28), wife, born Rowley Regis;

- [3] *Fred Lowe* (7), son, scholar, born Halesowen;
- [4] *John Lowe* (6), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Frances Elizabeth Partridge* (22), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 23/3/1895 - Advert

“Servant Girl Wanted, 16 or 17 years of age.
Apply to Mrs. *Lowe*, BELL INN, Gorsty Hill, near Halesowen.”

1901 Census

8, Gorsty Hill Road – BELL INN

- [1] *Samuel Lowe* (42), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Mary Lowe* (38), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Fred Lowe* (17), son, iron tube examiner, born Halesowen;
- [4] *John Lowe* (16), son, striker iron tubes, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Albert Lowe* (9), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Louisa Giles* (20), domestic servant, born Dudley:

1911 Census

8, Gorsty Hill Road – BELL INN

- [1] *Samuel Lowe* (52), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Mary Lowe* (48), wife, married 28 years, born Blackheath;
- [3] *John Lowe* (26), son, motor engineer, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Albert Lowe* (19), son, electrician, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Emma South* (30), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

Sports Argus 15/5/1915

“The Langley and District Bowling League have been fortunate enough to fill the two vacant places with the Hill and Cakemore Conservative Club, and BELL INN, Gorsty Hill, so that there will be a good championship contest with ten clubs in the competition. One of the newcomers, BELL INN, commenced well by defeating BARREL away from home by five points.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/7/1915

“The Game Of Bowls..... Friendly Games.....
Old Hill v BELL INN (Gorsty Hill). Played at Old Hill Liberal Club.....”
[Old Hill won 268-230.]

It had a successful bowling team in the 1920s.

It was the headquarters of Blackheath Town FC. [1927/28]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/2/1934

“Out of a population of more than 43,000 only four persons were convicted for drunkenness in Rowley Regis last year. When interim authority was granted to *Fred Lowe* to carry on the BELL INN, Gorsty Hill, it was stated that his late father, *Samuel Lowe*, had held the license 49 years without a single complaint.”

1939 Register

26, Gorsty Hill Road – BELL Public House

- [1] *Thomas Bishop*, date of birth 8/12/1882, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] *Nellie Bishop*, dob 21/1/1884, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] *Beatrice M. (Bishop) Laing*, dob 20/5/1918, shop assistant, single;
- [4] *Isaac Bishop*, dob 19/4/1879, contractor’s labourer, widowed:

Evening Despatch 26/3/1940

“Two motor-cars and a pony and trap were involved in a collision at the junction of Beeches Road and Gorsty Hill Road, Blackheath, late last night. *George Jones*, a caravan dweller, of Illey, Halesowen, who was thrown out of the cart, was taken to Dudley Guest Hospital for treatment, but was not detained. The pony was slightly injured and the trap damaged. The motorists, who escaped injury, were Pte. *Clifford B. Jackson* and *Arthur Laing*, of BELL INN, Gorsty Hill, Blackheath.”

Vince *Trevis* kept racing greyhounds.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/3/1944 - Advert

“Greyhounds: Several young Irish high-class for Sale; guaranteed honest, never raced in England.
Trevis, BELL INN, Gorsty Hill, Blackheath.”

Stanley Rogers was married to *Joyce*.

See also TRAVELLERS REST, BIRD IN HAND, St. Andrews Street, DOLPHIN and ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, all Netherton.

Sandwell Evening Mail 18/3/1983

“If Snowy the lamb wakes up feeling a bit woolly in the morning it’s probably because he’s got a hangover. The youngster was rescued by Halesowen licensee, Mr. *Bill Valance*, from a local market when he was just four hours old after being rejected by his mother. *Bill*, aged 49, took him home to the BELL at Gorsty Hill and had to get up during the night to feed him with powdered ewe’s milk. But now Snowy has developed a taste for something a little more potent, whisky and dry ginger, which he sucks from *Bill*’s finger. ‘Snowy loved the odd drink but we don’t want to encourage the habit,’ said *Bill*.”

Bill Valance – see also HILLCREST, Kingswinford.

Closed

It reopened in 1988

Sandwell Evening Mail 17/2/1990

“A Sandwell pub which was refurbished at a cost of £100,000 is to be re-opened later this month – by a bear. Hercules, an eight foot Scottish grizzly, is due to re-open the BELL AND BEAR in Rowley Regis on February 28 at 11.30am. Hercules became well known in 1980 when he got lost while filming a television commercial.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 3/3/1990

“Hercules the giant grizzly bear tucked into his favourite dish of prawns at the opening of the newly refurbished BELL AND BEAR pub in Gosty Hill, Rowley Regis. The pub, bought by *Colin* and Hilary *Waring*, who previously ran the BARLEY MOW in Tividale, had been closed for several years. More than £100,000 was spent refurbishing it.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 28/3/1990 - Advert

“Cook Required full time/part time, early evenings.
Please contact the BELL AND BEAR INN, Rowley Regis.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 1/6/1991

“Views extending across miles of open country to Shropshire and other far distant parts can be enjoyed from a Black Country pub that once faced the horrors of its own bleak business outlook. With its doors firmly barred and bolted, the BELL AND BEAR at Rowley Regis, Warley, was in grave danger of fading from the scene. That is until it was rescued from a near-derelict state and given the kiss of life by *Colin* and Hilary *Waring*.

Today the pub, perched on the side of Gorsty Hill Road, is in a healthy trading condition and workmen have set about adding a restaurant to bar and dining facilities already bulging at the beams. ‘We could see the potential even though the pub had been closed for a long time,’ said *Colin*, who bought the business and is seeing his investment pay off after lots of hard work. The day I called in, it was clear enough to look out across the heart of the Black Country to the Shropshire hills. ‘We used some of our leisure time to clear a ‘rubbish tip’ behind the pub and turn it into a garden terrace. It’s a very popular spot in the summer,’ *Colin* told me.

People flock to the BELL AND BEAR not merely for the panoramic views but also they like what they find inside the pub – a good range of cask ales and mouthwatering items on a well stocked menu. How about Gornal Smokies, a spicy cheese-flavoured sausage, or a pork and leek sausage, both from the Lower Gornal kitchens of Robert Middleton, who has won numerous awards for handmade ‘bangers’ that have become a culinary treat. ‘We can serve up to 60lb of them in a week,’ said *Colin*, as local businessmen made a meal of their smokies or considered one of the many other options available as main courses, hot snacks, sandwiches, starters, salads or sweets. A Black Belter turns out to be a combination of black pudding, cheese and cucumber. ‘Food is certainly a big attraction and, because we are open all day during the week, people often come in for a late lunch or an early evening meal,’ said the licensee who was no stranger to the BELL AND BEAR when he arrived three years ago. He first ran it as a tenant before going off to make a success of another trade venture.

Colin draws his main selection of ales from the Black Country brewery Holt, Plant and Deakin, and also sells a former British Beer of the Year from Timothy Taylor’s of Keithley, in Yorkshire. ‘It is still predominantly a pub despite all the food we serve, and people seem to travel miles to visit us,’ said the man who certainly put the BELL AND BEAR back on the map.

Pubfile.

Pick of the Pints: Holts Bitter; Draught Burton Ale; Holts Entire Bitter; Benskins Bitter; Timothy Taylors.

Average Price of a Pint: Bitter, £1.09; Mild, £1.05; Lager, £1.30.

Food: Comprehensive menu, including local delicacies.

Facilities: Traditional style bars; large garden area.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 9/10/1991 - Advert

“Female/Male Full time Bar Staff, experience not essential – bubbly personality is.
The BELL AND BEAR INN, Rowley Regis.”

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.....

BELL AND BEAR INN, Rowley Regis.”

It was one of the last eight finalists in the *Evening Mail* Midland Pub of the Year competition in 1992.

Sandwell Evening Mail 5/5/1994 - Advert

“Manageress/Manager for busy pub in Blackheath area. Must be prepared to work hard and have bubbly personality. Poss live-in, not suitable for children. The BELL AND BEAR, Rowley Regis.”

Colin Waring – see also BARLEY MOW, Tividale.

Martin Corcoran married *Stephanie* McGrath.

Stourbridge News 8/9/2009

“Here's your chance to shout about your local. The *News* is looking for the best pubs in Stourbridge, Halesowen and Dudley – and we want you, the regulars, to make yours an award-winner by voting in our Best Local Pub competition. It could be the friendly welcome from the landlord, traditional pub grub, sparkling barmaids who never forget your favourite drink, or maybe it's somewhere the family is always welcome. Or maybe your local goes that extra mile, throwing a surprise birthday party for you or raising money for charity. All you have to do is vote for one of the locals featured in our Pub Awards to say thank-you for all that they have given to your community....

The shortlist of pubs is Halesowen: LIGHTHOUSE, BELL & BEAR, OLD CROWN, WAGON & HORSES.”

Express & Star 28/4/2011

“Royal Wedding fever was sweeping the West Midlands today with 24 hours to go until the historic spectacle.....

There will be a party in the beer garden of the BELL AND BEAR in Gorsty Hill Road, Rowley Regis, from 1pm tomorrow.

[The wedding of Prince William to Kate Middleton.]

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. *Stephanie 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 legislation on licensing regulations.’”

It reopened on December 19th 2014, after an extensive refurbishment.

Stanley John Gardner, of the WATERFALL, was the licensee.

Express & Star 11/6/2020

“While some support the idea other pub bosses in the region have said as long as the two-metre distancing rule is still in place opening would not be viable.....

However, *Karl Gardner*, director of the BELL AND BEAR INN in Cradley Heath, said it would be ‘50/50’ whether he would reopen. ‘It all depends on what the breweries want to do,’ he added. ‘We’d have to get the beer in, and some people will be uncertain about coming to pubs. We’ve lost so much trade because of what’s going on, it’s been a nightmare. We have taken the time to refurbish the pub.’”

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.....

BELL AND BEAR, Gorsty Hill Road.”

[Express & Star 21/2/2022](#)

“A pub was forced to close and customers were evacuated when a large tree fell onto the building and caused extensive damage during Storm Franklin. The tree fell in the back garden of the BELL AND BEAR INN on Gorsty Hill Road, Rowley Regis, and split at around 4pm on Sunday. As well as smashing through part of the roof, the tree damaged the bedroom, the kitchen and living room, with the business forced to shut as a result. It was one of several trees to come down across the region. There is no timescale for when the BELL AND BEAR will be able to reopen with manager *David Clynschaw* waiting to hear back from owners Star Pubs and Bar about repairs. He said, ‘I had a phone call to say one of the trees has come down so I jumped in my car and had to come back from Surrey. It happened at about 4pm on Sunday afternoon and now there’s a big old tree in the back garden and when it came down it completely split – and landed on the roof which has caused a hell of a lot of damage and holes in the roof. I’ve got a javelin spear of wood in my bedroom, damage in the kitchen and further damage to the living room. It’s a bit of a nightmare. The pub was open at the time, we were trading. People were eating, staff were working and we had to close the pub down. We had to get people to finish off and then close. The fire brigade came out, water was leaking through and we didn’t know about electrical sparks, etc. They made it all safe and got the debris off the roof as well. Staff were panicking but thankfully nobody was hurt or anything.’

A maintenance team has visited the pub and assessed the property and has labelled it as a ‘priority’ due to the extent of the damage, but the manager is still waiting guidance on the next step. ‘We’re waiting to see what’s best to do – it could be a few days or it could be a week (before the pub can reopen), it’s a nightmare,’ said Mr *Clynschaw*, who has been living at the pub for the last eight years. He had been visiting family in Surrey and had just finished off a Sunday roast when he received a phone call from his partner alerting him to the damage which left him ‘massively shocked,’ despite initially thinking she was joking. ‘The damage is extensive and we’re going to need scaffolding to come up around the outside (of the pub). We’re going to need a tree surgeon too because there’s still part of the tree in the garden which we need to take down ASAP. The tree is nearly as old as the pub and the tree trunk was very very thick.’”

Stanley John Gardner – see also HADEN CROSS and WATERFALL.

[2022]

BIRD IN HAND

39, Upper High Street / Reddal Hill Road, (32, Spinners End), Four Ways, CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

William Parkes
Benjamin Price
Mrs. Heming
James Hadley, ROSE AND CROWN (acquired in 1889 for £1,240) (He died 1918)
Joseph Horton, Colmore Row, Birmingham [1920]
Joseph P. Simpkins, Dennis Brewery, Brierley Hill (acquired in 1930)

LICENSEES

William Parkes [1849] – [1854]
Timothy Parkes [1858] – **1868**;
Cornelius Deeley (**1868 – 1873**);
Mrs. Sarah Deeley (**1873**);
Sarah Price (**1873**);
Benjamin Price (**1873 – 1882**);
Aquila Parkes (**1882 – 1889**);
John Wright (**1889** – []
Henry Mather [1891] – **1925**);
Thomas Sidaway (**1925 – 1931**);
Samuel Jukes (**1931**);
George Willetts (**1931 – 1933**);
Thomas Priest (**1933 – 1952**);
Thomas Thomas (**1952 – 1957**);
Jack Cartwright (**1957 – 1961**);
Mrs. Mary Ann Harris (**1961 – 1972**);
Mrs. Ann Marie Garbett (**1972**)

NOTES

Four Ways [1849]

Spinners End [1861], [1896], [1911]

32, Spinners End [1881], [1891], [1904], [1908], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1924], [1932]

39, Upper High Street [1939], [1940]

William Parkes was also a chain manufacturer. [1849], [1850]

Birmingham Journal 8/6/1850

“A boy named Benjamin Knight, ten years of age, was killed by a quantity of coal falling upon him, whilst at work in a pit belonging to Messrs. Badger, at Old Hill, on Tuesday last. The inquest was held before George Hinchliffe, Esq, on the following day, at the sign of the BIRD IN HAND, Cradley Heath, when a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Birmingham Journal 29/10/1853 - Advert

“Sale of Household Furniture, Brewing Utensils, Casks, &c, at the BIRD IN HAND, near the Four Ways, Cradley Heath, Rowley. To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Bateman, on Monday, the 7th day of November, 1853, upon the Premises as above.

The whole of the Household Furniture, Brewing Utensils, Hogshead, Half-hogshead, and other well-seasoned Casks; excellent Four-pull Beer Machine, with Piping, &c, complete; set of mahogany Dining Tables, capital Piano-forte, Bedsteads, Bedding, and various other Effects of the late Mr. *William Parkes*, of the BIRD IN HAND Public House, near the Four Ways, Cradley Heath, which will be described in catalogues, to be had from the Auctioneer, Dudley, and at the Place of Sale.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock precisely, at which hour the Auctioneer requests a punctual attendance, in consequence of the large number of lots to be sold.”

Birmingham Journal 19/11/1853 - Advert

“Freehold Public House, Dwelling Houses, Chain and Nail Shops, Gardens, and Premises, at Cradley Heath and Old Hill, in the Parish of Rowley, and at Darby End, in the Parish of Dudley.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Bateman, on Monday Next, the 21st of November, at Six o'clock in the evening, at the house of Mr. Noah Fellows, the TALBOT INN, near the Five Ways, Cradley Heath, in the following lots, and subject to conditions then to be produced.

Lot 1. A newly-erected and well-situated Public House, known by the sign of the BIRD IN HAND, with the Club Room, Brew-house, Stable, Yard, Garden, and Premises belonging thereto, situate near the Four Ways, at Cradley Heath aforesaid, late in the occupation of the Proprietor, Mr. *William Parkes*, deceased.....”

Brierley Hill Advertiser 9/1/1858

“*Timothy Parkes*, landlord of the BIRD IN HAND, Cradley Heath, was charged with having his house open, for the sale of liquor, at an illegal hour, on the night of the 25th ult. PC Lucas said he was on duty on the above night, and hearing a noise in defendant's house, directed his steps thither, and found four men and a quart of ale in the bar. In defence, defendant said the men had simply come to sing him a carol, and he thought there could not be much harm in presenting them with a quart of ale for their kindness. Fined 5s, with costs.”

Timothy Parkes was also a chain and trace manufacturer. [1860]

He was also a chainmaker. [1861], [1864], [1865]

1861 Census

Spinners End

[1] *Timothy Parkes* (37), victualler and chainmaker, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Elizabeth Parkes (40), wife, born Cradley;

[3] William Parkes (9), son, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Alfred Parkes (7), son, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Aquilla Parkes (19), brother, chainmaker, born Rowley Regis;

[6] George Samders (18), son-in-law, chainmaker, born Cradley;

[7] Elizabeth Sanders (20), daughter-in-law, born Cradley;

[8] Edward Sanders (3), grandson, born Stourbridge;

[9] Elizabeth Pugh (17), general servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 22/6/1867 - Advert

“Foresters' Grand Demonstration, at the Leasowes, Halesowen, July 15th, 1867, by the kind permission of B. Gibbons, Esq.

Persons desirous of Tendering for the Sale of Refreshments and Confectionery at the above Demonstration, will please send in their Tenders, on or before the 26th inst, addressed to the Secretary, at Mr. *Timothy Parkes*'s, BIRD IN HAND INN, Cradley Heath, Brierley Hill.

There will be Two Refreshment and One Confectionery Booths.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/12/1869

“On the afternoon of Tuesday, a number of chainmakers were drinking together at the BIRD IN HAND public house, Four Ways, Cradley Heath. Three or four of them, it appears, became inebriated, and then commenced larking, a man named Henry Coley being made the subject of their fun. His face was blackened, and afterwards a quantity of snow was pushed down his back, next the skin. He appeared to take this in good part for some time, but suddenly turned to one of his companions and asked him if he had a knife he could lend him to cut his finger nails with. A pocket-knife was given to him, and he immediately thereupon opened it, and rushed at a man named Edward Bowen, and stabbed him in the neck. Bowen shortly afterwards gave information at the police station, and was taken by Police-constable Craddock to Mr. Hodgson’s surgery. Mr. Hodgson stitched up the wound, but said he did not think there was any immediate danger to be apprehended. Coley was at large yesterday.”

[At Old Hill Police Court the Bench treated the case as one of common assault. Henry Coalbourn paid costs.]

Stourbridge Observer 7/1/1871

“Daniel Round was charged with being drunk, and refusing to quit the BIRD IN HAND INN, Spinners End, when requested on the 26th ult.

Mrs. *Daley* [sic], the landlady, said defendant was in her house on the above date, drunk. She requested him to leave, but he refused, and struck her.

Defendant pleaded guilty, and was fined 1s and costs; in default 14 days.”

1871 Census

Reddall Hill Road

- [1] *Cornelius Deeley* (40), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Sarah Deeley* (33), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *William Deeley* (15), son, chain brightener, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Elizabeth Deeley* (12), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Clara Deeley* (7), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Albert Deeley* (5), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *Lotty Deeley* (3), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] *Mary A. Deeley* (10 months), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [9] *Betty Deeley* (73), mother-in-law, born Rowley Regis;
- [10] *Urena Cooksey* (21), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 12/8/1871

“George Hirley, chainmaker, was fined 5s and costs, for assaulting, on the 1st inst, Helena Cooksey, barmaid at the BIRD IN HAND public house, Cradley Heath.

Benjamin Hirley was fined 5s and costs, for assaulting, on the same day, *Sarah Deeley*, landlady of the BIRD IN HAND, Cradley Heath.”

Stourbridge Observer 19/8/1871

“Early on Monday morning Cradley Heath was all astir and hundreds of persons could be seen wending their way towards the Five Ways to witness the procession of Foresters, which was announced to take place that day. The weather being fine thousands of persons were present to witness the procession through the various streets. Ten o’clock was the appointed time for starting, but it was nearly half-past eleven before they got away, owing to their having to wait for some of the Courts from a distance.

The various Courts assembled at the Five Ways, and then formed themselves into order of procession. The following Courts were represented: No.3068, Hope and Anchor, QUEENS HEAD, Corngreaves Street, Cradley Heath; No.3595, Cable and Anchor, BIRD IN HAND, Cradley Heath; 4127, Good Samaritan, BEEHIVE, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath; 4196, Foresters’ Home, VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath; 4233, Loyal Shenstone; 4340, Loyal Marlborough, COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill; 4398, Moss Rose, ROYAL OAK INN, New Town; 4546, Robin Hood’s Merry Rangers, CROWN INN, Five Ways; 4970, Lye Reformed, WINDMILL INN, Lye. Although the district of Cradley Heath and Halesowen comprises 36 Courts, only nine took part in getting up the Fete.

The procession started from the Five Ways, headed by the Cradley Heath Brass Band. The Pensnett Victoria Brass and Reed Band and the Halesowen Drum and Fife Band also took part in the procession. Each band played lively quick steps passing through Lomey Town, Five Ways, Four Ways, Reddall Hill, Old Hill, and Haden Hill, en route for Halesowen, passing through the principal streets and then to the Leasowes. The procession was three-quarters of a mile in length, and was accompanied with three magnificent banners bearing suitable mottoes of the Order, and a large number of flags, the members wearing the various badges of the Order, and accompanied by Robin Hood, Little John, Will Scarlet, Friar Tuck, Shepherds, &c, &c.

On arriving at the beautiful and classic grounds, famed as having been the seat of the poet Shenstone, the procession passed round the house of B. Gibbons, Esq, who had kindly placed the whole of the grounds at the disposal of the Committee.....

There was a number of shooting galleries, Aunt Sallys, and other things to amuse all classes. During the day a number of balloon ascents took place.....

It is estimated that between six and seven thousand persons were present, upwards of £100 being taken at the gates, and it is expected there will be a good surplus in aid of the funds of the Order and General Hospital.

We must not close without a word of praise to the Committee, who were indefatigable in carrying out the arrangements according to the programme. The refreshments were provided by Mrs. S. Cartwright of Cradley Heath, and the tea and confectionery by Mr.

J. Corns of Wolverhampton.”

County Advertiser 27/7/1872

“The members of the Hand of Providence Friendly Society, held at Mr. *Benjamin Price*’s, Spinners End, celebrated their second anniversary on Monday week. Brother Aquilla Parkes presided and Brother William Baker was in the vice-chair. The report showed an increase of funds, and an addition of 14 members since last anniversary.”

County Advertiser 31/5/1873

“On the 12th ult the members of Court Cable and Anchor, No.3595, A.O.F. held at the BIRD IN HAND INN, Spinners End, presented their treasurer with a testimonial in the shape of a handsome silver medal, raised entirely by voluntary subscription, as a token of the high respect in which he is held by the members. The brothers present sat down (previous to the presentation being made) to a very substantial dinner. After dinner Brother E. Jones made the presentation of the medal, and Brother Parkes returned thanks for the very handsome present.”

County Advertiser 14/6/1873

“Thomas Stevens was charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the BIRD IN HAND, Cradley Heath, on the 3rd inst. Defendant was fined 5s and costs.”

Sarah Deeley married *Benjamin Price* in the 3rd quarter of 1873.

County Express 18/7/1874

“Joseph Weaver was charged by *Benjamin Price*, landlord of the BIRD IN HAND INN, with being disorderly and refusing to quit his house when requested to do so on the 8th inst. The wife of complainant said she would not press the case if defendant would pay the costs, and promise not to offend again. There being some hesitation on his part, the case was adjourned.”

County Express 25/7/1874

“Joseph Weaver, for being disorderly, and refusing to quit the BIRD IN HAND INN, Cradley Heath, when requested to do so on the 7th inst, was fined 10s and costs, or fourteen days.”

County Advertiser 8/7/1876 - Advert

“Excellent Freehold Well-Established Public House, and Two Retail Shops, at Spinners End, Cradley Heath. Mr. S. Leonard is instructed to Sell by Auction, at the BIRD IN HAND INN, Spinners End, Cradley Heath, on Tuesday, the 18th day of July, 1876, at Six for Seven o’clock in the Evening, subject to conditions, in one Lot. All that well-known Old-Licensed Freehold Public House and Extensive Premises, known as the BIRD IN HAND INN, situate fronting the main road, at Spinners End, Cradley Heath aforesaid, now occupied by Mr. *Benjamin Price*. The House contains Liquor Shop, Parlour, Front and Back Kitchens, Three Bed Rooms, large Club Room, and Four good Cellars. The Outbuildings comprise Brewhouse, Stable, Malt Room, small Office and Warehouse, Piggeries, and other Appurtenances. The Premises have an additional entrance from a new street leading out of New Town Lane, are advantageously situated, and having every accommodation for carrying on a large and profitable trade. Several Clubs are attached to the house, and it affords an unusual opportunity for an energetic man desirous of entering the business. Also all those Two Valuable Freehold Retail Shops and Premises adjoining and fronting the said main road, each containing Front Shop, Kitchen, Two Bed Rooms, Cellar, and Brewhouse, together with Two large Chainshops, and other Appurtenances, in the occupation of Samuel Cooper and *Aquilla Parkes*. For further information apply to Mr. Thomas Homer, Solicitor, Brierley Hill and Colley Gate, or the Auctioneer, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 16/6/1877

“James Woodall and David Davis were charged at the instance of Police-constable Cooper, with being drunk and disorderly near the BIRD IN HAND INN, Spinners End, on Saturday last. The first-named was fined 5s and costs; and the latter, it being his first offence, 2s 6d and costs.”

County Express 30/6/1877

“A large meeting of chainmakers was held at the BIRD IN HAND INN, Spinners End, on Monday; Mr. Billingham in the chair. A number of speeches were delivered by chainmakers present, who stated that trade was never so bad as at present, and that their children were walking about barefooted, and they themselves were worse off than agricultural labourers. It was considered a fair week’s work for a man to make 6cwt of chain, and after paying his blowers, he only received 11s 6d to keep himself and family. Letters were read from Messrs. Tinsley and Co. and Messrs. Hartsorne and Taylor agreeing to give the men the price asked for (the 4s 6d list), and it was resolved that the men in the employ of Messrs. Hartsorne and Taylor be allowed to work on; and it was also carried unanimously, ‘That the men keep out on strike until all the masters give the 4s 6d list.’”

1881 Census

32, Spinners End, Reddall Hill Road

- [1] *Benjamin Price* (57), chainmaker, born Cradley Heath;
- [2] *Sarah Price* (43), wife, born Cradley;
- [3] Clara Deeley Price (17), wife’s daughter, born Cradley Heath;

- [4] Albert Deeley Price (15), wife's son, chainmaker, born Cradley Heath;
[5] Mary A. Deeley Price (11), wife's daughter, scholar, born Cradley Heath;
[6] Martha Price (5), daughter, scholar, born Cradley Heath;
[7] Betty Deeley (93), lodger, invalid, birth place not known;
[8] Isaac Westwood (40), lodger, invalid, born Cradley Heath:

Dudley and District News 13/8/1881

"Local Failures.

On Saturday a petition in liquidation was filed in the Dudley County Court on behalf of *Benjamin Price*, licensed victualler and chain manufacturer, of the BIRD IN HAND INN, Spinners End, Cradley Heath. Liabilities estimated at £900. Mr. W. O. C. Addison is the debtor's solicitor, and Mr. Herbert Humphries has been appointed receiver."

County Advertiser 8/10/1881 - Advert

"Reddal Hill, Cradley Heath.

Highly Important and Valuable Freehold Property, situate at Reddal Hill, Cradley Heath, consisting of Noted Old-established Full-licensed Inn, capital Beerhouse, &c, &c, both transacting good Businesses.

In Liquidation. Re *Benjamin Price*.

Mr. Herbert Humphries (in conjunction with Mr. William Edwards) has been favoured with instructions from the Trustees, Messrs. Felix Coley and Samuel Edwards, of Cradley Heath, to Offer by Auction, at the house of Mr. Charles Yardley, the CHAINMAKERS ARMS INN, Four Ways, Cradley Heath, on Tuesday, October 11th, at Six for Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions to be then read.

Lot 1. All those Two Freehold Dwelling Houses and Shops, with the usual Out-buildings and Chain Shops adjoining, adjacent to the BIRD IN HAND INN, having a frontage of 11yds 1ft to the High Street, and containing in the whole 364 square yards or thereabouts, in the occupation of *Aquila Parkes* and Abner Smith respectively, and producing a Rental of £31 4s per annum.

Lot 2. All that Freehold Old-Established Full Licensed and truly valuable Inn, known as the BIRD IN HAND, situate at High Street, Reddal Hill aforesaid, having a frontage of 12yds 2ft to the High Street, and containing 444 square yards or thereabouts, in the occupation of *Benjamin Price*, and consisting of Front Spirit Vaults, Tap and Smoke Rooms, large Club Room, 29ft 6in by 24ft; Three Chambers, Back Kitchen, Brewhouse, large detached Assembly Room, 38ft 6in by 14ft 3in; Stabling, Piggeries, Store Rooms, Cellaring, Gateway Entrance; and the excellent and valuable Plot of Building Land at the rear of the above premises, fronting to Church Street leading from Park Street to Newtown, containing 282 square yards, the whole being 726 square yards or thereabouts.

NB. The whole of the Public House Fixtures will be Sold with this Lot, inventory of which may be seen at Place of Sale....."

County Advertiser 5/11/1881 - Advert

"Cradley Heath. To be Let or Sold, with immediate possession, that Old-established, Full-Licensed House, known as the BIRD IN HAND INN, situate at Reddal Hill, surrounded by Chain and other works, and containing 726 square yards of land. The greater portion of the purchase money may remain on Mortgage. This is a rare opportunity to an enterprising man. The outbuildings are spacious and offer facilities for the introduction of any trade requiring room and a central position.

For particulars, apply to Herbert Humphries, Auctioneer, Brierley Hill; or Mr. Wm. Edwards, Auctioneer, Stourbridge."

Evening Star 25/1/1882

"On Tuesday night a well attended meeting of chainmakers was held at the BIRD IN HAND INN, Skinners End, Cradley Heath, to consider the wages question. Mr. Benjamin Billingham (chairman of the Cradley Heath and District Chainmakers' Association) presided, and spoke very hopefully of the course the agitation was taking. The trade was daily improving and there was every reason to believe that their demands would be conceded when notice for an advance was given. He reported that two of the largest firms in the trade, viz, Messrs. J. Wood Aston and Co, Cradley Heath, and Mr. Bird of Carless Green, Lye, had conceded an advance of 10 per cent on best trade chain, upon which a large number of operatives were engaged. The announcement was received with applause. At the close, a resolution in favour of giving notice for an advance of 10d per cwt on best chain, and 6d per cwt upon common chain, was unanimously carried."

County Express 4/2/1882

"The Bench allowed the following license transfers.....

BIRD IN HAND, Cradley Heath, from the trustees of *Benjamin Price* to *Aquila Parkes*."

Aquila Parkes = Aquilla Parkes = Acquila Parkes = Aquila Parks

Dudley and District News 13/5/1882

"At the Old Hill Police Court on Wednesday, before Messrs. W. Bassano and C. Holcroft, William Ball, alias George Keel, Poplar Place, Bridge Street, West Hockley, Birmingham, pearl and stud turner, and John Johnson, 12, Eaton Street, Hockley, pearl turner, were charged with uttering and putting off counterfeit coins representing half-crowns, and one florin, at Old Hill and Cradley Heath, on the 8th inst. On the prisoner Ball was found 8s 9d and five coins, and on Johnson 29s 7½d and two coins.

Joseph Manning, QUEENS HEAD, Corngreaves Road, said on Monday evening last the prisoners came to his house while he was sitting at tea. Ball called for two drinks, and was served by his wife, who called him to look at the half-crown they had tendered for the drink. He looked at the coin and broke it in two. It was bad, and he sent for a police officer, and detained Ball, but John-

son would not stay, and went out because he said he had nothing to do with Ball.

Aquilla Parkes, landlord of the BIRD IN HAND, Spinners End, said Ball came to his house on Monday afternoon about 4.30 and called for a glass of ale, tendering the base half-crown produced, he filled the glass of ale and gave him 2s 4½d back. It rang well on the counter. Ball drank the ale and went out. The next morning a police officer came and asked if he had taken any bad money, and his wife examined the money they took on Monday and picked the half-crown out, it being the only one they took that day. He identified Ball next day.

Susan Harris, wife of Thomas Harris, licensed victualler, CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Providence Street, New Town, said on Monday Ball came to her house and asked for a bottle of soda water, she had none and gave him a bottle of ginger beer, he tendered her half-a-crown, she gave him 2s 4½d in change and he went out. Next day she found that the coin was bad.

Louisa Nicklin said she was servant to Priscilla Foley, who kept the BRITISH OAK, High Street. On Monday afternoon both the prisoners came to the house and Ball called for a pint of ale. She filled it and Ball gave her half-a-crown which she took to her mistress who gave her change. She was quite sure that Johnson was with Ball. Priscilla Foley said when her servant brought the half-crown and she had given her the change she went into the shop and saw the prisoners standing by the counter. Two more men were with them. When she went into the bar Ball asked for the cup to be filled, and gave her a two shilling piece, she gave him 1s 9½d in change, they did not wait to empty their cup but said they must go so as not to be caught in the rain. Ball and Johnson then left the other men and went out. The two coins she received were bad, and she gave them to the police.

Emma Johnson (14), daughter of Samuel Johnson, the HEARTY GOOD FELLOW, King Street, Old Hill, said she saw the prisoners come into the house on Monday afternoon. Ball called for a quart of ale, she supplied it and Ball gave her half-a-crown in payment. She gave the change, Ball threw the drink down and both went out. Her father wanted some change and she took it to Chances for sixpences.

Hanna Webb, barmaid at Mr. John Foley's, the SWAN INN, Old Hill, said the prisoner came into the house and Ball asked for some ale and tendered her half-a-crown, she took the coin to Mrs. Foley and gave Ball the change. Hannah Foley said Hannah Webb brought her a half-crown which she put in her pocket with the other money. The same night she gave it to a police officer. PC Litherley said he was sent for to the QUEENS HEAD, Corngreaves Road, on Monday and received the half-crown produced, from Mr. Manning, who said in the presence of Ball, that he had received it from him. He took Ball into custody, and he at first gave the name of George Keel, Hart Yard, Hatton Garden, London, and said it was not half-a-crown but a two shilling piece which he gave. PCs Litherley and Lawrence proved receiving the base coins produced from the witnesses.

Inspector Walters said on Monday the prisoner Ball was brought to the station and gave the name of George Keel, Hart Yard, Hatton Garden, London. He declined to give any reference, and said witness might enquire about it. He took him to Birmingham to the detective department, where he saw detective Baker, who called Keel by his right name, and said, 'How do William Ball.' He then went to Ball's address in Bridge Street, West Hockley, and on going into the house he found the prisoner Johnson lying on a screen, he then gave the name of George William Hobson, No.13, Eaton Street, Abbey Fields, Hockley. He told him he would be charged with being in company with Ball the previous day at Old Hill, and passing counterfeit coins. He replied, 'I know nothing at all about it.' He searched him and found £1 9s 7½d all in small coins. He told him he would have to go with him to Old Hill, when he became very violent, and rushed to the table to get a knife, but he put the handcuffs on him and brought him to Old Hill. He was present in the office when Ball was identified, and he might add that he went to Eaton Street, Hockley, but no such person as the prisoner Johnson was known there.

Honor Chance, wife of John Chance, 2, King Street, underground manager for Messrs. Hingley, said she changed half-a-crown for Emma Johnson on Monday afternoon. Emma came and told her that it was a bad half-crown, and took it back.

Eliza Johnson, wife of George Johnson, publican, KINGS HEAD, Elbow Street, said four men came to her house on Monday, and Ball asked for half-an-ounce of tobacco and a pipe, and gave her half-a-crown which she changed. PC Rowlands came at night, and she found the coin was a bad one.

Mr. Henn, Cradley Heath, said PC Litherley showed him three half-crowns which he examined and found to be bad. They were made principally of lead. PC Rowlands also showed him four half-crowns, and one two shilling piece which were counterfeit. The half-crowns were all from the same mould, dated 1875, and plated.

Prisoners were remanded to Stafford to appear on Wednesday."

[At the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions, William Ball (32) and John Johnson (27), both button makers, were each sentenced to twelve months, Ball pleading guilty.]

Dudley and District News 10/6/1882

"The following persons, all of Cradley Heath, were charged by Mr. John George Horder, one of her Majesty's Inspectors of Weight and Measures, with infringing the Act.....

Acquilla Parkes, landlord of the BIRD IN HAND, Spinners End, was fined 1s and costs for having in his possession an unstamped pint measure."

Dudley and District News 22/3/1884

"Thomas Bradley and Joseph Priest were charged with being drunk on licensed premises.

Sergeant White stated that on the 15th inst, he visited the BIRD IN HAND, Cradley Heath. He saw the defendants there. They were very drunk. He called the landlord's attention to the state in which they were in, and he ordered them out.

PC Tytherley gave corroborative evidence.

Defendants were fined 1s and costs."

County Advertiser 30/8/1884

"William Westwood, Wagon Street, Old Hill, was fined 2s 6d and costs for being drunk and disorderly on the licensed premises of

Aquila Parkes, BIRD IN HAND INN, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 14/3/1885

“Ryland Barnsley, gun-barrel maker, Cradley Heath, was charged with being drunk on the premises of *Aquila Parkes*, the BIRD IN HAND, Spinner’s End, on the 2nd inst. Police-constable Tytherley went to the house and saw the man drunk there. A fine of 1s and costs was imposed.”

County Express 2/5/1885

“*Aquila Parkes*, landlord of the BIRD IN HAND INN, Spinners End, Cradley Heath, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his premises on Easter Monday last. Mr. Waldron prosecuted on behalf of the police authorities, Mr. E. Warmington defended. Police-constable Peake said he visited the house on the day named in company with Police-constable Kegan, at half-past seven in the evening. Going into the taproom they found fifteen or sixteen men, all more or less drunk, and using bad language. Witness complained to the defendant, and he replied that none of the men were drunk; they had not had drink enough yet. At half-past eight the house was again visited, and they found Stephens, one of the men who was previously there drunk, in the house still. He had an empty cup before him, and asked witness to pay for a pint for him. Witness again pointed Stephens out to the landlord, and the man was led out to the back by a man, where he was staggering about for some time.

Police-constable Kegan gave corroborative evidence.

Mr. Warmington for the defence said that Stephens had not been served with anything in the house, and had been ordered out several times by the defendant. He then called the defendant, who said he had not served Stephens with any ale on the occasion referred to. Stephens had been several times ordered off, as he was an annoyance in the house.

Benjamin Billingham, a brewer to defendant, said he had been serving ale in the house on the day named. Stephens called for no ale at all.

Defendant’s son, Thomas *Parkes*, was also called, and said no ale was supplied to Stephens.

Cross-examined witness said he could not say whether Stephens had drunk out of other customers’ cups.

Defendant was fined £1 and costs, and ordered to pay the prosecuting solicitor’s fee.”

County Advertiser 27/6/1885

“Arthur Tromans, Cradley Heath, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of *Aquila Parkes*, BIRD IN HAND INN, on the 16th inst. Prosecutor said that on the night in question the defendant came into his house and asked for beer. When refused the defendant used bad language, and had to be put out. Defendant was fined 5s, including costs.”

County Advertiser 29/8/1885

“On Wednesday the annual brewster sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Rowley Regis, were held at the Court House, Old Hill.....

The following was the black list Licensed victuallers.....

Aquila Parkes, BIRD IN HAND, Cradley Heath, permitting drunkenness, 22nd April, 1885, 20s and costs.....

The Bench said they would not now renew the licenses of those who had been convicted, but would reserve them for consideration till the adjourned licensing day.”

County Express 26/9/1885

“On Monday a large meeting of small chainmakers on strike was held at the BIRD IN HAND, Four Ways, Cradley Heath. Mr. Ed. Fellowes presided, and stated that he was convinced that if the men were unanimous in coming out on strike the struggle would be of short duration. Mr. John Cooper, the president of the Chainmakers’ Association, stated that there was also a good demand for chains, and there was no earthly reason why the work should be executed practically for nothing for the sake of a section of the employers, whose sole aim appeared to him to be cut down prices. He hoped the men would be firm, and then the victory would be theirs. Another speaker stated that a skilled workman, after paying his expenses, could not at present prices earn more than 9s a week. It was decided to continue the strike until the 4s list of prices is conceded.”

County Express 3/10/1885

“This being the adjourned licensing day the magistrates granted the renewal of licenses to the following persons, whose names had appeared on the black list.....

Aquila Parkes, BIRD IN HAND, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 29/9/1888

“*Aquila Parks*, landlord of the BIRD IN HAND, Spinners End, Cradley Heath, was charged with permitting gambling on his licensed premises, on the 18th inst. Mr. Travis defended.

Police-constable Davies stated that he went to the defendant’s house on the day in question, and saw four men gambling by throwing at corks, the company paying for the beer. When the game had ended, a man named Tom, who was the winner, called for a quart of ale, and the loser, whose name was Aston, said, ‘Put it down to me.’

Mr. Travis pleaded guilty to the offence, and said that the defendant did not know it was gambling to allow men to play for beer. Defendant, who had previously convicted, was fined £1 and £1 11s 10d costs.”

Dudley Mercury 16/3/1889 - Advert

“Staffordshire. Spinners End, Cradley Heath. Valuable Old-Licensed Freehold Public House and other Property.

Mr. H. King is instructed by the Trustees of the late Mrs. Heming, deceased, to Sell by Auction, on Tuesday, March 19th, 1889, at the BIRD IN HAND, Spinners End, Cradley Heath, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions of Sale. All that Freehold, Full-Licensed Public House, known as the BIRD IN HAND, situate fronting High Street, Spinners End, Cradley Heath, with Three Chain Shops and Appurtenances; also the Two Front Shops and Dwelling Houses adjoining, the whole in the occupation of Mr. *Aquila Parkes* and Mr. Abner Smith, producing a total rental of £71 per annum. The Property contains an area of 1,090 square yards, and extends to St. Luke Street, to which it also has a frontage. The Public House contains large Front Spirit Vaults, Tap and Smoke Rooms, Three Bed Rooms, large Club Room, Brewhouse, Four Cellars, also Stabling, with large warehouse over, and is in an excellent situation for business purposes. For further particulars, apply to Mr. Chas. E. Collis, Solicitor, Stourbridge; to Messrs. Mills and Curry, Solicitors, 20, Bucklersbury, London; or to the Auctioneer, Stourbridge."

County Express 23/3/1889

"Mr. H. King, Stourbridge, offered for sale by auction, the BIRD IN HAND INN, Spinners End, on Tuesday evening. The property was ultimately knocked down to Mr. Jas. Hadley, for £1,240. Mr. Chas. W. Collis was solicitor to the vendor."

Dudley Mercury 20/4/1889

"Inkerman Rose, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, was charged with being drunk and disorderly on the 19th January. Police-constable Jewson said he saw the defendant drunk in the BIRD IN HAND INN, Cradley Heath. He drank the customers' beer, broke several jugs, and threatened to break the windows. Defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs."

Dudley Mercury 31/8/1889

"The annual licensing session was held on Wednesday.....

The Black List contained the names of.....

Aquila Parkes, BIRD IN HAND, Cradley Heath, for permitting gambling fined 20s and costs, and for permitting drunkenness 20s and costs.....

None of these licenses were renewed."

Dudley Mercury 28/9/1889

"Adjourned Licensing Session. These sessions were held at Old Hill, on Wednesday. At the annual licensing sessions the magistrates decided to refuse to the licenses of those publicans who had been convicted during the past year, and at Wednesday's meeting the persons referred to applied for their renewals.....

Aquila Parkes, of the BIRD IN HAND INN, Spinners End, Cradley Heath, stated that his business had been disposed of, and that he would leave the premises in December.

Mr. *John Wright* applied for the renewal of the license, and informed the magistrates that the house had been purchased, and that *Parkes* would leave it shortly. The magistrates decided to renew the license."

Henry Mather issued tokens from here.

1891 Census

32, Spinners End – BIRD IN HAND INN

- [1] *Henry Mather* (38), licensed victualler, born Dudley;
- [2] *Mary Mather* (29), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] *Edith S. Mather* (5), daughter, born Dudley;
- [4] *Frederick L. H. Mather* (2), son, born Dudley;
- [5] *Emily Cooper* (25), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 14/11/1891

"At the Rowley Police Court, on Wednesday, *John Jones* (36) and *Thomas Pell* (22), chimney sweeps, of Birmingham, were charged with stealing half a sovereign, the property of Mrs. *Frederick Stanton*, fishmonger, Cradley Heath. It appeared that complainant had engaged defendants to sweep a chimney, and about 6.20am, on the 16th inst, the servant came to complainant's bed room, and asked for some money to pay the sweeps. It was dark and complainant took out of her purse a sixpence as she thought, but some time afterwards discovered that instead of giving a sixpence she had given a half sovereign by mistake. The men had then gone away, but afterwards returned for the soot. When complainant asked for the 9s 6d change out of the half sovereign *Jones* replied, 'I have not had a half sovereign,' and pulled out of his pocket a handful of silver, which included a five shilling piece, that he said he had had for two or three months. *Pell* also said he had not had the half-sovereign. On the night previous she had in her purse only one half sovereign, which was slightly worn, and similar to the one produced. *Sarah Homer*, the servant girl, after receiving the coin from her mistress did not examine it but gave it to the men. The defendants went away, and called at the house of *Henry Mather*, landlord of the BIRD IN HAND, Cradley Heath, shortly before seven o'clock am, and were supplied with 'two two's' of whiskey. *Jones* tendered half-a-sovereign in payment, and witness changed it. *Mather* gave him 9s 8d change, amongst it being a five shilling piece. *Jones* picked up the money, and defendant hurried away as soon as they got the change. Police-sergeant *Hayward* went to defendant's lodgings at Cradley Heath on Friday last. They denied having received the half-sovereign. *Jones* said he had not half-a-sovereign, and *Pell* said, 'I should like the chance to handle one.' In further conversation *Jones* said it was only sixpence that the girl gave him, and *Pell* said that was so. When the officer said he should charge them with stealing, *Jones* said, 'You can't call it stealing when a person gives you half a 'nicker' in mistake.' *Pell* said that if they had had

the money they should have given it back. Hayward reminded them of having changed half-a-sovereign that morning, and Pell replied, 'When I saw the change on the counter I thought it was the bloke at the boozer we had done down,' and Jones said, 'So did I.' Afterwards Jones remarked, 'It is no use denying it. We had the half-sovereign. It was a great temptation, and I don't think a policeman would have given it back.' (Laughter.) Pell added, 'If we had given the money back to the woman when we went for the soot, we should not have got into this.'

Inspector Bishop said Pell had been convicted nine times previously, and Jones seven times. Pell had also had two terms of supervision.

The Bench committed defendants to take their trial at the adjourned Sessions."

[John Jones and Thomas Pell each received two months' imprisonment.]

County Advertiser 2/9/1893

"Yesterday morning, Mr. Edwin Hooper (district coroner) held an inquest at the BIRD IN HAND INN, Cradley heath, touching the death of Alice Baker (19), a domestic servant, who was believed to have died from poisoning.

The first witness was Edward Baker, the father of the deceased, who said that he resided at Parkes Street, Brierley Hill. the deceased had been a domestic servant at the BIRD IN HAND INN about one month. She had previously held situations at Stourbridge and Kinver. He had not seen the deceased for two months. She left home about two years ago, in consequence of his marrying a second wife. The deceased was very passionate, and at times very sulky. From what he had heard, the deceased was happy in her situation. He had heard that she had a sweetheart at Stourbridge. He could not say why deceased would not speak to him if she met him in the street. She had, however, said she would sooner die than humble herself to her father.

She was annoyed at your getting married a second time, I suppose? – Witness: That is so.

Mary *Mather*, the wife of *Henry Mather*, licensed victualler, said the deceased had been in her employ five weeks. She had always been attentive to her work, and was of a lively disposition. She was not aware that the deceased had a sweetheart. There had not one come to the house whilst she had been there. On Tuesday afternoon, at about four o'clock, she found the deceased lying across her bed. She could smell carbolic acid, and on the table was a glass which had contained carbolic acid. Medical aid was quickly obtained, but it was of no avail, death taking pace at half-past six o'clock. Dr. Keay, upon seeing her said it was impossible to save her.

The Coroner: Where did she get the carbolic acid from? – Witness: From a shelf in the children's bed room.

The Coroner: That is not a very safe place. You ought not to have had poison in the children's bed room. What did you use the carbolic acid for? – Witness: For disinfecting the drains.

In reply to further questions, the witness said deceased appeared to be strange in her manner on the day she was found dead. She had said that she was not on friendly terms with her father.

Joseph Barnsley, jun., butcher, said he saw the deceased about four o'clock on Tuesday afternoon in the bar. Deceased said to him, 'You are a butcher. Which is the easiest way to kill yourself – by drowning or poisoning?' Witness replied, 'Eating and drinking until you burst.' (Laughter.) She said, 'I know a better remedy – carbolic acid' and witness replied, 'That is best left alone.' An hour later he heard that the deceased had poisoned herself.

Mr. *Mather* said that on Tuesday the deceased was frequently joking, and was full of fun.

The Coroner having summed up, the Jury returned a verdict that the deceased committed Suicide, but there was no evidence to show the state of her mind at the time she took the poison."

County Express 9/10/1897

"The second annual parade of Foresters in the Cradley, Cradley Heath, Quarry Bank, and Dudley Wood districts, for the benefit of the home at Clent, took place on Sunday afternoon, with every element of success attending it – the day was fine, the crowd was large, and the collections were very satisfactory. A pleasing feature about the parade was the number of members who turned out, and the number of courts. The following courts were represented.....

Cable and Anchor, BIRD IN HAND INN, Cradley Heath."

1901 Census

Spinners End – BIRD IN HAND

[1] *Henry Mather* (47), licensed victualler, born Dudley;

[2] *Mary Mather* (39), wife, born Dudley;

[3] *Edith S. Mather* (15), daughter, teacher, elementary school, born Dudley;

[4] *Frederick H. Mather* (12), son, scholar, born Dudley;

[5] *Florence Davies* (15), domestic servant, born Handsworth:

County Advertiser 5/11/1904

"On Saturday evening last the members of the sick and draw club held at the house of *Henry Mather*, BIRD IN HAND INN, Cradley Heath, dined together. Upwards of thirty members sat down to the capital repast provided by the host, after which Mr. W. King presided, and an excellent programme was carried through by Messrs. W. King, S. Taylor, A. Whittle, W. Shaw, S. Danks, H. Homer, and W. Kendrick. A vote of thanks to the host and hostess brought a pleasant evening to a close. Mr. S. Danks accompanied."

County Express 12/9/1908

"Friendly Societies' Parade. On Wednesday evening the committee of the above met at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Mr. W. Coley presiding over a large attendance. The following was a complete list of those boxes which contained amounts of 1s and

upwards.....

Mr. *H. Mather*, BIRD IN HAND, 6s.”

Tipton Herald 13/2/1909

“The employees of Lloyds Testing Co, Cradley Heath, held their annual dinner at the BIRD IN HAND, Spinners End, Cradley Heath. After doing justice to a good repast, which was catered for in an admirable manner by the Host and Hostess, Mr. and Mrs. *H. Mathers*, the remainder of the evening was spent in harmony.....”

County Express 21/1/1911 - Advert

“On Monday Next. Meredith Street, Cradley Heath. Sale Valuable of Freehold Properties.

E. O. Nightingale has received instructions to Sell by Auction, at the House of Mr. *H. Mather*, the BIRD IN HAND INN, Spinners End, Cradley Heath, on Monday, the 23rd day of January, 1911, at 7 o'clock in the Evening.....”

1911 Census

32, Spinners End

[1] *Henry Mather* (57), licensed victualler, born Dudley;

[2] *Mary Mather* (49), wife, married 26 years, assisting in business, born Dudley;

[3] *Edith Sarah Mather* (25), daughter, school teacher, born Dudley;

[4] *Frederick Harry Mather* (22), son, clerk, born Dudley;

[5] *Maud Phipps* (25), domestic servant, born Tipton:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/7/1929

“*Gazette* Insurance. Payments of Benefits for Minor Accidents.....

Mr. *Thomas Sidaway*, BIRD IN HAND, Spinners End, Cradley Heath. Accident to reader's child.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/9/1929 - Advert

“By Order of Messrs. Atkinsons Brewery Limited and Messrs. Peter Walker & Co. Limited.

In The Black Country Industrial Area, and Embracing Properties in Staffordshire and Worcestershire.

Important Sale In Separate Lots, of 45 Freehold Licensed Houses, some with adjoining properties, and including 36 Fully-licensed Houses, 8 On-Beer Houses and 1 Off-License, situate in.....

Old Hill and Cradley.....

BIRD IN HAND, Spinners End.....

Boswell & Tomlins, FAI, in conjunction with William Fowler, Bewlay & Co., Will submit the above for Sale by Public Auction, in 45 Lots (subject to Conditions of Sale), at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, on Monday, October 14, 1929, Commencing at 3.30 pm Promptly.

Printed particulars may be obtained from the Solicitors, Messrs. Redfern and Co., 25, Colmore Row, Birmingham; or from the Auctioneers, Messrs. Boswell and Tomlins, FIA, 88 and 89, Darlington Street, Wolverhampton (Tel. No.1116 (two lines), Telegrams ‘Auctions’), and Messrs. William Fowler, Bewlay and Co., 59, Temple Row, Birmingham (Tel. Midland 6120).”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/10/1929

“An important sale of freehold licensed premises in the Black Country was held at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, yesterday, when Messrs. Boswell and Tomlins, Wolverhampton, and Messrs. William Fowler, Bewlay and and Co., Birmingham, offered 45 lots, the vendors of which were Messrs. Atkinsons Brewery Ltd, and Messrs. Peter Walker and Co. Ltd.

Of the 45 lots which were situate at West Bromwich, Tipton, Dudley, Brierley Hill, Old Hill, and Stourbridge, 32 were sold at the sale, and these realised over £80,000.....

BIRD IN HAND, Spinners End, Cradley Heath, was sold for £2,600.”

1939 Register

39, Upper High Street

[1] *Thomas Priest*, date of birth 29/8/1894, publican, married;

[3] *May Priest*, dob 21/6/1893, (unpaid) house duties, married;

Jack Cartwright was married to Nancy.

He died in 1985.

See also WHITE HORSE, Cradley.

Nancy Cartwright died in 1987.

Mary Harris was married to Harry.

Ann Marie Garbett (nee Harris) was the daughter of Harry and *Mary Harris*.

She was born in October 1943 at Spring Meadow, Old Hill.

She married John *Garbett*.

Tipton Herald 22/9/1956

“Cradley Heath Old Age Pensioners Christmas Party Fund will be richer on October 3rd by £55. The money, which will be presented at the SWAN INN, Cradley Heath, is the net result of the newly-formed Detheridge darts competition. All told, 34 teams from Cradley Heath and its neighbouring districts took part in the competition which was eventually won in front of a 300 crowd by the BIRD IN HAND, Cradley Heath, who beat the ANCHOR ‘B’ team, also of Cradley Heath. Secretary C. Burtlett tells me next year’s competition will commence some time in March and is expected to attract an even greater number of entries.”

Closed

It was demolished in 1973 after being Compulsory Purchased.

BIRD IN HAND

Gorsty Hill, OLD HILL

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Child [1825]

NOTES

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 29/8/1825 - Advert

“Freehold Building Land, at Gosty Hill, in the Parishes of Rowley Regis and Hales Owen.

To be Sold by Auction, by Jesse Wright, at the dwelling house of *John Child*, the BIRD IN HAND INN, at Gosty Hill, in the parish of Hales Owen, in the county of Salop, on Thursday the 8th day of September, 1825, precisely at three o’clock in the afternoon, and subject to such conditions as will then be produced.

Lot 1. All that Dwelling House and Premises now occupied by *John Child*, known by the sign of the BIRD IN HAND, consisting of three parlours, a large kitchen, excellent cellaring, brewhouse, stable, cowhouse, large garden, pleasantly situated by the side of the turnpike road leading from Hales Owen to Dudley and Rowley Regis.....

The above Public House and the Garden attached to it are situated in the county of Salop, the other lots are in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford. The premises are pleasantly situated and well supplied with water, and the land contains an excellent mine of clay.

Mr. *John Child*, the present tenant, will shew the same, and for further particulars apply at the office of Messrs. Bourne and Sons, or to the Auctioneer, in Dudley.”

BLUE BALL

2, Peartree Lane (2, Pear Tree Street), (Pear Street), (Buck Street) / Petford Street, (Lawrence Lane), OLD HILL

OWNERS

William Foley, brewer, Old Hill [1898]

Albert E. Sidaway

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1938], [1952]

Avebury Taverns [2001]

LICENSEES

Joseph Willetts [1857] – [1862]

Benjamin Willetts [1864] – **1868**;

John Henry Stafford (**1868** – [1874])

James Willetts [1881] – **1884**;

John Henry Stafford (**1884**);

James Willetts (**1884** – [])

William Foley [1891]
Mrs. Mary Ann Foley [1891] – [1896]
James Price (1897 – []
David Charles Price [1898] – [1901]
Mrs. Louisa Ellen Price (1903)
Frederick Stanton [] – 1903);
Mrs. Mary Jane Weston (1903 – 1904);
Frederick ‘Fred’ Weston (1904 – [1912]
William Foley [1908] – [1912]
Clarence William Dingley [1916]
Henry Dingley [1919] – 1920);
Frederick Joseph Foley (1920 – 1922);
Hannah Williams (1922 – 1923);
Robert William Botfield (1923 – 1925);
Joseph Nock (1925 – 1931);
George Thomas Owen (1931 – 1941);
Mrs. Mildred Lucy Owen (1941 – 1946);
George Thomas Owen (1946 – 1948);
Harold Noah Homer (1948 – 1962);
George William Cresswell (1962 – 1965);
Geoffrey Harry Arthur Snape (1965 – 1966);
Barry Edward Blizard (1966 – []
George Brown []
Trevor Henry Smith [1983] – [1985]
David and Kathryn Jackson [2000] – [2001]
Janet Allbut [2002] – [2004]

NOTES

Buck Street
Lawrence Lane [1862], [1865]
2, Pear Tree Street [1881], [1891]
2, Peartree Lane [1908], [1912], [1924]

BALL [1873]

It is sometimes mis-spelt as the BLUE BOAR or the BLUE BELL.

County Advertiser 18/4/1857

“An inquest was held on the 4th inst, at the BLUE BELL [sic] INN, kept by *Joseph Willetts*, on the body of John Green, a child aged one year and four months, who met with his death under rather painful circumstances. On the afternoon of the 30th ult, the mother of the deceased was sitting at tea with him on her lap, when, by some means or other, she upset a cup filled with hot tea, which falling over him scalded him to that degree that death ensued two days afterwards. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/10/1858

“On Tuesday last an inquest was held before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, at Mr. *J. Willett*’s, the BLUE BELL [sic] INN, on the body of James Taylor, a miner, 28 years of age. It appears that the deceased was on the preceding Wednesday at work in one of the ironstone pits belonging to the British Iron Company at Netherton. He was engaged in holing stone, when suddenly a mass, nearly a ton in weight, detached itself from the roof, and falling upon poor Taylor, it required the force of three or four men to extract him from his situation. He was taken home at once, when medical aid being procured, it was found that he was dreadfully crushed and injured on his back and head, and from the effects of such injuries he died on the following Saturday. The place where the fall took place was considered safe, and it was the duty of deceased himself to see that it was so, there being plenty of timber for propping in the pit. When the place was tried it appeared ‘hard,’ but Taylor had incautiously been moving some loose stuff near, and thus caused the mass of stone to fall as above. The Jury, after hearing the remarks of the Coroner on the whole case, returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/1/1861

“An inquest was held on Thursday afternoon, at the BLUE BALL, Peartree Lane, Old Hill, before Mr. Hooper, coroner, on the body of Robert Rush, 35, who was killed at the colliery of Messrs. Skidmore and Waldron, on Tuesday. Mr. Baker, the Government Inspector of Mines, was present. It appeared that the deceased was at work at a quarter to nine o’clock, when he removed a prop and placed it near him, resting the lower end, which was sharp, on a heap of slack, and neglecting to put a board under it to prevent its sinking into the heap. The prop, in consequence of the omission, was forced into the slack, and the roof being unsupported gave way. A large mass of coal and rubbish immediately fell on the deceased, and crushed him in a fearful manner, killing

him instantaneously. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death. Deceased has left a widow and five small children.”

1861 Census

Peartree Street – BLUE BALL

- [1] *Joseph Willetts* (70), publican, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Elizabeth Willetts (67), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] Mary Willetts (55), daughter-in-law, born Shenstone, Staffordshire;
- [4] Prudence Willetts (17), grand-daughter, dressmaker, born Rowley Regis:

Benjamin Willetts = Benjamin Willets

County Advertiser 9/9/1865

“Keturah Tromans and Mary Ann *Willets* were charged with assaulting Hannah Detheridge on the previous Monday week. The first-named defendant is a servant at the BLUE BALL public house, Lawrence Lane, and the last-named is the wife of *Benjamin Willets*, the landlord of the BLUE BALL. The evidence of the complainant was to the effect that as she was passing the house the defendants came out and assaulted her. Tromans ‘beat her all into a mummy.’ The reason that Mrs. *Willets* assaulted her was that she had advanced her (complainant) 1s on her wedding ring, and would not now give it up, though she had offered her the 1s. Tromans, in defence, alleged that on the Sunday before the assault the complainant called her bad names, but it being Sunday she took no notice of the matter, and allowed it to stand over till Monday, when she did beat the complainant. Tromans was fined 1s and costs. *Willets* was discharged, as an action for the recovery of the ring had been entered in the County Court.”

County Advertiser 21/10/1865 - Death

“On the 10th inst, aged 5 years, Elisha, the beloved child of Mr. *Willetts*, BLUE BALL INN, Old Hill; deeply regretted.”

Stourbridge Observer 8/8/1868

“Samuel Nock was charged by *John Stafford* with assaulting him on the 25th ult. From the evidence of the complainant it appeared that he was landlord of the BLUE BALL, Old Hill. Defendant was there, and came behind him and struck him a blow on the neck while he was talking to another man. Did not give the defendant any provocation. It was a lodge night. The Bench considered the case proved, and fined the defendant 2s 6d and costs. There was a charge against the defendant of refusing to leave the BLUE BALL when requested. This case was withdrawn on the payment of costs.”

County Advertiser 8/8/1868

“Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, held an inquest on Tuesday, at the BLUE BALL public house, Old Hill, on the body of a little girl named Alice Jane Hackett, aged about seven years. On the previous Friday the deceased was, with a number of other children, roasting potatoes on the ‘mount’ of the Brettell Pit. By some means her clothes caught fire, on perceiving which she ran in the direction of home. There was a strong breeze at the time, and the consequence was that the flames spread with rapidity. Deceased was so severely injured that death took place on Sunday. Mr. Hodgson, surgeon, attended the deceased. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

County Advertiser 27/11/1869

“On Monday an inquiry was held at the BLUE BALL INN, Old Hill, on the body of Harry Wilshaw, a boy four years of age. On the morning of the 26th of October the mother of deceased left him in bed. Shortly afterwards she heard screams, and on rushing upstairs found him in flames. There had been a box of matches left in the room, and while deceased was playing with these something caused them to ignite. Dr. Malins was sent for, but despite medical aid the poor lad expired about three weeks after the accident. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

1871 Census

Peartree Street – BLUE BALL

- [1] *John H. Stafford* (29), licensed victualler, born Worcestershire;
- [2] Prudence Stafford (27), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] James H. Stafford (5), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] John J. Stafford (7), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Mary Ann Taylor (24), domestic servant, born Worcestershire:

County Advertiser 17/6/1871 - Advert

“HARE AND HOUNDS INN, Careless Green, near Wassell Green.

The Proprietor, Mr. G. Newnham, begs to announce that he intends to hold a Grand Gala, Pic-Nic, and Fete, on the Beautiful Grounds, adjoining the above Inn, on Monday, June, 19th, 1871, and has secured the services of the Cradley Heath Brass Band! To perform a choice selection of Vocal and Instrumental Music at intervals, under the leadership of Mr. W. Bennett.

Myers Barnett, the splendid Serio-Comic Singer, from the London Music Hall, will appear.

The following amusements will take place: Dancing on the Green, Foot Racing, Foot-balling, Climbing the Pine Pole, and all the Old English Sports.

Balloon Ascents at intervals; and at Nine o'clock a Monster Balloon will ascend, surrounded with a Blaze of Fireworks and Coloured Fires, by a celebrated Artiste.

A large tent will be erected on the Grounds, and refreshments of the best quality will be provided for the occasion. The Grounds will be open at Two o'clock.

Tickets 4d each, if purchased before the day; at Gate 6d each.

Tickets may be had at the above Inn, and of Messrs. W. Rhodes, RAILWAY INN, Lye; W. Wallins, HOLLY BUSH INN, Lye; W. Westwood, WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Cradley Forge; S. Cartwright, VINE AND RAILWAY INN, Cradley Heath; H. Heaton, FIVE WAYS, Cradley Heath; *John Stafford*, BLUE BALL INN, Old Hill; and any Member of the Band."

County Advertiser 14/10/1871

"*John Stafford*, landlord of the BLUE BALL, Old Hill, was charged with selling a quantity of rum on the 8th inst, during prohibited hours. Police-constable Griffin deposed that he saw the defendant's servant serve a little girl with three pennyworth of rum, about half-past eight on the previous Sunday morning. The defendant admitted that his servant had sold the rum, but affirmed that she had done so without his knowledge. He further stated that the little girl told his servant that the spirits were for a person who was very ill. Sergeant Powner, in answer to the Bench, said that the defendant had kept the house about five years in an orderly manner. The defendant was ordered to pay costs."

County Advertiser 13/7/1872

"The annual dinner in connection with the United Brotherly Order of Oddfellows, numbering 150, took place at the house of Mr. *John Stafford*, BLUE BALL, Old Hill, on Monday. The members started in their full regalia and silk scarves, headed by the Cradley Heath Brass Band, to the house of their medical and honorary brother, Mr. Kerr, where they were supplied with ale. They then proceeded to the Wesleyan Chapel, where a sermon was preached by the Rev. T. Dodd, of Dudley. After the service the brothers, accompanied by the rev. gentleman and some friends, marched to the Lodge, and dined in the usual good English style. After dinner, the accounts, &c, were examined, and reported to be in a satisfactory condition. Mr. Kerr, in commenting upon the accounts and the report, said that he was highly gratified to find the Lodge in such a flourishing condition. He believed that it was one of the strongest and most successful lodges he knew of, and hoped it would continue to prosper in the manner it had for many years. Votes of thanks were given to the host and hostess, Mr. Kerr, Mr. D. Priest (secretary), Mr. J. Tromans, and also the musicians. A pleasant evening was spent."

County Advertiser 16/5/1874 - Advert

"Wanted, a Servant to undertake all work.

Apply, *J. Henry Stafford*, BLUE BALL INN, Pear Tree Street, Old Hill."

Dudley Herald 1/4/1876

"Thomas Priest, secretary of the Miners' Association Lodge held at the BLUE BALL, Peartree Street, Old Hill, appeared on remand, charged with having on diverse days between the 14th March 1874 and the 13th August 1875 misapplied various sums of money, amounting to £6 7s, with intent to defraud the trustees. Mr. Stokes appeared to prosecute, and Mr. Clulow defended. Mr. Stokes said that by the Act of Parliament under which he was proceeding there were two courses open to him – to indict the defendant and get a committal to the Sessions, or to apply for summary conviction, when the defendant was liable to a penalty of £20, and to be ordered to refund the money, and he (Mr. Stokes) proposed to take the latter course.

After hearing the evidence on both sides, the Bench fined defendant £5 and costs, and ordered him to refund the £6 7s, in default two months' imprisonment.

Defendant applied for time to pay the money, but the Bench refused the application."

County Advertiser 21/7/1877

"Samuel Morris was charged with having been disorderly at the BLUE BALL INN, Pear Tree Street, Old Hill, and with having refused to quit the house when ordered to do so by the landlord. He was fined 2s 6d and costs."

County Advertiser 19/7/1879

"The annual meeting of the United Brotherly Order of Odd Fellows was held on Monday last, at the BLUE BALL INN, Pear Tree Street, when upwards of 140 sat down to dinner. The funds of the society were stated to be in a very satisfactory condition. The usual toasts were given, and the evening was spent convivially."

James Willetts = Samuel Willetts

1881 Census

2, Pear Tree Street – BLUE BALL INN

[1] *James Willetts* (38), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Elizabeth Willetts (32), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Elisha Willetts (12), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Benjamin Willetts (10), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Walter Willetts (8), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Mary Willetts (6), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 17/9/1881

“Samuel Willets, BLUE BALL INN, Pear Tree Street, Old Hill, was fined 1s and costs for allowing a horse to stray in Lawrence Lane.”

County Express 4/2/1882

“*James Willets*, landlord of the BLUE BALL INN, Peartree Street, Old Hill, was charged with allowing a horse to be worked whilst in an unfit state, and was fined 5s and costs. James Bayliss was fined 5s including costs for working the horse.”

Dudley and District News 8/12/1883

“Alleged Embezzlement.

This was a summons brought by *James Willets*, landlord of the BLUE BALL INN, Peartree Street, Old Hill, against John Williams, of Reddal Hill, Old Hill, charging him ‘that he, being a member of a certain co-partnership, did steal or embezzle certain money, to wit £3 10s 2d belonging to such co-partnership.’

Mr. J. Wright, who appeared for the prosecution, stated that for some time the parties had been partners, and there was simply a dispute of affairs between them. He felt that the Bench would not commit the defendant, and asked permission to withdraw the summons.

Mr. T. Cooksey, on behalf of the defendant, said he believed it was entirely a matter of dispute as to the accounts of the parties, and was a matter for a civil court.

The summons was allowed to be withdrawn.”

Dudley and District News 5/1/1884

“*James Willets*, landlord of the BLUE BALL INN, Pear Tree Street, Old Hill, was summoned for being drunk on his licensed premises. On the night of the 25th ult, Inspector Willets visited the premises and found defendant drunk in the tap-room. Defendant, through Mr. Wright, pleaded guilty, and was fined 10s and costs.”

Dudley and District News 29/3/1884

“*James Willets*, landlord of the BLUE BALL INN, Peartree Street, Old Hill, was fined 20s and costs, for being drunk and disorderly on his own licensed premises, on the evening of the 17th inst. Defendant said he had given way to drink in consequence of his wife refusing to let him have any at home.”

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 presented the black list.....

Mr. J. Wright applied for an interim authority from *James Willets*, BLUE BALL INN, Old Hill, who had been twice convicted, to *John Henry Stafford*. The application was granted.”

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. *James Willets*, BLUE BALL, Enoch Westwood, OLD ENGINE, Sarah Morris, PIG AND WHISTLE, Old Hill, Philip Mansell, BULLS HEAD, Windmill End, and Elisha Waring, SEVEN STARS, Tividale.”

Dudley Mercury 27/7/1889

“A striking instance of the fidelity of a dog has been afforded this week in connection with a sad railway fatality at Cradley Heath. The body of a young man named Patrick White (18), a farmer, residing at Codsall, near Wolverhampton, was found on Sunday, on the Great Western Railway, midway between Old Hill and Cradley Heath. On Saturday night the deceased visited Old Hill, and after transacting business, he called at a public house. He left late at night, accompanied by a terrier dog. On Sunday morning some men were attracted to the railway by the barking of a dog, and upon getting up a steep embankment, they were horrified to find White’s mangled body. The face was reduced to a pulp, and some of the limbs were severed from the body. It is supposed that the deceased was knocked down by a train early on Sunday morning. It is stated that the dog followed the remains from where they were found to his late home, and has several times since been to the scene to the accident.

An inquest was held on Monday, at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, by Mr. Topham (deputy coroner) relative to the fatality. Evidence was given that deceased visited Old Hill on Saturday night and called at the BLUE BALL INN, when he intimated his intention of walking home along the railway. Nothing further was heard of him until his body was found in the four-foot. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/11/1890

“Last night a well-attended meeting of miners was held at the BLUE BALL INN, Old Hill. Mr. B. Winwood (agent), in the course of a long address, remarked that there were various opinions as to how the eight-hours working day should be secured for miners. Some thought it should be granted to them by Act of Parliament. He did not care much as to how it was obtained, but he meant to do this utmost to accomplish it, because he knew it was wanted by the men. He observed that Mr. Hickman had been speaking on the eight-hours question, and said that the miners did not want to work more than seven hours a day. (Hisses.) He (the speaker) asserted without fear of contradiction, that the miners in the Black Country at the present time worked nearer nine than eight hours

per day. There were so many things to be done before the men commenced their day's work, and after they had finished their ordinary task, that the men were employed on an average about nine hours per day. The federation were determined to secure eight-hours working-day from bank to bank. Mr. Hickman's estimate that if the Eight-hours Bill was passed it would mean an increase of 2s per ton upon the cost of getting the coal he considered erroneous and misleading. But, cost what it might, they were determined to have the eight-hours day, either by Act of Parliament or a national strike. (Applause.) If they failed to obtain it at the proposed conference of the employers, then the whole of the miners in the country would be called out on strike. (Applause.) A resolution was passed unanimously approving of the course taken by the Bristol conference with regard to the men's representatives meeting the employers to discuss the eight-hours proposal, and to obtain the views of Parliament on the question, and agreeing to be represented at such conference when it is held."

County Express 7/2/1891

"William Southall, Pear Tree Street, Old Hill, was charged with being disorderly on the premises of *Mary Ann Foley*, the BLUE BALL, Pear Tree Street, Old Hill, and was fined 2s 6d and costs."

1891 Census

2, Pear Tree Street

- [1] *William Foley* (25), licensed brewer, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Mary A. Foley* (28), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *John B. Foley* (5), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *William Foley* (4), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Edith A. Foley* (2), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Priscilla Phipps* (17), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis;

Birmingham Daily Post 9/7/1891

"At the Old Hill Police Court, yesterday, *Mary Ann Foley*, landlady of the BLUE BALL INN, Old Hill, was summoned for permitting betting on her licensed premises on Sunday, 28th June. Mr. Waldron prosecuted, and Mr. Ward defended. The case for the prosecution was that on Sunday, 28th June, the defendant's house was crowded with people, and they were betting on a dog-race which was to take place on the following day. The people in the various rooms were making bets on the dog-race, and Mr. and Mrs. *Foley* were going in and out, and could have heard the betting going on. A man named Bannister made a bet with another man named Jeavons. Nock, the owner of one of the dogs, Judy, was serving beer. Mr. Ward submitted that the landlady did not know that betting was going on in her house, and if that was the case there could be no conviction. Mr. Bassano (chairman) remarked that there was not sufficient evidence to warrant a conviction against the landlady, and the case would be dismissed."

County Express 29/8/1891

"The annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis division of Staffordshire were held at the Police Court, Old Hill, on Wednesday.....

The application on behalf of *Mary Ann Foley*, of the BLUE BALL INN, Pear Tree Street, was made by Mr. S. Ward (Dudley). Inspector Bishop said the applicant was summoned on the 8th of July under the Betting House Act, the case being dismissed. Mr. Ward said that the case having being dismissed, he did not think the police could go behind the dismissal. Inspector Bishop said he had been directed to serve Mrs. *Foley* with an objection notice, and the police objected also to the premises on account of their not being structurally adapted for licensed premises. He had a letter from Mr. Ward, asking him to see Mrs. *Foley*, and promising that anything he suggested to make the premises more select should be done. Witness had been to the premises and suggested that they should be walled in. Mr. Goodman (magistrates' clerk) said the conviction did not take place owing to a technical difficulty. Mr. Ward said with regard to the alterations, anything suggested by the police should be carried out before the adjourned licensing meeting. He did not wish to raise any objection to the notice served upon Mrs. *Foley*, but he submitted that it was bad. The notice stated that the house was the resort of betting men. It was no offence for a betting man to go into a public house if he did not bet. Mr. Benjamin Hingley said with respect to the remark made by Mr. Waldron that a certain house was necessary for the requirements of the district, the Bench were of opinion that if they went into that question they would have a very difficult task to perform. They felt disposed to refuse a great many licenses, but they did not want to adopt any stringent measures. At the same time, however, they did not take the view that licenses were strictly given to individuals. The houses were licensed houses, and if offences were committed in them the owners of the houses would at any rate, in the future, have to bear the penalty. Adjourned."

County Express 3/10/1891

"Old Hill Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. W. Bassano said the only case in which they proposed not to renew the license was in the case of the CROSS INN, Old Hill.....

Mr. Ward asked if all the other licenses were granted without any special application being necessary. Mr. Bassano said this was so. Of course they had, in the exercise of their discretion, thought there were several cases in which they might reasonably withhold the license, and the Bench had had a long discussion that morning before coming into Court as to whether they should do so in the case of a man fined £10 and costs. However, they had decided to grant the whole of the licenses this year, and they gave an intimation that in future the Bench would deal very stringently in cases of conviction under the licensing laws, both as regards the amount of fines and endorsements, and in the cases of endorsements they would deal more stringently. In plain English, this meant that a person with an endorsement against the house would in future have a very small chance indeed of getting his license renewed. They hoped the licensed victuallers and other licensed persons in the district would take a warning from that."

County Express 27/2/1897

“Jemima Price, an old woman, of Lion Lane, Old Hill, was charged with stealing two packets of tobacco, a bottle of ginger beer, and a salt cellar, the property of *William Foley*, BLUE BALL INN, Old Hill, on the 16th inst. Mr. Ward defended. The magistrates thought there was not sufficient evidence as to the salt cellar, but thought there was no doubt the defendant stole the ginger beer and tobacco, and fined her 20s and costs.”

County Advertiser 29/5/1897

“A temporary authority to sell liquor at the BLUE BALL INN, Old Hill, was granted to *James Price*.”

County Advertiser 6/8/1898 - Notice

“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 Premises hereinafter mentioned are situate.

I, *David Charles Price*, now residing at the BLUE BALL INN, Pear Tree Street, Old Hill, in the County of Stafford, Do Hereby Give Notice, that it is my intention to Apply, at the next General Annual Licensing Meeting, to be holden at the Public Office, at Old Hill, in the said County of Stafford, for the Provisional Removal and Confirmation of a License to hold any of the Excise Licenses that may be held by a Publican to Sell by Retail, under the Intoxicating Liquor Licensing Act, 1828, and Acts amending the same, Intoxicating Liquor to be consumed either on or off the House or Premises, situate and being in Pear Tree Street, Old Hill, aforesaid, and known by the sign of the BLUE BALL INN, and now in my occupation, from the last-mentioned Premises to new Premises about to be erected, and to be situate at the corner of Pear Tree Lane and Petford Street, Old Hill, in the said Parish of Rowley Regis, and County of Stafford.

I Hereby Further State that William Foley, of Old Hill, aforesaid, Brewer, is the owner of the said Premises. That such House when built will be of the annual value of £40 0s 0d, and will contain, exclusive of the rooms occupied by the Inmates thereof, Three Rooms.

Given under my hand this 25th day of July, 1898.

David Charles Price.

Witness: David Wall, Clerk with Mr. J. W. Clulow, Solicitor, Brierley Hill.”

Dudley Herald 27/8/1898

“The annual Licensing Sessions of the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division was held at the Old Hill Police Court on Wednesday.....

Mr. W. Clulow (Brierley Hill), on behalf of *David Charles Price*, applied for a removal of the license of the BLUE BALL INN to premises about to be erected at the corner of Pear Tree Lane and Petford Street. Mr. Clulow pointed out that the present buildings were in a dilapidated condition, and it had been a licensed house for a number of years, and the substantial manner in which the new building was proposed to be erected would effect a considerable improvement.

The Chairman said if the application was granted there must be none of those aids and inducements so much practised, viz, dancing and singing. There were in the parish more licenses than were required, and if the police and the Bench desired to get rid of a few it must be by extinguishing one or more where they were thickest.

The application was granted.”

County Advertiser 8/10/1898

“The annual meeting of the Licensing Committee of the county of Stafford was held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Saturday.....

Mr. J. Walter Clulow applied for the confirmation of a provisional grant which was made by the Old Hill Licensing Justices on the 24th August last, for the removal of the full license held by *David Charles Price*, at present at the BLUE BALL INN, Peartree Street, Old Hill, to a new hotel about to be erected in Petford Street and Peartree Lane, Old Hill. The Licensing Committee granted the application.”

County Advertiser 26/8/1899

“The Licensing Sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday, at Old Hill.....

On the application of Mr. Clulow, the magistrates approved of the structural alterations carried out on the premises of the NEW BLUE BALL INN, Peartree Street, Old Hill.”

1901 Census

Petford Street

- [1] *David Charles Price* (58), publican, born Evesham;
- [2] *Ellen Louisa Price* (48), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] Lucy Elizabeth Harrison (24), niece, domestic servant, born Evesham;
- [4] Albert Edward Robins (9), nephew, born Evesham;

County Express 1/6/1901

“On Wednesday morning Mr. H. A. Pearson (South Staffordshire coroner) held an inquest at the BLUE BALL HOTEL, Peartree Lane, Old Hill, concerning the death of Thomas Frederick Stevens, aged 2½ years, the son of Thomas Stevens, tube worker, Peartree Street, who had died from scalds.

The evidence showed that on the 20th May, the deceased, when passing the kitchen fire, caught hold of the saucepan handle and

upset the saucepan, which contained boiling water and potato peelings. The water fell on to the child's head and breast, and also on the feet of Thomas Stevens, the father, both being badly scalded. The deceased died on the 26th May.

Dr. De Denne said the injuries were of a very extensive character, and death was due to shock.

Inspector Hodgkinson said as the result of inquiries he could not say that the parents were in any way to blame. They had the reputation for properly looking after their children.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

David Charles Price died in the 1st quarter of 1903.

County Advertiser 5/9/1903 - Advert

"BLUE BALL INN, Old Hill, Staffs.

Mr. T. Pateshall is instructed to Sell by Auction, as above, on Monday Next, September 7th, 1903, the General Household Furniture and Effects, comprising Marble Eight-day Time-piece, Bronze Marble Horses, Pier Glass, in black and gold frame; Lady's and Gentleman's Mahogany Easy Chairs, Mahogany and Cane-seated and Windsor Chairs, Mahogany and Deal Tables, Musical Box, Oil Paintings and Water Colour Drawings, Walnut Over-mantel, Elegant Walnut Drawing Room Suite, in crimson plush; Gipsy Table, Dinner and Tea Services, Full-compass Cottage Pianoforte, in walnut case; Handsome Walnut Duchesse Toilet Table and Wash Stand, Toilet Ware, Mahogany Chests of Drawers, Brussel's Carpet, Night Chair, Four Sets of Brass-mounted and Iron French Bedsteads, Feather Beds, Mahogany Sofa, Mahogany Corner Cupboard, &c, &c, belonging to representative of the late Mrs. *Louisa Ellen Price*.

Sale at Eleven o'clock.

Catalogues from the Auctioneer, Cradley Heath."

County Advertiser 3/10/1903 - Advert

"Re Mrs. *Louisa Ellen Price*, Deceased.

All Persons having any Claims or Demands against the Estate of Mrs. *Louisa Ellen Price*, late of the BLUE BALL INN, Old Hill, in the County of Stafford, Innkeeper and Widow, deceased, who died on the 30th day of August, 1903, are requested to Send Particulars of the same to the undersigned on or before the 10th day of October next.

Dated this 23rd day of September, 1903. Thomas Cooksey, Old Hill, Staffs, Solicitor for the Executor."

It had a bowling green. [1904]

County Advertiser 30/1/1904

"Air-Gun Shooting. Friendly. REINDEER, Cradley Heath, 309. BLUE BALL, Old Hill, 281."

County Advertiser 30/1/1904

"The following licenses were transferred.....

BLUE BALL INN, Old Hill, *Mary Jane Weston* to her husband, *Frederick Weston*."

County Advertiser 27/8/1904

"On Sunday afternoon the eighth annual parade and service arranged by the various friendly societies in the Old Hill district took place under favourable circumstances. The proceedings commenced with a large procession.....

The Old Hill Brass Band started from the BLUE BALL INN, Peartree Street, and proceeded by way of Peartree Street, Ridding Street, and New Street to Halesowen Road, calling for societies at the GEORGE HOTEL. Afterwards they proceeded across Spring Meadow and Cherry Orchard to the field.....

Upon arrival at the field a grand procession was formed This paraded the principal streets of the locality for some time, after which they proceeded to a field in High Street, kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. A. E. Sidaway. Here a service was held, the chair being occupied by Dr. T. E. Mitchell. Notwithstanding the threatening state of the weather there was a large attendance.....

A collection was made upon the route, and at the service, on behalf of the Dudley Guest Hospital, Dudley Dispensary, Birmingham Eye Hospital, Birmingham General Hospital, Birmingham Ear and Throat Hospital, and the Old Hill Nurses Fund."

County Advertiser 27/8/1904

"An occasional license was granted to *Frederick Weston*, BLUE BALL INN, Cradley Heath, from two till eight pm on Saturday, on the occasion of the Cradley Heath band contest."

County Advertiser 22/10/1904

"On Saturday evening last, at the BLUE BALL INN, Old Hill, there was a large gathering of members of the Order of Druids Friendly Society and others, for the purpose of making a presentation to Brother Joseph Westwood, who has been for nine years secretary to the Pride of the Bridge Lodge of the Order (Dudley and Tipton District). Bro. Dearn, DDMG, presided, and among those present were *Fred Weston* (host).....

[Joseph Westwood was presented with a clock and two bronze Marly horses.]

County Advertiser 19/5/1906

"On Monday night, a smoking concert, for the benefit of James Morgan, of Old Hill, took place at the BLUE BALL HOTEL. Mr. D. Gill occupied the chair. Messes. Charles Gee, S. Evans, G. Plimmer, F. Morgan, F. W. Hudson, J. H. Taylor, A. James, and J.

Cox contributed items, and Messrs. J. H. Williams and D. Adams acted as accompanists.”

County Advertiser 23/6/1906

“Mr. W. L. Lewis (deputy coroner) held an inquest last night at the BLUE BALL INN, Old Hill, concerning the death of Alice Finlow, two years of age, whose parents reside at Peartree Street, Old Hill. It appeared that on Wednesday the child was playing in the brewhouse, and was missed by the mother. A search was made, and after some time the dead body of deceased was found in a cistern. The boards which covered the cistern were decayed, and had given way. The jury found a verdict of Accidental Death.”

County Advertiser 27/10/1906

“Mr. G. C. Lewis (coroner) held an inquest at the BLUE BALL INN, Old Hill, on Tuesday night, respecting the death of Beatrice Edwards, aged two years and nine months, whose parents reside in Petford Street, Old Hill, and who died on the 22nd inst from the effects of severe scalds sustained on the 17th inst. The evidence showed that on the latter date a sister, who is an imbecile, was lifting a bowl of boiling water when she slipped, and it toppled over upon the deceased, who was badly scalded about the neck and arms. The child was attended by Dr. Tibbetts but died as stated from shock. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

County Advertiser 3/11/1906

“Friendly Societies Committee. On Thursday night the annual dimmer in connection with this committee was held at the BLUE BELL [sic] INN, Old Hill. A capital repast was provided by the host (Mr. *F. Weston*) after which Councillor J. Wheeler presided.....”

Leominster News 12/4/1907

“Mr. G. C. Lewis on Wednesday held an inquest at the BLUE BALL INN, Old Hill, respecting the death of Ann Smart (77), of Yew Tree Lane, Rowley, which occurred under strange circumstances on the 9th inst. The evidence showed that some time ago deceased was blown over during a gale and sustained a severe injury to her elbow. She recently went to live with a relative at Petford Street, Old Hill, and was supplied with a quantity of liniment containing poison for the purpose of rubbing her elbow. On the 7th inst deceased, whilst in bed, drank a quantity of the liniment believing it to be a bottle of medicine. When deceased realised her mistake she shouted to her relatives, and Dr. Tibbetts was at once summoned. Death, however, resulted on the following day. The jury returned a verdict of Death by Misadventure.”

County Advertiser 13/7/1907

“On Saturday night the annual dinner in connection with the Old Hill Red Rose Football Club was held at the BLUE BALL INN, Peartree Lane, Old Hill. About fifty members and supporters of the club sat down to an excellent repast prepared by the host and hostess (Mr. and Mrs. *F. Weston*). Subsequently Mr. James Wheeler presided over the gathering.....”

County Express 8/5/1909

“A general meeting of the members of the Cradley Heath St. Luke’s Football Club was held at the BLUE BALL INN, Old Hill, on Monday for the purpose of considering the advisability of converting the club into a limited liability company. There was only a small attendance.....”

Tipton Herald 11/9/1909

“The annual dinner of the Pride of the Bridge Lodge, Order of Druids, was held at the Lodge House on Saturday, when a good number of members sat down to an excellent repast provided by the host, Bro. *Fred Weston*, Old Hill, in a manner which reflected great credit on him as a caterer.....

Bro. Joseph Westwood (secretary) congratulated the lodge upon the position it had attained. Financially, they stood equal to any in the district. Its degree of solvency was 31s 6d in the £; its average age was only 27 years; its sickness experience was only four days per member, and they had gained £30 during the year, having gained in the past ten years £178. The worth of the Order was £200,000, with a membership upwards of 85,000. He urged upon the members to do their best to bring new members, as no other society offered better benefits, independent of the Accident Compensation Fund, from which Bro. Joseph Dearn received a grant of £15 on account of his accident.

Votes of thanks to the host for his able catering, and the chairman, brought a very enjoyable evening to a close.”

County Express 17/9/1910

“The Order Of Druids. The fourteenth anniversary of the Pride of the Bridge Lodge was held at the BLUE BALL, Old Hill, on Saturday night, when upwards of thirty members sat down to an excellent dinner provided by the host, Mr. *Fred Weston*. After the withdrawal of the cloth, Bro. Frederick Neal, NGA, presided, and Bro. Joseph Hutland, VGA, was vice-chairman.....”

1911 Census

Peartree Lane – BLUE BALL INN

- [1] *Frederick Weston* (48), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Lillian Weston (25), wife, married 1 year, born Dudley;
- [3] Elizabeth Davis (25), general servant, born Cradley;
- [4] Florance May Whitcombe (14), general servant, born Woodside:

[Was *Frederick Weston* the manager for owner, *William Foley*?]

County Express 8/6/1912

“BLUE BALL Bowling Club, Old Hill.

A meeting was held at the above club house, on Tuesday evening for the purpose of presenting the pair of bowls to Mr. J. Jackson (captain) which he won in the bowling tournament on Saturday.....

Mr. Griffiths (secretary) announced that the last two matches played with the CASTLE INN had both resulted in victories, by 23 away from home and by 43 at home. This was a good start for the season.

Mr. S. Cockin proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. *Fred Weston* for presenting the bowls to the above club, and this was supported by Mr. H. Griffiths and other members of the above club.

After the meeting the members participated in an enjoyable smoking concert.”

Dudley Chronicle 27/7/1912

“Yesterday, at the BLUE BALL INN, Old Hill, Mr. G. C. Lewis (coroner) held an enquiry into the death of Fanny Westwood, a child of three years and seven months, daughter of William and Lily Westwood, of 64, Pear Tree Street, Old Hill, who died on Wednesday as the result of scalds sustained on Tuesday. From the evidence it appeared the child was playing in the yard, and fell into a bath of hot beer which had been placed in the entry by a neighbour named Mrs. Bowen. Another neighbour named Nock heard screams, and got the child out. Mrs. Bowen, in evidence, said it was her custom to put the hot beer in the yard and not in the entry, but it was raining on this day. Asked by the Coroner whether she did not think the practice a dangerous one, she replied that she would not do it again.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and expressed the hope that people who followed such dangerous practices would discontinue them.”

County Express 17/8/1912

“The Bowling Green.....

The BLUE BALL, Old Hill, received a visit from the DUKE WILLIAM. Rain spoilt a close contest when the visiting team were leading by 4 points. It was hard lines for the BLUE BALL, as their best bowlers had not bowled.”

Dudley Chronicle 31/8/1912

“The annual general meeting of the Cradley Heath St. Luke’s Football Club was held on Friday evening at the BLUE BALL HOTEL, Old Hill.....”

The Stage 18/5/1916 - Advert

“Wanted Known. Pianist at Lib, May 29, Ineligible. Ex. Refs. Pictures only. Satisfaction guaranteed.

Pianist, c.o. BLUE BALL INN, Old Hill, Staffs.”

It was the headquarters of BLUE BALL Rovers FC from the 1900s to the 1930s.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 31/8/1922

“Declaring that they did not consider the evidence sufficiently strong to justify a conviction, the magistrates at Old Hill yesterday dismissed a summons against *Hannah Williams*, licensee of the BLUE BALL INN, Petford Street, for supplying intoxicating liquor during prohibited hours on 5 August.

Summonses against Benjamin Tromans, licensee of the DUKE WILLIAM, Colley Gate; Frederick Denning, licensee of the CROWN INN, Kingswinford; and Frederick Tromans, of Intended Street, Cradley, for consuming the drink were accordingly not proceeded with.

The police observing a light in the smoke room at 11.15pm and hearing voices and the clinking of glasses, entered the premises from the rear. They found the three men and the husband of the licensee sitting in the room, a number of glasses, which with one exception, were empty, being upon the table.

The defence was that the three men were friends of the husband, and all the drinking which took place occurred before 10 o’clock. The clinking of glasses was caused, it was said, by the barmaid who was engaged in washing them.”

Robert William Botfield – see also ANCHOR, BELL and BEEHIVE, Cradley Heath.

It had a pigeon club.

George Thomas Owen – see also PACK HORSE.

Black Country Bugle

‘Old Hill Pub, No Mystery’ - letter from Mrs. E Stevens

“Sorry – I can’t remember all the names. The picture was taken during the war and most of those on it belonged to the BLUE BALL bowling team. Whilst her husband was in the navy, Mrs. *Owen* and myself looked after the pub.”

Harold Noah Homer – see also TIMBERTREE.

Sandwell Evening Mail 25/8/1987

“Black Country actor and comedian Ray Hingley After leaving school at 14 he wanted to go into showbusiness but had no connections, so started doing amateur concert party work. His first semi-professional job brought him ten old shillings from doing a monologue ‘Albert and the Lion’ in an upstairs room at the BLUE BALL INN, Old Hill.....”

Its name was changed to BLUE BULL. [1999]

Halesowen News 26/8/1999 - Advert

“The BLUE BULL. Under New Management.

Dave and Kath would like to extend a warm welcome to all customers old and new.

Bank Holiday Family Fun Day on Monday 30th August, 11am onwards, including Bouncy Castle, BBQ and Children’s Games.

Happy Hour Every Day 6pm - 9pm.

Traditional Irish music sessions each Monday from 8pm - 11pm.

Peartree Lane, Old Hill.”

Its name was changed to BLUE BALL. [2004]

[2005]

Its name was changed to GOLDMINE. [2007]

Closed [2007], [2008]

Halesowen News 19/1/2007

“A Cradley Heath pub, which recently shut its doors, could soon be demolished and redeveloped into a residential home if Sandwell Council planners give the green light. The council has received a planning application for the GOLDMINE public house, formerly the BLUE BALL, and its current fenced off car park in Peartree Lane. The application, submitted by Brightwell Properties Ltd, outlines plans to demolish the Victorian pub and construct a 38 bedroomed care home for the elderly. Planning Officer Mike Nicholls has recommended council planners pass the plans, stating a nursing home for the elderly would be an acceptable use in a residential area. Sandwell Council have also received an application to demolish the COOKSEY public house, with plans to build six two bed apartments. The traditional Victorian pub in Halesowen Road, has been closed and de-licenced for the past three years. Both applications will appear in front of councillors at a future planning committee meeting.”

[\[In 2008 planning permission was granted to demolish and build a care home.\]](#)

Demolished [2009]

BLUE BALL

Rowley Village, ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

LICENSEES

William Mills [1818] – [1834]

BOAT

141, (114), (67), Station Road, (14, (122), Granville Road), (122, Gorsty Hill), (Slack Hillock), OLD HILL

OWNERS

Joshua Hipkins, Brierley Hill

Smith and Williams (acquired on 22nd February 1928)

Julia Hanson and Son Ltd. (acquired in 1934)

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

Marstons plc

LICENSEES

J Edmonds [1831]
James Smith [1833] – [1849]
Elias Benton [1851]
James Smith [1852]
Elijah Benton [1854]
James Smith [1855]
Jane Benton [1861]
Jabez Tromans [1861] – [1872]
James Tromans [1862]
Jane Tromans [] – **1869**;
Joseph Tromans (**1869** – [1871])
Thomas Tromans [1881] – [1887]
William Tromans [1891] – [1901]
John Hingley [] – **1903**;
Enoch Rodnick (**1903** – [])
William Tromans [1908]
Sarah Tromans [] – **1908**;
Elizabeth Tromans (**1908** – [])
Sarah Tromans [1911]
Mrs. Eliza (**Tromans**) Willetts [1912] – [1916]
Isaac Hughes [1919] – **1926**;
Benjamin Davis (**1926** – **1928**);
William Powell (**1928**);
William Charles Smith (**1928** – **1932**);
William Powell (**1932** – **1934**);
James Leonard ‘Len’ Stafford (**1934** – **1940**);
Mrs. Agnes Rock (**1940** – **1948**);
Wilfred Hayes (**1948** – **1961**);
Harry Allport (**1961** – [1965])
Joe Marsh [1975] – [1978]
Bryan Blewitt [1984]
John Smith [1987]
Carol Salisbury (**1991** – [])
Sue Murphy []
Neal Hughes []
Elaine Gordon [2009]

NOTES

Slack Hillock [1851], [1861]
122, Gosty Hill [1881], [1891]
122, Granville Road [1896]
14, Granville Road [1901]
67, Station Road [1908], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1924], [1932], [1939], [1940]
114, Station Road [1993]
141, Station Road [1996], [2008]

It was situated close to the Dudley No.2 Canal.

It was popular with boatmen.

Aris: Birmingham Gazette 28/2/1831 - Advert

“To be Let, and entered upon immediately, a small Public House, called the BOAT, situate near Gosty Hill, Hales Owen. As the coming-in will be very low, this is a favourable opportunity for any young couple wishing to commence in the above line. Enquire of Mr. *J. Edmonds* on the premises.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/8/1847

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

On Monday at the BOAT INN, Rowley Regis, on the body of Jeremiah Brownes, aged 3 years, who accidentally fell out of his

father's boat into the canal, while passing through the Gusty Hill Tunnel, on Saturday night, and was drowned. Verdict Accidentally Drowned."

1851 Census

Slack Hillock

- [1] *Elias Benton* (36), victualler and engineer, born Tipton;
- [2] *Jane Benton* (36), wife, born Cradley;
- [3] *Elias Benton* (7), nephew, scholar, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *Sarah Whitehouse* (16), general servant, born Birmingham:

Hoof marks reported on the roof in 1855.

Elias Benton died in the 3rd quarter of 1859.

Jane Benton married *Jabez Troman* on 4th September 1860.

Jabez Tromans = *Jabez Troman* = *Jabez Trowmans* = *Jabez Yeomans*

1861 Census

Slack Hillock – BOAT INN

- [1] *Jabez Troman* (36), victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Jane Troman* (46), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Jane Morris* (19), general servant, born Brierley Hill:

Worcestershire Chronicle 1/10/1862

"William Smith, licensed victualler, Gorsty Hill, was summoned for having, on the 16th inst, unlawfully sold a quantity of ale on a race course without being duly licensed to do so. Defendant pleaded guilty, but urged that he had applied to the Excise for a license, and was informed that a license was not required, and that he might sell what he wished during the wake. The Clerk pointed out to the Bench that by the 25th Vic. chap.22, sec.13, the Commissioners of Inland Revenue could grant permission to licensed victuallers to sell on race courses after the consent of two Justice of the Peace had been obtained. He further suggested that as the Act was a new one, it could not be very well known, and that all purposes might be served if the defendant would plead guilty and pay costs. The defendant agreed to this course, and the case was dismissed.

John Wright and *James Tromans*, publicans at Gorsty Hill, were brought up on similar charges, and were dismissed under the same conditions."

Birmingham Daily Post 3/11/1862 - Advert

"Staffordshire. Desirable Freehold Property. Gorsty Hill, Rowley Regis.

Davies and King will Sell by Auction, Tomorrow (Tuesday), the 4th November, at Six o'clock in the Evening, at the house of *Jabez Trowmans*, the BOAT INN, Gorsty Hill, Rowley Regis."

Stourbridge Observer 22/8/1868

"An inquest was held on Monday last at the house of *Jabez Tromans*, Gorsty Lane, before Mr. E. Hooper, touching the death of *William Rose* (9).

From the evidence adduced it appears that the deceased went to fetch some water from the canal, about mid-day on Saturday last. He had been missed about half an hour.

Search was made for him, and he was found in the canal, and when taken out was dead.

The jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/11/1868

"Shocking Accident On The Stourbridge Extension Railway.

The first fatal accident on this line, which was opened on the 1st of April, 1867, occurred on Saturday morning, near the Old Hill Station. The goods train from Pontypool arrived here a few minutes before seven, and was accompanied by a young man named *Jno. Llewellyn*, aged 24 years, who was a junior guard. *Llewellyn* got out of the van at Old Hill for the purpose of uncoupling the train from the pilot engine, when somehow or other he missed his footing and fell under the train. The engine-driver a few seconds afterwards was horrified to see his body lying on the line, frightfully mangled; both his legs cut clean off, as well as his right hand and left arm. His body was at once conveyed to *J. Troman's*, the BOAT INN, where it lies awaiting the coroner's inquest. Unfortunately, deceased leaves a young wife and a child to lament his untimely end. Old Hill Station is only a mile from Hales Owen, and caused much excitement there. Great commiseration is expressed for the young widow."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/8/1869

"The annual licensing meeting for Rowley Regis division was held on Friday, at COOKSEY'S HOTEL, Old Hill.

Mr. Superintendent *Mills* handed in to the Bench the following list of licensed victuallers who had been fined within the last year.

Jabez Yeomans, BOAT, Gorsty Hill."

County Express 16/10/1869

“Transfer of Licenses.....

BOAT INN, Gosty Hill, from *Jane Tromans*, deceased, to *Joseph Tromans*.”

County Advertiser 16/7/1870

“On Tuesday evening, a boy, named Benjamin Billingham, about three years of age, son of a rivet-maker, living at Gorsty Hill, was missed from home. A search was instituted, and the canal close by dragged during the night. About five o'clock next morning his dead body was found in the canal, near the BOAT INN. At the inquest a verdict of Found Drowned was returned.”

1871 Census

Gosty Hill – BOAT INN

- [1] *Joseph Tromans* (81), licensed victualler and nail maker, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Maria Tromans* (21), grand-daughter, house keeper, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Elisha Willets* (56), lodger, nail maker, born Halesowen;
- [4] *Charlotte Brooks* (15), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

1881 Census

122, Gosty Hill – BOAT INN

- [1] *Thomas Tromans* (62), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Phoebe Tromans* (60), wife, born Cradley;
- [3] *George Tromans* (26), son, nail warehouseman, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Charlotte Tromans* (25), daughter-in-law, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Phoebe A. B. Tromans* (2), grand-daughter, born Rowley Regis:

Dudley and District News 27/8/1881

“Benjamin Smith, no address, was charged with stealing a silk handkerchief and a tin containing three pounds of preserved meat from the person of Mark Parkes, residing at Gorsty Hill.

Complainant said that while returning from Blackheath on the previous Saturday, he met defendant in the BOAT INN. They had a glass of beer, and left together. When undoing a gate near Gorsty Hill, his hand got entangled in a staple, and while he was in this condition prisoner snatched the handkerchief containing the meat out of his other hand, and made off. The following day he sought out prisoner and took the tin from him; but the meat had been eaten.

There being only one magistrate on the Bench, the case was remanded for a week.”

Dudley and District News 3/9/1881

“Benjamin Smith (45), labourer, no fixed address, was charged with stealing a tin containing 2lbs of preserved meat and a silk handkerchief, value 3s 6d, from Mark Parkes, labourer, on the road between Gorsty Hill and Blackheath, on the 13th inst. Complainant said he had been at Blackheath for the meat, and had the tin rolled up in his handkerchief. On the way home he went into the BOAT INN, where he met the prisoner. They left the Inn together, and when complainant was undoing a gate on the road near his house his hand became entangled in a staple. Prisoner seized the opportunity and snatched the bundle out of his other hand, and made off with it. He saw prisoner the following day and took the tin from him, but the meat had been extracted. Prisoner, pleading not guilty, said he did not leave the Inn at the same time as complainant. He was going down the road some time afterwards, and came upon the tin of meat lying on the ground.

PC Lightfoot deposed to arresting prisoner on the 22nd inst. When taken into custody, he confessed having eaten the meat.

The Bench found the charge proved, and sentenced prisoner to 14 days imprisonment.”

County Advertiser 11/11/1882 - Deaths

“On the 6th inst, Phoebe, wife of *Thomas Troman*, BOAT INN, Gorsty Hill, aged 68 years.”

County Advertiser 23/7/1887

“At the Rowley Regis Police Court, on Wednesday, before Mr. Walter Bassano and Mr. J. Walker, six publicans named Edwin Cooper, Waterfall Lane; James Southwick, Yew Tree Lane; Isaac Mullett, Ross, Blackheath; *Thomas Tromans*, Gorsty Hill; James Andrews Levett, Perry's Lake; and Joseph Tibbetts, Cromwell Street, Blackheath, were each brought up for defrauding the Inland Revenue by using sugar in the beer after the Excise Officer had made an entry of the brewing. Mr. Shakespeare, of Oldbury, represented the first five-named defendants.

Mr. J. Blake Davies (supervisor of Excise) stated that the whole of the defendants were licensed victuallers. In April last Excise officers visited their cellars. After brewings had taken place and the entries been made, it was discovered that the defendants had put loaf sugar into the barrels. The sugar was found at the bottom of the barrels in a partly dissolved state. In each instance the beer was racked, and each offender said that the sugar had been used for the purpose of ‘fining’ the beer. Notices had from time to time been published to the effect that it was illegal to use sugar after entries had been taken by the Excise officers, because the Board of Inland Revenue was defrauded by the beer being increased in strength and no increased duty paid.

Mr. Bassano: Dose the use of sugar with beer that has been racked increase the gravity of the beer?

Mr. Davies: A brewer might by adding sugar increase his ‘twopenny’ into ‘sixpenny.’

Mr. Bassano: And are the consumers of beer any way prejudiced by the use of such beer as you have referred to?

Mr. Davies: It is heavy and certainly not wholesome.

Mr. Bassano: That is important.

Mr. Davies (continuing) said the illegal use of sugar was on the increase, and the Board of Inland Revenue desired to put a stop to the practice.

Mr. Shakespeare said the whole of his clients pleaded guilty, but had acted in ignorance, and as the Board of Inland Revenue had really sustained no loss he should with confidence ask the magistrates to only inflict nominal penalties. The Excise officers had in each instance seized the beer and utensils, and one of the defendants had had to pay as much as £3 14s for the purchase of his beer from the Excise officers. He also asked the magistrates to bear in mind that the publicans of the Black Country had been in the habit of using sugar to 'fine' the beer. He was assured the defendants had not used it for the purpose of increasing the gravity of the beer, and as a matter of fact had not gained a single farthing by what they had done.

Mr. Davies said he thought it only right that he should inform the magistrates and the public that the use of sugar in racked beer did not 'fine' the beer, but only increased its specific gravity. He must ask the magistrates to make examples of the defendants.

Mr. Bassano said it was important that the law should be observed, and that the public should be supplied with a wholesome article.

The defendant were each fined £20 including costs, which amounted to £120."

1891 Census

122, Gosty Hill – BOAT INN

- [1] *William Tromans* (50), publican, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Sarah Tromans* (56), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Frank Tromans (20), son, striker, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] William Tromans (16), son, general labourer, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Sarah A. Tromans (23), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Hannah Tromans (18), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *Eliza Tromans* (12), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 1/9/1900

"An invitation supper in connection with the BOAT INN Sick and Draw Club took place there on Monday, a good number of members and friends being present. After the dinner, Mr. J. Hingley was voted to the chair, and under him, a capital programme of songs etc, was rendered. Before breaking up, votes of thanks were unanimously passed to the host and hostess, the donors, and friends who had helped musically, thus closing a most pleasant evening."

1901 Census

14, Granville Road

- [1] *William Tromans* (60), publican, born Old Hill;
- [2] *Sarah Tromans* (67), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] Sarah Ann Tromans (33), daughter, born Old Hill;
- [4] Hannah Tromans (28), daughter, born Old Hill;
- [5] *Eliza Tromans* (22), daughter, born Old Hill:

William Tromans – see also WHARF.

County Express 15/8/1908

"At Old Hill, on Wednesday, licenses were transferred as follows.....

The BOAT INN, Gorsty Hill, to *Elizabeth Tromans* from *Sarah Tromans*, the executrix of her late father....."

Tipton Herald 16/1/1909

"Mr. G. C. Lewis held an inquest at the BOAT INN, Old Hill, concerning the death of Thomas Henry Newton (14), horse driver, of Gorsty Hill, who met with his death under shocking circumstances on the 5th inst. The evidence showed that the youth was employed by his uncle, Mr. James Brookes, haulier, of Old Hill, and on the date named was in charge of a chain horse working between Old Hill railway station and Coombs Wood Tube Works. Newton attempted to get on the horse's back at the top of the incline in Station Road. His left foot became entangled in the chain, and at the same time the horse bolted. The unfortunate youth was dragged along the road for several hundred yards before the horse was stopped by deceased's father, who did not recognise his son until he had pulled up the animal. Newton sustained terrible injuries. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

1911 Census

Station Road – BOAT INN

- [1] *Sarah Tromans* (75), licensed victualler, born Dudley;
- [2] Hannah Tromans (37), daughter, assisting in the business, born Old Hill;
- [3] *Eliza Tromans* (32), daughter, born Old Hill:

Dudley Chronicle 6/12/1913

"The license of the BOAT INN, Tividale [sic] was granted to Mrs. *Eliza Willetts*, who formerly held it in the name of *Eliza Tromans*."

Birmingham Daily Post 5/2/1914

“The licensing sessions for the Old Hill Petty Sessional Division were held yesterday.....

The Bench granted an application to carry out structural alteration at the BOAT INN, Station Road, Old Hill, *Eliza Willetts*, the licensee, stating that the improvements would lessen the drinking area.”

Conveyance 2/7/1934

“All that messuage or dwelling-house with the outbuildings yard and premises thereto belonging for many years used and occupied as a public house and known as the BOAT INN situate in Station Road Gorsty Hill in the Parish of Rowley Regis and also all that messuage or dwelling house the hereinbefore described property situate in and known as 68 Station Road Gorsty Hill aforesaid with the lock-up shop adjoining thereto all now in the occupation of Roland Barnsley.....”

1939 Register

67, Station Road – BOAT INN

[1] *James L. (Len) Stafford*, date of birth 9/4/1898, public house manager and machine tool setter, married;

[2] May Stafford, dob 1/5/1897, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[4] Sadie (Stafford) Patrick, dob 9/7/1928, at school, single;

Sandwell Evening Mail 11/11/1991

“A licensee’s husband suffered horrific facial burns after becoming engulfed in flames when he used petrol to light a bonfire at a Black Country pub. Firemen said Brian *Salisbury* started the bonfire on land at the front of the BOAT pub, Station Road, Old Hill. A blast blew flames back into Mr. *Salisbury*’s face and body. Customers rushed to put out the flames while others telephoned the emergency services.

Mr. *Salisbury*, aged 47, was taken to Birmingham Accident Hospital with burns to a third of his face and body. His condition today was poorly but stable. Mr. *Salisbury*’s stepdaughter Kelly, aged ten, was also hurt after having been struck on the head by an object blown from the fire.

Martin Hetherington, who lives at the pub, said, ‘I went out to light the bonfire for customers but Brian turned up and I went inside. The pub doors were shaken by an explosion and people came rushing in to say Brian had been burned. Some people were so upset they went home. Brian is a great chap, well liked and always joking. He is a pipe fitter and his wife *Carol* is the pub licensee. She only took over the pub a few months ago.’

The couple live at Halesowen and Mrs. *Salisbury* was said to be too upset to talk today.

Station Officer Derek Maddock, of Halesowen Fire Station, said, ‘Mr. *Salisbury* made the mistake of using petrol to ignite the bonfire on Saturday night. He suffered 35 per cent burns when the ignition blew the flames back on him. It is a dangerous practice to use petrol in this manner and people should not do it. We were called because there were fears of the fire spreading,’ he added.”

Halesowen News 7/4/2009

“A string of events are planned at the BOAT pub on Station Road to raise money for a syringe driver for the Black Country House Nursing Home in Halesowen Road, Old Hill. Macmillan nurses use the driver to deliver drugs to cancer patients at the home. BOAT landlady *Elaine Gordon* decided to try and help the home because she knows some of the staff there.

Fundraisers will be kicked off on Friday April 10 with an auction during which items including signed West Bromwich Albion and Wolves footballs will be up for grabs. The auction starts at 8pm. A jumble sale with tombola will start at 10am on Saturday (April 11) followed by a darts knockout match at noon.

The pub has already raised £240 from donations.”

Halesowen News 15/4/2013

“A group of Old Hill pub-goers have souped up old bangers for a Wacky Races style road trip inspired by a Halesowen leukaemia sufferer. The friends who drink in the BOAT INN and are part of Old Halesonians Rugby Club came up with the idea to do up cheap cars in various themes and don fancy dress to drive to Aberystwyth. Around ten cars will revv off from the Station Road pub on Saturday (April 20) before 9am. The aim is to raise more than £5k for Birmingham Children’s Hospital where Lutley Primary pupil Daisy May is being treated. Organiser Trevor Patrick’s daughter Ellie May Patrick, aged five, is in the same class as Daisy, also five. Themes for the cars include Starkey and Hutch, Ghost Busters, Blues Brothers and Batman and Robin. Among around 25 pals taking part is John Clark, a sales manager for Tata Steel. John, aged 48, said, ‘It’s turning into a real Top Gear style challenge. The idea is to buy a cheap car, theme it up, and travel into the depth of Wales, where upon, we have several car related challenges and a treasure hunt on route. The blokes involved have spent a lot of time and money getting the cars prepared for the run, and once the event is completed the cars will be weighted in for scrap value which will also be donated to the charity.’ Cash will go to the hospital’s ward 15 Children’s Cancer Appeal. The drivers are expected to return to the pub on Sunday April 21 at around 3pm where their wives and partners will lay on a welcome home buffet. It is the pub-goers fourth challenge. In 2011 they raised £5k for Help the Heroes by staging a superheros on mopeds race.”

Closed [2015]

It was converted into housing. [2019]

BRICKHOUSE

Harvest Road, ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1997]

Marstons Pub Co. [2007]

LICENSEES

Martin Ridley Barnsley [] – **1956**);

Charles Richard Hodgetts (**1956 – 1965**);

Alfred Archibald Beesley (**1965** – []

Mick Sullivan (**1981** – [] manager

NOTES

Sports Argus 9/4/1960

“Round The Dartboards.....

Rowley Regis League have just ended a great struggle for their championship. In the end ROBERT PEEL triumphed by two points over BRICKHOUSE.....”

News Telephone 6/8/1981

“Angry Rowley Regis residents have called for an end to discos at a local pub after complaints that skinhead gangs were terrorizing the area.

They say that the discos at the BRICKHOUSE pub on the Brickhouse Farm Estate attract troublemakers and that violence frequently erupts after the pub has closed.....”

Sandwell Evening Mail 7/4/1986 - Advert

“Antique Auction, Tuesday, April 8, over 300 lots.

BRICKHOUSE pub, Harvest Road, Rowley Regis, viewing 6.15pm. Sale 7.30pm.”

Express & Star 24/11/1997 - Advert

“Large bar, function room, medium sized lounge; car park.”

[2007]

Closed [2009], [2013]

Dudley News 24/1/2012

“A Planning application has been submitted to transform the blighted BRICKHOUSE pub in Rowley into eight residential flats. Local residents have complained about fly tipping, graffiti and litter at the Harvest Road pub and Sandwell Council have demanded the owner take action. John Hart from Great Bridge Estates resubmitted the plans for the flats in December and is hoping to get planning permission by March. The state of the former pub was raised at the Rowley Regis Neighbourhood Forum at St. Michael’s School last Thursday.

Brickhouse resident Caroline Old said, ‘The fly tipping and litter around the pub looks awful and something has to be done as soon as possible.’

Councillor Barbara Price said, ‘Planning has received an application for the change of use from a public house to form eight residential flats. This however was invalid and the architect has to re-submit part of the application and the owner has said he will get onto the matter. They are aware of and will sort out the removal of litter and fly tipping at the pub’.”

It was converted into housing in 2014.

BRIDGE

71, (54), Reddal Hill Road, Spinners End, (Plants Green), CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

Showells Ltd. Langley, Oldbury [1893]
In Coope and Allsopp Ltd. (acquired on 3rd July 1935)

LICENSEES

Benjamin Harris [1870] – [1875]
Mrs. Mary Harris [1877] – [1884]
Samuel Baker [1887] – [1890]
Henry Watkins* [1891]
William Watkins* [1891]
John William Haines (1891 – [1892])
Henry Weston [1891]
Richard John Amphlett [1892] – [1893]
David Price [1896]
George Frederick Stanton [1900] – [1901] manager
George Slinn [1902] – 1904);
Arthur Salt (1904 – []
Gilbert Willetts []
Elijah Henry Annes [1906] – 1909);
Albert Ernest Blackford (1909 – 1910);
Thomas Lander (1910 – [1912])
Francis John ‘Frank’ Ellis [1915] – 1921);
Daniel Williams (1921 – 1924);
Henry Surman (1924 – 1925);
Thomas Edward Thomas (1925 – 1929);
William ‘Billy’ Hall (1929 – 1936);
Clifford Carey Lewis (1936 – 1940);
John Thomas Garratt (1940 – 1941);
Alfred John George Garratt (1941 – 1943);
Rolfe Scott (1943 – 1946);
Walter George Heath (1946 – 1958);
Mrs. Ethel Maria Penbury (1958 – 1959):

NOTES

54, Reddall Hill Road [1881], [1891], [1901]
71, Reddall Hill Road [1911], [1932], [1939], [1940]

County Express 27/8/1870

“The annual licensing meeting for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division was held yesterday.....
The following beerhouse keepers applied for wine and spirit licenses.....
Benjamin Harris, Reddall Hill. Application granted.”

1871 Census

Reddall Hill Road

- [1] *Benjamin Harris* (53), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Mary Harris* (53), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Alfred Harris (21), son, carter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Thomas Harris (13), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Joseph Harris (23), boarder, chain maker, born Rowley Regis:

Stourbridge Observer 21/10/1871

“*Benjamin Harris*, the BRIDGE INN, Rowley, was charged with selling a quantity of liquors during prohibited hours, on the 8th inst. Mr. W. Hayes defended.

Police-constable Griffin said on the above date about half past eight, he, in company with Police-constable Johnson, visited defendant’s house, and in one of the back rooms of the house he saw defendant, and another man named Johnson. There were several glasses of rum on the table. The landlord said the man had come to pay him £5, which he had borrowed the day before. Defendant said he had given the man the rum because he had brought him his money back.

Cross-examined: Defendant was in his shirt sleeves, and he had not got his boots on. The man Johnson gave me his name and address. There was no one else in the house.

Police-constable Johnson corroborated Griffin.

Defendant was ordered to pay the costs.”

County Advertiser 11/11/1871 - Advert

“Wanted, a Servant Girl, for a Public-house. A good character required.

Apply to Mr. *B. Harris*, BRIDGE INN, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 11/10/1873

“The Essex Hurdle and Cooler Question.

On Monday last a meeting of delegates, representing the makers of the above kind of nails, was held at Mr. *Benjamin Harris*'s, OLD BRIDGE INN, near Reddal Hill. It was stated that the men had been on strike during the past month, and showed no signs of giving way. It was also stated that while some of the masters had agreed to give the 10 per cent asked for they refused to give way in the matter of the yield, whilst others agreed to give the yield and not the 10 per cent. After mature deliberation, the delegates came to the resolution that the strike be carried on till both points now at issue are conceded. The proceeding then came to a close.”

County Advertiser 31/10/1874 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant. One used to public-house.

Apply to Mrs. *B. Harris*, BRIDGE INN, Spinners End, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 3/7/1875 - Advert

“Wanted, a good honest Servant Girl, for a public house.

Apply, Mr. *Benjamin Harris*, BRIDGE INN, Spinners End, near Old Hill.”

County Advertiser 29/9/1877

“Roland Tromans and Joseph Weaver, chainmakers, were charged with being disorderly on the licensed premises of *Mary Harris*, BRIDGE INN, Spinners End, and with refusing to leave when ordered to do so. Mr. Hayes, who appeared on behalf of complainant, wished to withdraw the charge, but it was proceeded with, and each defendant was fined 1s and costs.”

County Express 2/11/1878

“On Wednesday morning Mr. Hooper, coroner, held an inquiry at the BRIDGE INN, Spinners End, into the circumstances attending the death of Thomas Gryce, aged 21, miner. The evidence showed that the deceased, who resided at Spinners End, was employed at the Earl of Dudley's Lye Cross colliery. On Saturday whilst he was at work in the pit a fall of coal took place and he was buried underneath it and instantly killed. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

County Advertiser 5/7/1879 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant.

Apply, *Mary Harris*, BRIDGE INN, Reddal Hill.”

1881 Census

54, Reddall Hill Road – BRIDGE INN

[1] *Mary Harris* (61), widow, licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Thomas Harris (23), manager, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Ann M. Baker (13), grand-daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Annie Guest (19), general servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 26/5/1883 - Deaths

“On the 11th inst, suddenly, Thomas, the youngest son of the late *Benjamin* and *Mary Harris*, of the BRIDGE INN, Reddal Hill Road, Old Hill, aged 24; deeply regretted.”

Dudley and District News 14/7/1883

“Levi Stevens, puddler, was committed for a month's hard labour for being drunk and disorderly at the BRIDGE TAVERN, Cradley Heath, on the 2nd inst. This makes his 18th conviction.”

Dudley and District News 8/12/1883

“*Mary Harris*, landlady of the BRIDGE INN, Spinners End, Cradley Heath, was summoned for selling ale during prohibited hours, on the 1st inst. Mr. Cooksey defended.

PC Cheeseman stated that on Saturday night last, at ten minutes past eleven o'clock, he saw a man named John Williams cross the horse-road with a empty jug in his hand, and go into the licensed premises by the back way. When Williams came out he (witness) met him and took the jug from him, and it was then full of ale. He then took Williams back into the house and told the defendant that it was thirteen minutes past eleven.

Mr. Cooksey submitted that as there seemed to have been no attempt either to deny the offence, or to act so as to mislead the po-

lice or anyone else, and as there was nothing to show any intention to commit an offence, it would be a great hardship to convict the defendant. The defendant had for upwards of twenty-two years, either by herself or with her husband, had the management of the public-house, and during that time there had not been any conviction against her, and it had not been shown to the Bench that the defendant had conducted her house differently now. This did not answer the case, but they were circumstances, he contended, which ought to bear weight on their minds to show that there had been no intention to commit an offence in this particular instance. There was evidently a mistake some where, and he had several witnesses, who were on the premises, who would say that the ale was filled and supplied before eleven o'clock.

Matilda Baker, the defendant's daughter, stated that on the night in question she closed the front door of the house ten minutes before eleven o'clock, and that about five minutes before, the defendant came to the back door and asked for a quart of ale. She refused to fill it, not because she thought it was after eleven o'clock, but because she had closed the front door. The defendant, however, went into the bar and was supplied with the ale by the defendant. It was then five minutes to eleven. The police withdrew the summons on payment of costs."

Dudley and District News 22/12/1883

"*Mary Harris*, landlady of the BRIDGE INN, Spinners End, Cradley Heath, was charged with permitting drunkenness. Mr. Waldron (instructed by the police) appeared to prosecute, and Mr. T. Cooksey defended.

About 10.35 on the night of the 17th inst, PCs Rowlands and Cheeseman were on duty near the place, and heard a disturbance going on in the house. They went in, and found a man named Homer, who was drunk, stripped, and quarrelling. When the officers went in, Homer became quiet, and put on his jacket, and drank out of a cup.

The defendant was fined 10s and costs."

County Advertiser 5/1/1884

"William Homer, Arthur Bagnall, and Henry Weaver, chainmakers, all of Cradley Heath, were each fined 5s and costs for being drunk on the licensed premises of *Mary Harris*, BRIDGE INN, Spinners End."

County Express 2/2/1884

"Alfred *Harris* and Samuel *Harris*, Spinners End, were charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the premises of *Mary Harris*, their mother, on the 25th inst.

Complainant keeps the BRIDGE INN, Spinners End, and on the above date her two sons were in the house quarrelling. She ordered them to leave the house, but they refused to do so and commenced to fight. In attempting to separate them the mother received some injuries.

The former was fined 10s and costs, and the latter 5s and costs.

Joseph *Harris*, another brother, was then charged with assaulting Elizabeth *Harris*, the wife of Samuel *Harris*, at the same time.

Complainant said she went to the house on the Friday evening previous, and the defendant, after pushing her about, struck her two or three times.

Defendant said complainant had a poker in her hand with which she threatened to assault him.

The Bench decided to dismiss this charge."

Dudley and District News 15/3/1884

"Joseph *Harris* was charged with being drunk and disorderly on the 8th inst, by PC Bradbury. The officer said on the night in question he went to the BRIDGE INN, and saw defendant there drunk. He requested him to leave, and he did so; but afterwards returned again. He was very drunk, and using very bad language.

Defendant denied being drunk, but admitted quarrelling with a man named Baker.

Flora Hickman said she was in the BRIDGE INN on the night in question. She saw the defendant there, and he was quite sober.

The case was dismissed."

Dudley and District News 3/5/1884

"George Stevens, George Hussey, and John Dunn, all of Cradley Heath, were charged by Sergeant White with being drunk on the licensed premises of *Mary Harris*, of the BRIDGE INN, Spinners End, on the 26th April. Fined 2s 6d and costs, or in default seven days."

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 presented the black list.....

In the case of *Mary Harris*, BRIDGE INN, Reddal Hill Road, Cradley Heath, the license was granted on a promise not to offend again."

Dudley and District News 13/12/1884

"Thomas Stevens, chainmaker, of Newtown, was charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the BRIDGE INN, Spinners End, on Saturday night. The defendant went into the house very drunk and was refused beer. He was requested to leave but he refused to do so. Inspector Walters came into the house and the defendant then left. Fined 5s and costs, or seven days."

County Express 14/3/1885

"Thomas Stevens, chainmaker, Cradley Heath, was charged with being drunk at the BRIDGE INN, Cradley Heath, on the 2nd inst.

Police-constable Kegan proved the case, and defendant, who had been previously convicted, was fined 5s and costs or fourteen days.”

County Advertiser 22/8/1885 - Advert

“The Primrose Loan and Investment Society, held at the BRIDGE INN, Plants Green, Reddal Hill Road, Old Hill, every Saturday Evening. A Dinner will be provided in connection with the above Society on Thursday, August 27th, 1885, at Six o’clock pm, prompt. Average dividend, 2s 5d per £5 Share per quarter. Any person wishing to join may obtain all information by applying at the above Inn, or to Mr. S. Baker, Secretary, Plants Green. Ales, Wines, and Spirits of the best quality.”

County Advertiser 18/9/1886

“*Samuel Harris*, living at the BRIDGE INN, Reddall Hill, was charged with stealing 19s 7d, the money of Thomas Sidaway, chainmaker, of Newtown Street, Old Hill, on the 31st ult. Complainant stated he gave to defendant a sovereign in payment for some ale. Witness was talking to a friend at the time and forgot the change, but next morning went about it to the defendant, who denied having had the sovereign. Subsequently some of the defendant’s friends tendered the complainant the money, but having instituted proceedings he did not accept it. He, however, did not wish to press the case.

The Bench said they should not allow the case to be withdrawn, and defendant would go to gaol for fourteen days.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 5/2/1887

“*Samuel Baker*, landlord of the BRIDGE INN, Cradley Heath, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his premises on the 16th ult. John Amos Small, draper, Dudley, stated that he went to defendant’s house on the date in question, about 4.30, and paid for 5 or 6 quarts of beer, which was shared amongst four of them. He remembered nothing after this, until he was aroused up on some wasteland about 9.30 by the police. He lost 15s in addition to what he spent, and he could not say what became of it.

Mr. J. Clarke appeared for the defence.

PC Winn stated that he found Joseph Small helplessly drunk near to the BRIDGE INN, on some waste land. A crowd of women and children were around him. He took him to the station for safety.

Miss *Baker* stated that she saw Small come into the house, and he was perfectly sober at the time and she filled him some beer, and subsequently she noticed that he seemed to have had sufficient beer, and she told him to go.

A witness stated that he saw Small after leaving the house and he walked straight.

The Bench said they considered there was a laxity of management, but would only impose a light fine of 10s and costs.

Mr. Clarke also applied for a temporary authority in the same house, which was granted.”

Dudley Mercury 20/4/1889

“Noah Dunn, Dudley Wood, was fined 2s 6d and costs for being drunk on the licensed premises of *Samuel Baker*, the BRIDGE INN, and also refusing to quit, on the 10th inst.”

Dudley Mercury 17/8/1889

“Joseph Priest, New Town, Cradley Heath; William Easthorpe, Old Hill; and Thomas Stevens, Old Hill, all chainmakers, were charged with bring drunk on licensed premises, on the 29th July. Mr. Travis (Perry and Travis) defended. Police-constable Hingley visited the BRIDGE INN, Reddal Hill, kept by *Samuel Baker*, and there saw the defendants in the bar. They were drunk. Easthorpe asked him to drink, and as witness refused, he called him a — fool. Mr. Travis, for the defence, denied the charge in toto. His clients informed him they only had two pints each, and his experience was that it took considerably more than two pints to make a chainmaker drunk. Captain Tromans said he would swear the men were not drunk. Two other witnesses were called, and swore the defendants were not drunk. The case was dismissed.”

County Advertiser 11/1/1890 - Advert

“Freehold Old-Licensed Premises and Dwelling Houses, Cradley Heath.

Mr. T. Pateshall is favoured with instructions to Sell by Auction, at an early date, all that important and highly-valuable Freehold Corner Public House, the BRIDGE INN, situate at Reddal Hill Road, Cradley Heath, occupied by Mr. *Baker*.

Also the Two substantially-erected and Genteel Dwelling Houses adjoining.

Further information may be obtained from Mr Thos. Cooksey, Solicitor, Old Hill and Blackheath; Mr Wm. Waldron, Solicitor, Brierley Hill; Messrs. John Wright and Tanfield, Solicitor, Cradley Heath and Halesowen; or the Auctioneer, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 25/1/1890 - Advert

“Highly Valuable Freehold Old-Licensed Public House and Dwelling Houses, Cradley Heath.

Mr. T. Pateshall is favoured with instructions to Sell by Auction, at the BRIDGE INN, Reddal Hill Road, Cradley Heath, on Tuesday, the 18th day of February, 1890, at Six for Seven o’clock in the Evening, subject to conditions.

Lot 1. All that very important Freehold Old-Licensed Corner Public House, the BRIDGE INN, situate at Reddal Hill Road, Cradley Heath, aforesaid, now in the occupation of Mr. *Samuel Baker*.

The Premises are very conveniently arranged, and comprise Tap Room, Smoke Room, Kitchen, two Cellars, with rolling way from yard; large Club Room. three Bed Rooms, and Malt Room. The Outbuildings comprise Brewhouse, three-stall Stable, with loft over; Card Shed, Piggeries, and Closets, together with large enclosed Yard.

The Premises occupy an excellent position on the main road to Old Hill, have an extensive frontage to, and Cartway Entrance from, New Town Street, and are in close proximity to several large Manufactories.....”

County Advertiser 3/5/1890 - Advert

“BRIDGE INN, Spinners End, Cradley Heath.

Mr. T. Pateshall is instructed to Sell by Auction upon the Premises as above, on Tuesday Next, May 6th, 1890, the whole of the excellent Household Furniture, &c, comprising Chimney Glass, in rosewood frame; Engravings, Crown-back Windsor and Cane-seated Chairs; Arm Chair, Mahogany Centre and Dining Tables, capital Mahogany Horsehair-seated Couch and Sofa, large quantity of Dinner Ware, Iron, Four-post, and Arabian Bedsteads; Feather and Flock Beds, Straw Mattresses, American Lounging Chair, Mahogany and Oak Chest of Drawers, Mahogany Night Chair, Mahogany Eight-day and American Clock, Kitchen and Cooking Utensils, Malt Crusher, Two knife Chaff Engine, and other Effects, belonging to the representatives of the late Mr. *Harris*.

Sale at Twelve o'clock.”

* probably the same person

County Express 21/3/1891

“Mr. Edwin Hooper, district corner, held an inquest on Tuesday afternoon, at the BRIDGE INN, Spinners End, respecting the death of Ellen Wilimore (14), the daughter of Alfred and Hannah Wilimore, Spinners End. A few nights ago the deceased was found in an unconscious state lying across the grate in her bed room. She was enveloped in flames, and her face, back, and chest were shockingly injured. She is supposed to have fallen on to the fire when seized with a fainting fit. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

1891 Census

54, Reddal Hill Road

[1] *Henry Walkins* (40), public house manager, born Birmingham;

[2] *Mary Walkins* (35), wife, born Worcester;

[3] *Daisy Walkins* (9), daughter, born Birmingham;

[4] *Ann Walkins* (84), mother, widow, born Halesowen;

[5] *Annie Wright* (18), general servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 16/5/1891

“*Henry Watkins*, manager of the BRIDGE INN, Spinners End, Cradley Heath, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises. Mr. Waldron prosecuted for the police authorities, and Mr. Tanfield defended.

At 9.15 on the night of April 27th, Police-constables Wynn and Lewis went to the defendant's house, and upon going into the bar they found three brothers named James, Samuel, and Levi Stevens in a very drunken condition. The defendant volunteered a statement to the officers that the men had only been there half an hour, and they had not been supplied with anything to drink, and that he had been trying to get them out for half an hour. Defendant asked the officers to request the men to go, and they did so, the men leaving, staggering as they went out. If the case rested here there would be no offence against the defendant, but the men would be called, and they would prove that they were there for two hours, and that a great quantity of beer was supplied to them. Police-constables Wynn and Lewis gave evidence in support of the charge.

In reply to Mr. Bassano, Lewis said a young woman who came from the direction of the public house, informed him of the men being drunk in the house.

Police-constable Insley said he saw Levi Stevens go in drunk at 8.30.

James Stevens said he went into the defendant's house just turned dinner, and remained till 9.15, when the policemen came. The defendant supplied him with fourpenny. They were drinking all the time.

Levi Stevens said he went in at about eight, and had some fourpenny. He had seen the defendant that morning, and he told witness to say he had had nothing to drink.

Mr. Tanfield addressed the Bench for the defence, after which defendant was called, and stated that two of the men were in in the afternoon and had some beer. They left and returned at about eight, and he refused them beer. They refused to go, and he sent for the police.

Cross-examined: He had not asked Levi to say he had nothing to drink.

Annie Wright, a servant at the house, also said the men were refused beer, and when they would not go she was sent for the police, and found Lewis.

John Mansell, fitter, said the men were not supplied with beer.

The Bench said when there were the elements of doubt in a case, the full benefit of it should be given to the defendant, because it was a difficult trade to carry on. When there were no elements of doubt, the Bench always felt disposed to deal severely with defendants. They, however, thought the elements of doubt were sufficient to warrant the Bench in dismissing it, but it was a very proper case to bring before them, and the costs would be remitted.

Mr. Tanfield applied for the transfer of the license to *John William Haynes*.

Mr. Bassano said the whole system of granting licenses to managers was abominable, and he should like never to renew the license to such persons.

Mr. Goodman said the Bench had power to do this.

Mr. Bassano said he didn't think the time had come to take this course.

Superintendent Woollaston said one half of the characters presented on behalf of managers were not worth a straw. He knew cases where persons had signed characters when they didn't know the individual for whom they were signing.

An interim authority to sell was granted.”

John William Haines = John William Haynes

John William Haines – see also WHITE SWAN, Oldbury; COCK, Smethwick; and OLD ENGINE, Smethwick.

County Advertiser 1/8/1891

“Cain Siviter, chainmaker, Reddal Hill Road, Old Hill, was charged with assaulting Matilda Lynton, on the 25th inst. [sic] Complainant said that on the night in question she went to the BRIDGE INN, and sat down for a few minutes. The defendant, who was present, then went out with complainant’s father, and witness went out to see where her father was, when she found he had hold of her father’s muffler, trying to strangle him. Defendant then threw a jug of ale over her and the baby. She didn’t know why he did it.

Charles Lynton corroborated, and ‘Captain’ Tromans, called for the defence, said that the ale was accidentally spilt over complainant.

Defendant was also charged with using threatening language towards Samuel Brettell, who deposed to defendant using threatening language to him, and to his being afraid that defendant would do him some harm.

The Bench dismissed the case of assault, and ordered the costs to be divided. In the case of threats, defendant would be bound over in his own recognisances to keep the peace for three months.”

Henry Weston = Henry Wesson

County Express 21/11/1891

“*Henry Weston*, landlord of the BRIDGE INN, Reddal Hill, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his premises. Mr. Waldron prosecuted, and Mr. Tanfield defended.

Police-constable Wynn said at 9.45 on the 7th inst, in company with Police-constable Adams, he was standing outside defendant’s house, when he saw a man named Harris being led out of the house by another man. Harris was drunk. Witness then went inside and found a man in the bar named Dunn drunk. Witness said to the landlord, ‘You see this man, here, he has had too much drink.’ The landlord replied, ‘Yes; he has been here to a supper tonight, and I will get him out as soon as possible.’

Cross-examined: Witness did not see Harris drink.

Police-constable Adams corroborated.

Inspector Bishop said he visited defendant’s house at about five minutes to eleven, in company with Police-sergeant Hayward. He said to defendant, ‘You have had some of my men here,’ and defendant replied, ‘Yes,’ and from another question witness put to him he replied that Dunn had got drunk on his premises.

Police-sergeant Hayward corroborated.

For the defence, the landlord said on the 7th inst he was giving a dinner to a club which he held at his house. All the members which were to come did not turn up, and Dunn volunteered to help them to eat the dinner. (Laughter.) Dunn had only had two pints then, and witness allowed him to partake of the supper. There were twelve at the supper, and they had five quarts between them. Dunn did not have any more drink, and he was not drunk.

Cross-examined: He did not contradict Police-constable Wynn when he said Dunn was drunk, because he thought nothing would come of it.

Several witnesses supported this statement.

Defendant was fined £5 and costs.

John Dunn, for being drunk at the BRIDGE INN on the occasion referred to, was fined 5s 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 have been convicted during the year....

Henry Wesson, BRIDGE INN, Cradley Heath, permitting drunkenness, November 18th, 1891, fined £5 and costs.....

Mr. W. Waldron applied on behalf of *Richard John Amphlett*, tenant of the BRIDGE INN, Cradley Heath, previously occupied by *Henry Wesson*, for the renewal of the license. Inspector Bishop proved two convictions against the house, but, in answer to Mr. Waldron, said Mr. *Amphlett* was conducting the house to his entire satisfaction. In answer to the Bench, Inspector Bishop said there was no public house close to, but there were several within a radius of 400 yards.

The Bench said it was a house which needed careful management, and renewed the license.”

County Advertiser 13/5/1893

“*Richard John Amphlett*, landlord of the BRIDGE TAVERN, Spinners End, Cradley Heath, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises, and also with selling liquor to a drunken person. Mr. Waldron defended.

Police-sergeant Newman deposed to visiting the house kept by defendant, about seven o’clock pm, on the 29th ult, in company with Police-constable Wynn. In the bar they found a man named Richard Tyrell, very much the worse for beer. Tyrell was leaning upon the counter, between two other men, talking to the defendant. Witness said to defendant, ‘That man has had enough,’ to which defendant replied, ‘Yes, I have asked him to go.’ He and Wynn then went outside, and in about five minutes saw the man come out, going away in the direction of his home. At Reddal Hill, Tyrrell stopped to speak to a man, and fell down, and witness had to send a constable to take him home. Witness went back to the house, and asked the landlord how long Tyrrell had been there. He replied that he was there about twenty minutes, and had one glass of whiskey.

Police-constable Wynn and John Hill corroborated.

Cross-examined: Defendant said the man had only had a glass of whiskey in his house. He could not say whether the man was supplied with drink there. He was not aware that a heated discussion about the Home Rule Bill was going on. Mr. Waldron, who said he appeared for Messrs. Showell, to whom the house belonged, said they had instructed him to place the facts before the Bench. These cases were the most difficult cases one could be engaged in, for the law, at the present moment, seemed to be very stringently interpreted against the publican. But although that might be so, he asked the Bench not to inflict a heavy penalty or even convict in the case, because the landlord did not know the man was drunk or receive notice of the fact. Tyrrell had a glass of whiskey in the house, and a discussion arose about the Home Rule Bill, leading to some exciting talk, and the excitement of the man might have led the police to make a mistake. There was no general drunkenness going on, and the defendant turned out the man directly his attention was called to him, and there was no disorder, and he therefore asked the Bench to inflict a light penalty. Of course it was really one offence, and the police did not press the second charge. The Bench dismissed the second charge, and fined defendant £5 and costs on the first. Richard Tyrrell, Wrights Lane, Old Hill, was fined 2s 6d and costs for being drunk on the licensed premises.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/5/1894

“Yesterday afternoon Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the BRIDGE INN, Cradley Heath, respecting the death of Thomas Bagley (54), chainmaker, who committed suicide by hanging himself on the 10th inst. Evidence was given showing that deceased had complained of the shortness of work. He made ½in chain, and was paid at the rate of 2s 9d per cwt. He generally made about 7cwt of chain a week, and to do that he had to work each day from six o’clock in the morning until eight o’clock at night. His earnings were about 12s a week, and out of that he had to pay 6s for firing and 2d per cwt for the carriage, which left about 5s for himself and wife to live upon. The Coroner said there was no doubt that the man’s mind had been affected in consequence of the slackness of work. He had heard a great deal about the chainmakers, and he thought it was a great pity he could not have summoned some of the legislators of the country to attend that enquiry, for he felt sure if they had done so there would soon be an alteration in that trade. His impression was that for a man and his wife to be compelled to exist on 5s a week as deceased had done was enough to make him destroy himself. Such a state of affairs was a scandal to the country. The jury returned a verdict of Suicide whilst Temporarily Insane.”

County Advertiser 16/6/1894

“Thomas Tinsley, Brook Lane, Old Hill, was fined 20s including costs, for being drunk in the BRIDGE INN, Spinners End, Cradley Heath, on the 5th inst.”

County Express 30/1/1897

“A child named Elsie Eliza Sidaway, residing with her parents in New Town Lane, Cradley Heath, died on Wednesday morning from the effects of burns. Whilst the mother of the deceased was ill in bed on the 9th inst, the deceased got too near the fire, her clothes were speedily enveloped in flames, and she sustained such shocking injuries as to cause her death, as above stated. An inquest on deceased was held on Thursday, by Mr. Betham (deputy coroner) at the BRIDGE INN, Spinners End. The Coroner remarked that the grate was fixed so low as to be dangerous. He hoped that it would be a warning to persons who had similar grates. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

County Advertiser 17/11/1900 - Advert

“Reddal Hill, Cradley Heath. Sale of Highly-Important and Valuable Freehold Land and Buildings. E. O. Nightingale has received instructions from Mr. W. Wallace, to Sell by Auction at the House of Mr. Stanton, the BRIDGE INN, Reddal Hill, Cradley Heath, on Wednesday, the 21st day of November, 1900, at Six for Seven o’clock in the Evening, subject to Conditions of Sale then to be produced.....”

1901 Census

54, Reddal Hill Road – BRIDGE INN

- [1] *George Frederick Stanton* (39), commercial hotel manager, born Tipton;
- [2] Sarah Stanton (38), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] Kate Stanton (14), daughter, born Tipton;
- [4] Beatrice Stanton (10), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Alfreda James (20), niece, mantle maker, born Tipton:

George Slim = George Slimm = George Slinn

Smethwick Weekly News 12/4/1902

“*George Slim*, landlord of the BRIDGE INN, Spinners End, Old Hill, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises; also with supplying a drunken person on the 14th ult. Mr. J. W. Clulow, who prosecuted, explained that on the date named PCs Horne and Gratage visited the defendant’s premises and found a man named James Tromans in a drunken condition, with a quantity of whisky on the table. Tromans was eventually locked up. Mr. Waldron, who defended, admitted the offences, and defendant was fined £5 17s 6d including costs.”

County Advertiser 14/2/1903

“On Wednesday the annual licensing session for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held at the Court House..... Superintendent Spendlove had given notice that he should oppose the following licenses.....
George Slinn, BRIDGE INN, Cradley Heath, selling whiskey to a drunken man, and not a fit and proper person.....
License renewed.”

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

County Advertiser 27/8/1904

“On Sunday afternoon the eighth annual parade and service arranged by the various friendly societies in the Old Hill district took place under favourable circumstances. The proceedings commenced with a large procession.....

The Cradley Heath Salvation Army Band started from the ROSE AND CROWN INN, proceeded down Reddal Hill Road as far as the BRIDGE INN, turning across Plant Street, Lawrence Lane, Trinity Street, picking up another society. Afterwards they marched by way of Elbow Street and Wagon Street to the field, calling at the KINGS HEAD INN and ENGINE INN for societies.....

Upon arrival at the field a grand procession was formed This paraded the principal streets of the locality for some time, after which they proceeded to a field in High Street, kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. A. E. Sidaway. Here a service was held, the chair being occupied by Dr. T. E. Mitchell. Notwithstanding the threatening state of the weather there was a large attendance..... A collection was made upon the route, and at the service, on behalf of the Dudley Guest Hospital, Dudley Dispensary, Birmingham Eye Hospital, Birmingham General Hospital, Birmingham Ear and Throat Hospital, and the Old Hill Nurses Fund.”

Gilbert Willetts played football for Cradley Heath St. Peters.

Elijah Henry Annes = *Elijah Henry Annis*

County Advertiser 1/12/1906

“Thomas Roach, chainmaker, of Plant Street, Old Hill, was charged with being disorderly and refusing to quit the BRIDGE INN, Reddal Hill, Cradley Heath, kept by *Elijah Henry Annis*, on the 17th ult.

Mr. J. S. Sharpe (West Bromwich), who prosecuted, explained that on the night in question whilst drinking in the public house defendant commenced to use bad language. Prosecutor asked defendant to desist, and when he refused he ordered him to leave the premises. This he declined to do, even when Police-constable Horton appeared on the scene; he was put of the house. Defendant, who admitted the offence, was fined 10s and costs.”

County Express 8/8/1908

“On Sunday afternoon there was held the twelfth annual service promoted by the united friendly societies in the Old Hill district. The occasion was favoured with brilliant weather, and there was a large attendance at the services. The proceedings opened with a large procession, which aroused considerable interest in the district. The Old Hill Ironworks Band started from the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Wrights Lane, at one o'clock, and proceeded to the OLD HOUSE AT HOME INN for sick and draw club, through Cherry Orchard, calling for Court Robin Hood's Cave and BRITISH OAK sick and draw club; by way of Wagon Street, calling for Success-to-the-FOX-HUNT Lodge; Elbow Street for Court Benjamin and KINGS HEAD sick and draw club; Halesowen Road, calling for Provident Institution, and on to the field. The Cradley Heath Salvation Army Band started from COOKSEY'S HOTEL at one o'clock with Snowdrop Lodge, by way of Halesowen Road, calling for Court Loyal Marlborough; Bank Street, Queens Street, High Street, and on to the field. The Cradley Heath Town Prize Band started from the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill, with Court Robin Hood the Brave; by way of Reddal Hill Road, calling for the WHY NOT sick and draw club, and on to the BRIDGE INN for Welcome to the Bridge Inn Lodge, across Plant Street, Lawrence Lane, Clyde Street, Petford Street calling for Druids Society; Pear Tree Street, Riddings Street, New Street, Halesowen Road, calling for Court Royal Sherwood and Rechabites Society and ROYAL EXCHANGE sick and draw club; High Street to the field. A grand procession was then formed.....”

County Express 12/12/1908

“Rowley Regis Fire Brigade. The annual dinner in connection with this brigade was held on Saturday night, at the BRIDGE HOTEL, Old Hill. After an excellent dinner provided by the host and hostess (Mr. and Mrs. *Annis*), Mr. J. E. Harris (chairman of the Fire Brigade Committee) took the chair.....”

Tipton Herald 14/8/1909

“The Deputy Coroner (Mr. W. Lewis) on Saturday held an inquest at the BRIDGE INN, on the body of an unnamed child of William Henry and Alice Gladders, of 9, Albert Street.

Mrs. Gladders said she retired with the child on the 4th inst, at 10.30. Twice during the night it had the breast. When she awoke the third time, at 5.0 the following morning, the child commenced coughing. She noticed it change colour, so she called in a neighbour, in whose arms the baby died.

Dr. Kelly said he had made an external examination of the body, and said everything pointed to the baby having had convulsions. The child was 24 days old.

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the doctor's evidence.”

Tipton Herald 25/9/1909

“At Old Hill on Wednesday, an application was made for the transfer of the license of the BRIDGE INN, Spinners End, Cradley Heath, from *Elijah Henry Annes* to *Albert Ernest Blackford*.

Superintendent Johnson said he had no objection to the character of the applicant, but the out-going manager had left the house for five weeks before an application was made for the transfer of the license. No intimation had been received from the firm until the police called the attention of the representative of the brewery company to the fact that *Annes* had left the house. He objected to the loose manner in which the company conducted their business, because the man *Blackford* had been in charge of the house for five weeks whilst *Annes* held the license. Mr. Hingley (chairman) asked if Superintendent Johnson objected to the transfer. Superintendent Johnson replied that he did not, but he was opposed to the loose system of the brewery company concerned. The Bench granted the application, and Mr. Hingley asked the company’s representative (Mr. Dingley) to see that such a thing did not occur again.”

County Express 15/1/1910

“Election Results.

The *County Express* have arranged for a complete service of Election Results between today (Saturday) and January 29th, by night and day.

Night Results tonight (Saturday) and on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of next week will be shown by limelight lantern (worked by Mr. W. A. Dallow of Stourbridge) from the windows of the Head Office, High Street, Stourbridge.

Day Results as received will be posted in the following places:

County Express Head Office, High Street, Stourbridge.

BRIDGE INN, Reddal Hill, Cradley Heath.

Mr. U. Beddall’s (*County Express* Branch Office, Brierley Hill).

VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath.

Mr. G. Evans, High Street, Quarry Bank.”

1911 Census

71, Reddal Hill Road – BRIDGE INN

[1] *Thomas Lander* (43), licensed victualler, born Tardebigge, Worcestershire;

[2] *Louisa Lander* (42), wife, born West Bromwich;

[3] *Martha Lander* (19), daughter, assists in the business, born Aston, Warwickshire;

[4] *Thomas Lander* (17), son, assists in the business, born Wilnecote, Warwickshire;

[5] *Leah Brough* (20), general servant, born Chadsmoor, Staffordshire;

[6] *Minnie Aston* (4), visitor, niece, born Great Barr:

County Express 7/9/1912

“On Thursday week Miss *Nellie Lander*, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. *T. Lander*, of the BRIDGE INN, Reddal Hill, celebrated her 21st birthday. About 36 sat down to tea, and subsequently a large number of customers were entertained. A musical evening was afterwards enjoyed. Many presents were received and included the following: Mrs. *Lander*, household linen; Miss G. Payne, table centre; Miss Amy Tromans, set of vases; Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs (Matlock), silver salt cellars; Mrs. J. Fereday, covers; Mr. Wood, tablecloth; Miss P. Whitehouse, d’oyleys; Mrs. Detheridge, fancy dish and vase; Mrs. Hawkes, set of vases; Miss L. Whitehouse, cress dish and stand; Miss S. Hubble, belt and writing case; Miss M. Whitehouse, decanters; Miss C. Tromans, celery glass; Miss B. Tromans, table centre; Miss G. Hall, sugar basin and cream jug; Miss E. Oliver, duchesse set; Miss E. Hall, glass dish; Miss R. Betts, dessert dishes; Miss E. Potts, fancy tea pot; Mrs. Dorse, dessert dishes; Miss F. Powell, table centre; Mr. W. Detheridge, cut glasses; Miss W. Thompson, vases; Miss E. Detheridge, fruit dish; Miss B. Garbett (Wednesbury), pinafore; and Mrs. Broom, kitchen requisites.”

Dudley Chronicle 23/8/1913

“*Harry White*, George Road, Warley, and *Benjamin Reid*, Swan Street, Dudley, were charged with leaving a horse and dray and a donkey cart respectively unattended.

The police officer stated that on the 14th August he was passing the BRIDGE INN, Reddal Hill Road, Old Hill, at 12-25. He saw Reid’s donkey cart draw up in Newtown Road, near the corner by the BRIDGE INN. The defendant White was just bringing his dray to a standstill behind the donkey cart. White took something in a box off his cart, and went into the BRIDGE. The officer watched the carts for some time, and at 12-50, 25 minutes after the cart stopped, he went into the BRIDGE, and there saw the two defendants talking to customers in the bar. He told them he should report them for leaving their carts unattended where there was a great deal of traffic, and when they could have put them in the yard.

Both defendants said they did not think they had been in the house for so long.

They were each fined 10s.”

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. J. Ellis, BRIDGE INN, Old Hill, receives 125.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/3/1917

“Local Billiards.....

The first round of the Birmingham and District Licensed Victuallers' Handicap was continued at the Royal Exchange, Dale End, Birmingham. In the Afternoon *F. J. Ellis*, BRIDGE INN, Old Hill (rec.125) beat B. Barlow, Golden Lion, Aston (rec.125) by 400 to 302. *Ellis* played consistently, making breaks of 18, 17, and 13 (twice). The loser's best was 17."

Evening Despatch 3/4/1918

"In a billiards match played at the BRIDGE INN, Old Hill, on Monday, in aid of the Worcestershire prisoners of war, Mr. W. Martin, sen. (Stourbridge) beat *Frank Ellis* (rec.150 in 750 up) by 34 points."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/4/1918

"The final of the Birmingham Licensed Victuallers' Billiards Handicap was played at the Exchange Hotel, Dale End, Birmingham, yesterday, when Mr. *Frank Ellis*, of the BRIDGE INN, Reddal Hill Road, Old Hill, beat Mr. Harry Higgs, of the White Swan, Sherlock Street, Birmingham, after a keen and capital game. The final consisted of 800 points, and Mr. Higgs was in receipt of 490 and Mr. *Ellis* 260. At the interval the scores were Mr. Higgs 614, Mr. *Ellis* (in play) 531. In the evening Mr. *Ellis* gradually advanced his score, and at 726 the scores were level. Subsequently Mr. *Ellis* enjoyed the run of the balls and won, the final scores reading Mr. *Ellis* 800, Mr. Higgs 755."

William Hall was an ex-miner.

Dudley Herald 19/12/1931

"Mr. Frank Cooper held an inquest at the BRIDGE INN, Reddal Hill Road, on Tuesday, respecting the death of Stuart John Haden (63), 68, Reddal Hill Road, a retired signalman, who died suddenly in bed on Sunday morning. Lottie Haden, widow, said her husband had a seizure seven years ago, and as a result of seeing a specialist, did not return to his work as a signalman, but was given a light job as a telephone operator at Old Hill. He retired some years ago, and had not seen a doctor for 12 months. On Saturday she and her husband went to the pictures, and returning home at 9.30, retired to bed at 10.30. At 5.30 on Sunday morning she heard a gurgling noise, and woke up to find her husband unconscious. When the doctor arrived he was dead. Dr. W. Allen said his opinion was that the man died from apoplexy. A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned."

1939 Register

71, Reddal Hill Road – BRIDGE INN

[1] *Clifford C. Lewis*, date of birth 14/4/1880, publican, married;

[2] Frances M. Lewis, dob 27/8/1889, unpaid house duties, married:

The license was put up for consideration of redundancy on 4th February 1959.

Lichfield Mercury 29/5/1959 - Notice

"The Licensing Act, 1953. Notice of Principal Meeting. County of Stafford.

Notice is Hereby Given that the Principal Meeting to be held pursuant to the Licensing Rules, 1910, by the Compensation Authority of the above area, will be held in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, Stafford, on Thursday, the 25th day of June, 1959, at 2.15 o'clock pm.

And Notice Is Hereby Also Given that the Compensation Authority will at the Meeting be prepared to hear, with reference to the renewal of the licenses of the premises specified in the subjoined list, all those persons to whom under the Licensing Act, 1953, they are bound to give an opportunity of being heard.....

List of Licensed Premises.....

BRIDGE INN, Reddal Hill Road, Old Hill. Nature of License, Publican's. Licensee, *Ethel Maria Denbury*."

Lichfield Mercury 14/8/1959 - Notice

"The Licensing Act, 1953.

Notice as to Sending in Claims to be Treated as Persons Interested in Licensed Premises.

County of Stafford.

Notice is Hereby Given that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 25th day of June, 1959, to refuse the Renewal of the Licences of the premises specified below, all persons claiming to be interested in the said premises for the purpose of the payment of the compensation under the said Act (other than the Licensees and Registered Owners of the said premises) are required to send to the Compensation Authority notice of their claims before the 5th September, 1959, for the purpose of enabling the Compensation Authority to ascertain in manner provided by the Licensing Rules, 1910, the persons entitled to compensation under the said Act in respect of the said premises.

Notice of claims must be given in the form of annexed and may be sent to the Clerk of the Compensation Authority at the County Buildings, Stafford.

Licensed Premises.....

BRIDGE INN, Reddal Hill Road, Old Hill. Nature of License, Publican's. Licensee, *Ethel Maria Denbury*. Registered Owners, Ind Coope Ltd."

Compensation was paid on 24th December 1959.

The license was extinguished on 31st December 1959.

BRITANNIA

124, (77), Halesowen Street, BLACKHEATH

OWNERS

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1949]
Enterprise Inns [1993], [1994]
J. D. Wetherspoon [2007], [2019]

LICENSEES

David Darby [1868]
John Haynes [1871]
John Harris [] – **1874**);
Alfred Cox (**1874** – []
Mrs. Alfred Cox [1876]
Thomas Smart [1876] – **1880**);
Thomas Chapman (**1880** – [1901]
Titus Hadley [] – **1903**);
William Foxall (**1903** – **1907**);
Alfred Edward Fewtrell (**1907** – []
George Pooler [1908]
Joseph George Littlewood [] – **1909**);
Frederick Salt (**1909** – **1916**);
Mrs. Charlotte Steventon Darby [1919] – **1927**);
Ernest Slater (**1927** – **1930**);
Solomon Westwood (**1930** – **1931**);
Robert John Mullins (**1931** – **1946**);
Frederick William James Gipton [1949] – **1951**);
Sydney Chapman (**1951** – **1955**);
John James Woodfell (**1955** – **1964**);
Bert William Strong (**1964**);
Edward Ernest Johnson (**1964** – [1965]
S S Cheema [1983]
Tony James [1984]
Roy Stanley [1986]
Jacqueline Nash [1991]
Carolyn Timmins and Elizabeth Gallagher [2000]
Elizabeth Ann-Marie Gallagher [2002]
Vicky Devine [2012] – [2014]
Siobhan Rustom [2017]
Jonny Miles [2019]

NOTES

77, Halesowen Street [1881], [1891], [1901], [1911]
124, Halesowen Street [1939], [1940]

It had an ante '69 beerhouse license.

County Express 13/6/1868 - Advert

“BRITANNIA INN, Halesowen Street, Blackheath.

Mr. Chandler will Sell by Auction, on Monday, June 22nd, 1868, at Eleven o'clock, the Valuable Public House Fixtures, Seasoned Ale Casks, Four-pull Ale Machine, Capital Malt Crusher, Gig, Light Spring Trap, Two Narrow-wheel Carts, Set of Gig Harness, Blacksmith's Anvil, Two Iron Vices, Gas Fittings, &c; also a portion of the Useful Household Furniture, American Clock, Mahogany Chest of Drawers, and Effects, at the BRITANNIA INN, Halesowen Street, Blackheath, by the direction of Mr. *David Darby*, who is declining the business and leaving.

Auction Offices: Cradley Heath.”

1871 Census

Halesowen Street – BRITANNIA

- [1] *John Haynes* (49), beer seller, born Clun, Shropshire;
- [2] *Margaret Haynes* (45), wife, born Llanwair Waterdine, Shropshire;
- [3] *John Haynes* (19), son, carpenter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Margaret Haynes* (17), daughter, domestic servant, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Harry Haynes* (10), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Alice Haynes* (8), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

County Advertiser 19/2/1876 - Advert

“Wanted, a honest, industrious Servant Girl, used to a public house, 20 to 25 years of age. Apply, Mrs. *A. Cox*, BRITANNIA INN, Blackheath.”

County Advertiser 30/9/1876

“*Thomas Smart*, landlord of the BRITANNIA INN, Blackheath, charged *Joseph Walters* with being disorderly upon his premises, and with refusing to quit when ordered to do so on the 16th inst. Defendant was further charged with having been drunk and disorderly on the same date. Both offences were proved, and the Bench inflicted a fine of 2s 6d and costs each.”

County Advertiser 20/11/1880

“*Fanny Parkes*, Hackett Street, Blackheath, was charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the licensed premises of *James [sic] Chapman*, BRITANNIA INN, Blackheath. The case was proved, and defendant was fined 10s including costs.”

1881 Census

77, Halesowen Street

- [1] *Thomas Chapman* (34), carpenter, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Emma Chapman* (27), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Harry E. Chapman* (4), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Frank H. Chapman* (2), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Thomas F. Chapman* (1 month), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Sarah Ann Slade* (14), boarder, domestic servant, born Rowley Regis;

Dudley and District News 12/11/1881

“A meeting of nailers’ delegates was held on Monday night at the BRITANNIA INN, Blackheath, Rowley, for the purpose of considering the advisability of forming a union to embrace the whole of the districts of East Worcestershire and Staffordshire. Mr. Solomon Westwood presided. Councillor Davis and Mr. C. Williams, jun, of Birmingham, were present.

Mr. Williams submitted to the meeting a scheme for the formation of a union, and suggested that the members should contribute 4d per week for men, and 1d each week for women and children. In cases of sickness a member who had been in the society for twelve months to receive 10s per week for the first six months, 5s for the next three months, and 3s per week for the following three months. A suitable allowance also to be made in case of death. Under the same scale it was proposed that the strike pay should be 6s per week for a man, 3s for the wife, and 1s 6d for each child.

Councillor Davis said he thought if an association was commenced there would be no lack of members, and he considered that out of the 28,000 operatives engaged in the trade they could reckon on at least 15,000 or 16,000 members. (Hear, hear.) He strongly advocated the necessity for the Bromsgrove districts, in which there were over 5,000 operatives, to amalgamate with the up-country districts in the formation of the union. If they would follow the scheme laid down by Mr. Williams, the society could be worked successfully. (Hear, hear.)

It was resolved to form a union forthwith. Mr. Williams was appointed general secretary, and an executive and sub-committee were elected. The appointment of a president was left with the Executive Committee.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 3/12/1881

“On Monday, a meeting of nailers’ delegates was held at the BRITANNIA INN, Blackheath, Mr. John Price being in the chair. The general secretary, Mr. C. Williams, junr, reported that he had many encouraging replies in answer to the appeal sent to the local gentry and clergy, expressing their sympathy with the nailers in their position, and their willingness to assist them. One of the gentlemen had also promised a donation of £5. He also reported that the ‘Labour Standard’ has agreed to receive donations for the union and acknowledge them. He further reported that the new scheme had met with the approbation of the whole of the men, and was being well taken up.”

County Express 8/9/1883

“On Monday last the members and friends of Court Britannia’s Pride, No.7000, of the Ancient Order of Foresters, met at the Court House, BRITANNIA INN, Halesowen Road, Blackheath, for the purpose of presenting Bro. E. Willetts, PCR, with an emblem of the Order, handsomely framed. Bro. Joseph Parsons, PCR, occupied the chair, and Bro. Joseph Willetts the vice-chair. The presentation was made in a suitable manner by Bro. John Owen, secretary. Bro. Willetts ably responded. A very enjoyable evening was spent.”

Thomas Chapman was also a brewer. [1884]

County Express 28/6/1890

“A meeting of the Stourbridge and District Licensed Victuallers’ Society was held on Thursday evening, at Mr. *Thomas Chapman*’s, BRITANNIA INN, Blackheath. The president (Mr. A. Walker) was in the chair, and Mr. J. Billingham, in the vice-chair, and there was a large number of members present.....”

1891 Census

77, Halesowen Street

- [1] *Thomas Chapman* (43), beerhouse keeper and builder, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Emma Chapman (37), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Harry E. Chapman (14), son, assistant brewer, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Frank H. Chapman (12), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Thomas F. Chapman (10), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Emma F. Chapman (8), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] John W. Chapman (5), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] Mary A. O. Chapman (3), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [9] Ellen E. Chapman (3 months), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

County Advertiser 23/9/1899 - Advert

“Tuesday, September 26th, 1899.

Important Sale of Valuable Freehold Licensed and Other Property, situate at Blackheath, Rowley Regis.

Mr. W. Hackett has received instructions to Sell by Auction, at the Grand Hotel, Colmore Row, Birmingham, on Tuesday, September 26th, 1899, at Seven o’clock in the Evening, subject to Conditions of Sale incorporating those of the Birmingham Law Society. All that most Valuable Freehold Beerhouse and Premises, the BRITANNIA INN, Halesowen Street, Blackheath, now in the occupation of Mr. *Thomas Chapman*, together with Six Houses and Premises adjoining, and a Corner Piece of Building Land, the whole producing at low rentals £80 9s 8d.

The Auctioneer calls special attention to Brewers and others seeking a good Free House, as the above is situate in a good neighbourhood and is well known, and has always done a good trade, which may easily be increased. The property is well and substantially built, and the six Houses always command good and respectable tenants.

For further particulars, apply to Messrs. Wright and Hollins, Solicitors, or to the Auctioneer, both of Church Street, Oldbury.”

It was sold at auction on 26th September 1899 for £2,310.

Dudley Herald 8/9/1900

“*Thomas Chapman*, landlord of the BRITANNIA INN, Halesowen Street, Blackheath, was charged with permitting drunkenness to take place on his licensed premises, and also with selling to a drunken man. Mr. Collis, solicitor, of Stourbridge, pleaded guilty to the offence. He said that the date on the summons was July, and it was very hot weather at that time. The defendant had been ill, and that rather upset him. The house, too, had been bought over his head after his having kept it for 20 years without any previous complaint against him. It was difficult to keep a house like that so long with a clean sheet, and he hoped the Bench would only impose a small fine.

Superintendent Spendlove said that was the first complaint against *Chapman*, who, he understood, was leaving the house. He proposed to tender no evidence under the circumstances, and should be content to withdraw the case with a small penalty. Defendant was fined 10s and costs.

Absalom Gould, of Blackheath, was ordered to pay 10s including costs, for being drunk on the above-named licensed premises.”

1901 Census

77, Halesowen Street

- [1] *Thomas Chapman* (56), builder and contractor, born Old Hill;
- [2] Emma Chapman (46), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Thomas F. Chapman (20), son, carpenter, born Blackheath;
- [4] Emma F. Chapman (18), daughter, born Blackheath;
- [5] John W. Chapman (15), son, nut forger, born Blackheath;
- [6] Mary A. V. Chapman (13), daughter, born Blackheath;
- [7] Ellen E. Chapman (10), daughter, born Blackheath;
- [8] Gladys V. Chapman (2), daughter, born Blackheath;

County Advertiser 28/9/1901 - Advert

“BRITANNIA INN, Halesowen Street, Blackheath, Staffordshire.

To Publicans, Dealers and Others.

Mr. W. H. Hackett has received instructions to Sell by Auction, upon the Premises as above, on Monday Next, September 30th, 1901, the Brewing Plant, Surplus Household Furniture, and other Effects, comprising Two good Working Cobs, Two capital Spring Traps, Nearly-new Fruiterer’s Truck, Two 160-Gallon Brewing Boilers, Doors, and Bars; Two Oval Mash Tubs, Collecting Square, Two Wood Vats and Supports, Copper Cooler, Sieves, Two Mash Rules, Two 120-Gallon Barrels, Four 60-gallon Bar-

rels, Four Round Tubs, Malt Crusher, Ladle, with skimmer; Tin Tunpail, Set of Iron Bedsteads, Spring Mattress, Wool Mattress, Cane-seated and other Chairs, Washstand and Dressing Table, Fire-guard, Fenders, Dust Preventers, Wringing Machine, Sundry Ironwork, Quantity of Timber, etc; Two capital Cobs, 14 hands high, quiet to ride and drive, and good workers; Two Spring Traps, in good condition; Nearly-new Fruiterer's Truck, and numerous other Effects.

The whole on View Morning of Sale.

Sale to commence at Twelve o'clock.

Auctioneer's Offices: 13, Church Street, Oldbury, and Clent near Stourbridge. Telephone No.63 Oldbury."

County Advertiser 25/11/1905

"William Howard, labourer, of Blackheath, was charged with assaulting John Wharton, a bricklayer, on the 21st inst. Mr. Plant, who appeared to prosecute, explained that on the day in question complainant was drinking in the BRITANNIA INN, Halesowen Road, Blackheath, with some friends. Complainant recently broke his left collar bone whilst at work, and was in receipt of compensation. This appeared to annoy defendant, who tried to thrust a quarrel upon the complainant. This was, however, avoided, but when Wharton got out of the house Howard rushed at him, and said, 'I will give you compensation.' He then struck Wharton upon the shoulder, and made further attempts to assault him. Complainant felt pain from his shoulder, but attributed this to his previous accident, but a few days later he visited Dr. Freer, who informed him that his collar bone was again broken.

Evidence was given in support of this statement by complainant and two other witnesses.

Defendant denied assault, but the Bench bound him over to keep the peace for six months, and also ordered him to pay the costs, 14s 6d."

County Express 29/8/1908

"At Old Hill, on Wednesday, *George Pooler*, licensee of the BRITANNIA INN, Halesowen Street, Blackheath was summoned for permitting drunkenness upon his licensed premises, and also for selling to a drunken person on the 5th inst. Mr. J. W. Clulow prosecuted, and Mr. J. S. Sharpe defended.

Mr. Clulow said he had gone through the evidence, and had had a conversation with Supt. Johnson and Mr. Sharpe, and as a result he asked for the cases to be withdrawn on payment of costs. It appeared that an old man named Joseph Parkes was seen to come out of the house in a drunken condition. *Pooler* was absent at the time, but as soon as Mrs. *Pooler* perceived that Parkes was in a drunken condition she got him off the premises. Under those circumstances, and having regard to defendant's good character, the police consented to the case being withdrawn.

Mr. Sharpe said Parkes was an elderly man, and showed no signs of drunkenness until he 'went off suddenly.'

The Bench agreed to this course being adopted, the costs amounting to £3 6s.

A charge against Joseph Parkes, of Halesowen Road, Blackheath, of being drunk on licensed premises, was also withdrawn on payment of the costs."

County Express 9/7/1910

"An enquiry was held yesterday, before Mr. G. C. Lewis (coroner), at the BRITANNIA INN, Blackheath, touching the death of Thomas Windsor, aged 83, of Hackett Street, who died on Thursday morning. On June 8th Windsor was found by his daughter sitting in bed with his throat cut and a razor by his side. He was attended by Dr. McQueen, and lingered till Thursday morning. A verdict of Suicide while Temporarily Insane was returned."

1911 Census

77, Halesowen Street – BRITANNIA INN

[1] *Frederick Salt* (68), beerhouse keeper and police pensioner, born Stone, Staffordshire;

[2] *Charlotte Salt* (67), wife, married 42 years, born Waterhouses, Staffordshire;

[3] *Hannah Salt* (36), daughter, born West Bromwich;

[4] *Herbert Salt* (28), son, warehouseman, steel tube works, born Brierley Hill;

[5] *Charlotte Steventon Darby* (26), daughter, widow, assistant in the business, born Brierley Hill;

[6] *Jessie Steventon Darby* (3), grand-daughter, born Blackheath:

Frederick Salt, beer retailer, 124, Halesowen Street. [1916]

He died in 1916.

See also GEORGE AND DRAGON.

Mrs. *Charlotte S. Darby*, beer retailer, 124, Halesowen Street. [1924]

A Wine License was granted on 2nd March 1938.

Provisional Removal of License granted to land adjoining premises partly on present site. Wine License and Provisional Removal confirmed at Stafford on 26th April 1938.

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/4/1938

"The County Licensing Confirmation Committee sat at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Tuesday, to consider the confirmation of provisional licenses and removal orders granted in the petty sessional courts.....

Mr. Gilbert Griffiths successfully applied for the removal of the beer licence of the BRITANNIA INN, Halesowen Street, Black-

heath, to premises proposed to be erected partly on the land forming the site of the existing inn and land adjoining, also for the sale of wine on the premises.”

1939 Register

124, Halesowen Street

- [1] *Robert J. Mullins*, date of birth 15/10/1886, public house manager, married;
- [2] *Marian (Dorothy) Mullins*, dob 3/12/1892, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] *Robert H. Mullins*, dob 24/9/1923, improver to constructional and heating engineers, single;
- [5] *Marian (Mullins) Davis*, dob 24/9/1928, at school, single;
- [6] *Dorothy (Mullins) Whitehouse*, dob 22/9/1930, at school, single;

Birmingham Mail 24/11/1939 - Advert

“Bar-General Wanted, live in; commence December 7; references required.
Apply, BRITANNIA INN, Halesowen Street, Black Heath.”

Provisional grant of Removal given on 8th February 1939, confirmed on 6th December 1939.

Closed
Demolished
Rebuilt

An application for a full license granted on 2nd February 1949 and confirmed on 27th April 1949.

Tony James was a former wrestler billed as “Jumping Jimmy James”.

Sandwell Evening Mail 19/2/1986

“A Blackheath landlord has taken only £15 in three days and may be forced to board up his pub if his request for a rate reduction fails. Mr. *Roy Stanley*, of the BRITANNIA INN, Halesowen Street, said that between Sunday night and Tuesday night he only sold £15 worth of drink, and that his weekly sales have plummeted from £1,000 a week four months ago to under £300. Mr. *Stanley* is among 47 landlords whose applications for rate reductions may be heard before a valuation panel at Dudley on March 11. And fellow applicant Mr. *Gian Singh Cheema*, of the SPRING COTTAGE, in Harvills Hawthorn, agrees. ‘It is a highly unemployed area with very little money,’ he said.

One of the owners of many of the pubs, Ansell's Brewery Co. Ltd., has admitted that falling sales are hitting landlords hard. ‘There are many reasons why individual tenants feel they need a rate reduction, but is mainly due to the changing circumstances of an area, such as factories and firms closing down,’ said Mrs. *Pat Nixon*, publicity officer for Ansell's.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 30/7/1991

“A hooded raider threatened to harm a 10-month-old baby unless his mother handed over the £1,400 takings from her Blackheath pub. Terrified *Jaqueline Nash*, licensee of the BRITANNIA INN, Halesowen Street, had parked her car in West Bromwich to bank the cash when the raider struck. Her son Paul was in a child seat in the back of the car and as Mrs. *Nash* opened the boot to get the pushchair the thief struck.

The robber said he had kept her and the baby under observation and the child would be harmed if she did not hand over the cash, hidden under the front seat. After handing over the money, he told her to get back in the car where she sat petrified for several minutes before raising the alarm.

She said today, ‘As soon as he threatened the baby, the money became irrelevant. You just don’t know what people like this might do – even hurt a baby. No money is worth that.’

Mrs. *Nash*, aged 26, who has kept the BRITANNIA with her husband Paul for two years said, ‘Because of roadworks I went to the car park in Church Street. I had just removed the pram from the car boot when I noticed this man.’

Det. Chief Insp. *Derek Bloxham*, of West Bromwich CID, said the half-caste Afro-Caribbean man, aged 30 to 35 was wearing a tracksuit with a maroon or red hood.”

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?

BRITANNIA, Halesowen Street, Black Heath, Birmingham.....

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.....”

Sandwell Evening Mail 7/2/1994 - Advert

“Enterprising Pubs for Enterprising People.

We have a number of opportunities available in the licensed trade within an area covering the Midlands, Leicestershire going up into South Yorkshire.

An Open Day is being held at the BRITANNIA, Halesowen Street, Blackheath, Birmingham, to give you the chance to have an informal chat with us.

Enterprise Inns offers all the back up and support you'd expect from one of the country's leading independent pub operators. The kickstart programme will enable you, with a minimum investment between £5,000-£8,000, to take a house either on a Three Year Tenancy or a 21 year Assignable Lease.

For more information come along to the Open Day on Wednesday 9th February between 4.00-7.00pm.

Enterprise Inns Limited, Friars Gate, Stratford Road, Solihull, B90 4BN.”

Halesowen News 8/9/2008

“Wine lovers can tickle their tastebuds with a selection of award-winning wines at three local pubs taking part in a 19-day wine festival. The MOON UNDER WATER in Cradley Heath, the BRITANNIA in Rowley Regis and the WILLIAM SHENSTONE in Halesowen are all taking part in the wine festival which runs from September 17 until October 5.

Six new wines will be on offer, including a Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz 2006 from South Australia and a German Naked Grape Riesling 2006, none of which have previously been served in the pubs. The wines will be sold at £2.20 for a 175ml glass, at £2.95 for a 250ml glass and at £7.69 for a bottle.

The MOON UNDER WATER manager Maxine Tolley said, ‘The wine festival will give people the opportunity to sample a range of award-winning wines at affordable prices.’”

Halesowen News 11/12/2012

“A Rowley Regis pub is holding a funday this weekend to raise cash for the family burnt out of their home last week. Louise Pilkington, aged 31, is recovering from burns after a blaze at her home which left her and two daughters homeless.

The landlady and regulars at the BRITANNIA, Halesowen Street, are holding a fun day on Saturday between noon and 4pm.

Vicky Devine, landlady at the Wetherspoons pub, said, ‘We all know Louise and the family in the BRITANNIA and we wanted to do something for the family. Santa will be here in our grotto and there will be facepainting, a table top sale and a raffle for people to enter. We are looking for donations for table top sale and all the money raised will go to Louise and the family.’ She added, ‘Louise has got two children what we are all doing is the typical Black Country mentality, we look after our own.’”

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. 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 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 6/1/2016

“A boozy row has erupted between Sandwell Council and Wetherspoons 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 8/9/2017

“A trio of Black Country boozers are cutting prices to protest against tax rules they say are unfair. On Wednesday September 20 the MOON UNDER WATER in High Street, Cradley Heath, the BRITANNIA in Halesowen Street, Rowley Regis and the WIL-

LIAM SHENSTONE in Queensway, Halesowen, will drop the cost of all food and drink by 7.5 per cent. The pubs are taking the action, which will last one day only, to support national Tax Equality Day, aimed at highlighting the benefit of a VAT reduction in the hospitality industry. All food and drink in pubs is subject to 20 per cent VAT while supermarkets have a zero VAT rate on all food. Publicans say the big retailers use that saving to sell alcohol at a discounted rate.

Gabrielle Tandy, manager of the MOON UNDER WATER, said, 'We are keen to highlight the amount customers would save if VAT in pubs was lowered permanently. So, for example, the total price of a meal and drinks for an individual would be reduced from £10 to £9.25 on Tax Equality Day. A reduction in the level of VAT on a long-term basis will generate growth and create jobs in the important leisure and hospitality sector and help the high street of which pubs are an integral part.'

Dudley News 25/11/2017

"Dudley News Loos at five borough Wetherspoon pubs have been rated among the best in the country. The FULL MOON in Dudley, the ABRAHAM DARBY at intu Merry Hill, the CLIFTON in Sedgley were all given a platinum star rating in the Loo of the Year Awards 2017.

Inspectors also gave the top rating to the MOON UNDER WATER in Cradley Heath and the BRITANNIA in Rowley Regis. Meanwhile, gold ratings were given to the WATERFRONT INN in Brierley Hill and the WILLIAM SHENSTONE in Halesowen. The awards, celebrating their 30th anniversary this year, aim to highlight and improve standards of 'away from home' toilet provision across the UK. Loo of the Year Awards inspectors made unannounced visits to thousands of toilets at sites across the UK, in order to judge them. All of the toilets were graded from bronze to platinum – unacceptable toilets were not graded at all. The platinum rating was only given to outlets which offered 'exceptional toilets.'

Toilets were judged against numerous criteria, including décor and maintenance, cleanliness, accessibility, hand washing and drying equipment and overall management.....

The BRITANNIA manager, Siobhan Rustom, said it was 'great' that efforts to keep the toilets in tip top condition had been recognised by inspectors.

Mike Bone, managing director of the awards scheme, added, 'The toilets at all seven pubs have been designed and fitted out to a very high standard and are both clean and well maintained. The pubs richly deserve their awards.'

Dudley News 2/8/2018

"Wetherspoon's pubs to host gin festival. An 11-day gin festival is coming to Black Country pubs later this month.

The MOON UNDER WATER in High Street, Cradley Heath, the BRITANNIA in Halesowen Street, Rowley Regis, and the WILLIAM SHENSTONE in Queensway, Halesowen, will have numerous award-winning and flavoured gins on offer throughout. The FULL MOON in High Street, Dudley, the ABRAHAM DARBY at intu Merry Hill, the CLIFTON in Bull Ring, Sedgley and the WATERFRONT INN in Level Street, Brierley Hill, will also be involved in the festival, which will run from Friday, August 17 to Monday, August 27."

[2019]

BRITANNIA

CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

LICENSEES

James Hyde (1863 – [1865])

NOTES

County Advertiser 9/1/1864

"James Hyde, landlord of the BRITANNIA beerhouse, Cradley Heath, was charged with having his house open for the sale of beer at half-past eleven o'clock on the night of Saturday last. Police-sergeant Powner proved the charge, and as the defendant had only kept the house a month, he was dismissed on promising to pay costs and not offend again."

Stourbridge Observer 26/3/1864 -Advert

"The BRITANNIA INN, Cradley Heath.

To be Disposed Of, with immediate possession, the above well-accustomed Inn, situate near to the Five Way, and extensive Iron Works of the New British Iron Company, and now doing a steady business. Coming-in about £60. Cause of leaving, business engagements at a distance.

Apply to Mr. Chandler, Auctioneer &c, Cradley Heath."

BRITANNIA

5, Springfield Lane, (Knowle Lane), Five Ways, Springfield, ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

Thomas B. Williams and Lizzie Bate, Rowley Regis

LICENSEES

John Knowles [1854]
Joseph Parkes [1861]
John Tranter [] – **1874**);
Benjamin Round (**1874** – [1885]
James Round [1891]
William Woodall [1901] – **1906**);
Albert Barnsley (**1906** – [1911]
Joseph Plant [1919] – **1928**);
Frank Taylor (**1928** – **1929**);
Thomas Benjamin Mason (**1929** – **1931**);
Laura Mason (**1931**);

NOTES

It was an ante '69 beerhouse.

1861 Census

Springfield Lane – Public House

- [1] *Joseph Parkes* (49), brass caster, born Wolverhampton;
- [2] Nancy Parkes (54), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] Jane Parkes (18), daughter, born Wolverhampton;
- [4] John Parkes (11), son, scholar, born Dudley;
- [5] Rebecca Parkes (6), daughter, scholar, born Dudley;

County Express 21/11/1868

“On Monday, an inquest was held, before Edwin Hooper, Esq, coroner, at the BRITANNIA INN, Springfield, on the body of Henry Barnet, aged 38, whose death occurred in a coal-pit, at Windmill End Colliery, on Wednesday, the 11th inst. He was last seen alive at about half-past six on the previous evening, in the engine fire-hole. He was the next morning found dead in the pit, at the bottom of the shaft. It was not known how he got there. Something was heard in the shaft about three o'clock. The Jury returned a verdict of Found Dead, and it was supposed he came to his death accidentally. A slight cut was found on the head. Deceased leaves a widow and five children. Mr. Baker, Government Inspector of Mines, was present.”

Stourbridge Observer 21/2/1874

“At the Police Court on Wednesday, before Messrs. F. W. G. Barrs and H. Smith, *John Tranter*, landlord of the BRITANNIA INN, Springfields, was summoned for unlawfully opening his house during prohibited hours, on the 8th inst.

Police-constable Cooper said he was stationed at Old Hill. On the above date, at 5.25pm he visited defendant's house in company with Police-constable Goodfellow. He found four men in the house. One of the men came from Dawley Brook [Kingswinford], and the others lived within 200 yards of the house. There was a stain on the table as if some ale had been there a short time before. Police-constable Goodfellow gave corroborative evidence.

Defendant said he had invited the men to tea, and there was no ale had in. Fined 20s and costs.”

County Advertiser 22/5/1875

“*Benjamin Brown* [sic], landlord of the BRITANNIA INN, Rowley, was charged with having kept his house open after eleven o'clock for the sale of ale on the 26th ult. Mr. Clulow defended.

Police-constable Giles said that at twenty-five minutes past eleven o'clock on the night in question he visited the defendant's house, and found in the tap room eight men and women, and in another room thirteen men and women. He called the attention of the defendant to the men and women, and on going into the smoke room he found the defendant's daughter putting back the clock. Cross-examined: Was not asked for his watch whilst he was in the house.

He afterwards left the place, as there was a lot of men there, and he thought they would interfere with him. He went to a neighbouring publican's, Mr. Harrison's. Reached there about twenty minutes to twelve, and was supplied with a glass of beer. Mr. Clulow said that after hearing the evidence he should produce, his client would be entitled to have the case dismissed. He should be able to call four witnesses who would totally deny the statement of the officer that the clock was put back, or that it was after eleven o'clock. Both defendant's daughters would deny that anything of the sort took place. The officer might have thought he saw the clock put back, but his witnesses would say it was incorrect. Mr. Clulow then called witnesses in support of his statement.

The Bench retired, and on returning into Court said they had decided to dismiss the case."

County Advertiser 3/5/1879

"*Benjamin Round*, BRITANNIA INN, Springfield Lane, Rowley, was summoned on a charge of illegally selling porter on the 20th ult, at a time when his house ought to have been closed. Mr. T. Homer (Brierley Hill) defended.

Evidence for the prosecution was given by Police-constables Rowlands and Frost, who in plain clothes visited the house of the defendant at 11am on Sunday the 20th ult. They stated that they saw a woman standing at the back door. The door was opened by a girl, and they went in, when they found a boy at the top of the cellar with the bottle of porter produced, which, on seeing them, he put under a bench. On being questioned about what had taken place, defendant's wife at first said she knew nothing about the porter, but she afterwards admitted that it was for a poor person, and was to be paid for at dinner time.

Mr. Homer's defence was that the porter was given, and not sold to the woman. He called defendant's wife and daughters and the daughter of a woman named Hill to prove that the latter spoke to the landlady on the night previous to the day of the alleged offence, and asked her if she could have half a pint of porter about eleven o'clock on Sunday morning, as her mother was ill and was ordered to drink porter. The landlady said she could not sell her any, but under the circumstances she would give her half a pint at that time.

There were several discrepancies in the statements made by the witnesses, and the magistrates thought the explanation offered was not satisfactory. They remarked that they could attach no importance to the defence after such evidence, and fined defendant (as it was the first offence) 10s and costs."

1881 Census

5, Springfield Lane

[1] *Benjamin Round* (58), beer seller, born Rowley;

[2] Elizabeth Round (57), wife, born Rowley;

[3] Phoebe Ann Round (19), daughter, barmaid, born Brockmoor;

[4] *James Round* (16), son, bricklayer's labourer, born Old Hill:

West Bromwich Weekly News 28/5/1881

"*Benjamin Round*, jun, was charged with being drunk and refusing to quit his father's house, the BRITANNIA INN, Springfield, on the 19th inst. He was also charged with breaking the windows, and assaulting Mary Davis, and using threats towards his mother. It appeared that on the night in question defendant was at his father's house drunk. He asked for some beer, and being refused he drew it himself. Being remonstrated with he broke the cups, and then assaulted his sister by pulling her hair and striking her. He was put out, and he then used threats towards his mother, and also smashed 14 panes of glass, doing damage to the extent of 14s.

Defendant said he was very sorry for what he had done.

He was sent to prison for one month for assaulting his sister, and ordered to pay the costs, amounting to 32s 6d in the other cases, or another month."

County Express 11/4/1885

"On Wednesday, at the Old Hill Police Court, warrants for the apprehension of several men were granted on a charge of brutally ill-treating two young men named Benjamin and *James Round*, sons of the landlord of the BRITANNIA INN, Spring Vale, Rowley, on Tuesday afternoon. For the past few days a series of pigeon homing matches have taken place in the district, and several disturbances have ensued. On Tuesday afternoon a number of men visited the BRITANNIA in a very drunken condition and demanded drink. The landlady instructed her sons not to serve the men, and they were ordered out. They then went into an adjoining garden and commenced a disturbance. The sons of the landlady went out to order them away, when they took off their buckled belts and struck the young men about the body and head with such ferocity as to render them unconscious. Both of them are now under medical treatment, and they appeared in Court on Wednesday with bandaged heads, and looking very ill."

County Advertiser 18/4/1885

"At the Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, before Messrs. W. Bassano and C. Holcroft – John Townsend, Thomas Collier, William Manby, Edward Pearson, and Alexander Waldron, all young men, of Springfield, Rowley, were charged with assaulting *Benjamin Round*, son of the landlady of the BRITANNIA INN, Springfield Road, on the 6th inst. Collier and Pearson were further charged with assaulting *James Round*, brother of *Benjamin Round*, on the same date. Mr. W. Waldron prosecuted, and Mr. Ward defended.

In opening the case Mr. Waldron stated that the assault was a shocking and brutal one. Most of the defendants were in the Militia, and the assault was committed with the belts usually worn by militia men. Manby, however, used a poker. After the assault some women took the complainants away, and the defendants, not content with having assaulted complainants, stoned the women. If he proved what he had opened he should ask the Bench to mark their sense of disapprobation of the unmanly conduct on the part of

the defendants by a severe penalty.

The evidence for the prosecution was that on Easter Monday the defendants had been drinking at the BRITANNIA. After six o'clock in the evening they were ordered to leave, and went and stood in the road some distance from the house, but as they returned the landlady locked the front door to prevent them re-entering the house. Townsend tried to force the door by kicking it with his foot and bunting it with his shoulder. He tried to climb a gate, but could not, and then jumped a fence, and was followed by Collier. Townsend struck prosecutor in the face. The other defendants came up, and a fight took place. Benjamin *Round* stated that he had to engage with three of the defendants – Collier, Pearson and Waldron – who stood in a row with their belts doubled round their wrists, and 'with the buckle ends slapped him over the head as hard as they could strike.' Manby had a poker in his hand, and after witness fell down, 'rapped him on the head' with it. Witness said the fight was with fists at first, and it was when Townsend and defendant Waldron saw they were getting behind that these two pulled off their belts.

James Round stated that Pearson and Collier struck him with their belts. It was also stated that some women neighbours got complainant away, and that the defendants stoned the women.

Mrs. Venables stated that the fight was a fair one until belts were used. She added that defendant Waldron had a strap.

Mr. Waldron: Had it got a buckle on? – Witness: I suppose it had; it would be no good without.

The wife of Benjamin *Round* stated that all the defendants had their belts off.

Cross-examined: She did her best to release her husband, but did not throw any stones or brickbats.

Mr. John O'Dowd, surgeon, Netherton, spoke to Benjamin *Round* having received four scalp wounds, two of which penetrated to the bone. One wound was an inch and quarter in length, another an inch, and the other two were smaller. The wounds were not yet healed. *James Round* had two scalp wounds which penetrated to the bone. Both the men, when he saw them, were bleeding profusely.

For the defence, Mr. Ward submitted that if there was a free fight as had been opened, there was no case to answer. Addressing himself to the surroundings of the case, Mr. Ward went on to say that the defendants had been drinking at the BRITANNIA, and having spent all their money, they left the house voluntarily. Shortly afterwards a man named Clee came out of the house, threw up his hat, and wanted to fight any of them. Townsend and Clee commenced fighting, and Collier attempted to separate them. Benjamin *Round* at that moment came upon the scene, struck Collier on the nose, and a general scuffle and free fight took place. Mr. Ward commented on the fact that the poker which figured in the case was the property of the landlady, and the inference from that must, he contended, tell in favour of the defendants. As he was instructed, the poker was brought from a public house by a man named Parkes, who struck Pearson on the head with it. Then it was that one or two of the defendants took off their belts, not militia belts as had been stated, for the men were not in the Militia, and defended themselves. He should ask the Bench to believe that complainants were the aggressors and that defendants did nothing more than protect themselves.

Witnesses were then called and gave evidence in keeping with Mr. Ward's statement.

Manley stated that not more than one belt was used, and Mary Faulkner deposed that Benjamin *Round* struck the first blow.

Mr. Bassano said the Bench felt they must inflict a heavy fine in this case, inasmuch as they considered fighting with belts was only one degree removed from fighting with the knife. The defendants would therefore be fined 40s and costs, with the alternative of six weeks' imprisonment with hard labour. The surgeon's fee and bill and were allowed."

1891 Census

5, Springfield Lane – BRITANNIA INN

[1] *James Round* (26), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Elizabeth D. Round (27), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Lily Round (3), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[4] James Round (2), son, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Elizabeth Round (5 months), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[6] *Benjamin Round* (68), father, living on his own means, born Rowley Regis;

[7] Elizabeth Round (67), mother, born Rowley Regis;

[8] Florrie Riley (14), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

County Express 9/1/1897

"David Davies, miner, Springfield, was charged with refusing to quit the BRITANNIA INN, Springfield, and with assaulting *William Woodall*, the landlord, on the 21st ult. Mr. Waldron defended.

It was stated that Davies entered the BRITANNIA intoxicated. Witness told defendant to leave the premises, but he obstinately refused to do so although asked several times. His conduct caused a disturbance in the house, and he was eventually turned out. When in the street defendant was very violent and kicked and struck the landlord and also burst the house door.

For the defence, Mr. Waldron denied on behalf of the defendant that he was drunk, and was therefore in a condition to be supplied. Further, the defendant did not start the disturbance.

For refusing to quit defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs and 20s and costs for the assault."

Dudley Herald 8/10/1898

"The Knowle Friendly Societies held their annual services on Sunday last in the Knowle New Connexion Chapel, in aid of the Dudley Dispensary, Guest Hospital, and Birmingham Eye Hospital. The service in the afternoon was conducted by Mr. J. Robinson, of Constitution Hill, Dudley, and in the evening by Mr. R. Darby, of Coombs Wood, near Halesowen. In the afternoon a procession was formed by members of the Court Robin Hood's Pride, AOF, the Knowle Friendly Society held at the Knowle New Connexion School, and White Pink Lodge of Free Gardeners held at the BRITANNIA INN, Springfield Lane. The procession, headed by the Dudley Christ Church Early Sunday Morning School Band, paraded the principal streets of the district. A collection

was made at each service and along the route of the procession, and a sum of £6 15s 0¼d was realised.....”

1901 Census

5, Springfield Lane

- [1] *William Woodhall* (34), fitter (engine), born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Jessie Woodhall* (33), wife, born Old Hill;
- [3] *Joseph S. Woodhall* (13), son, born Dudley;
- [4] *Sydney Woodhall* (11), son, born Old Hill;
- [5] *Harry Woodhall* (5), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Dorothy Woodhall* (3), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *Hubert Woodhall* (1), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] *Joseph Early* (29), boarder, general labourer, born Cradley Heath:

[St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms](#)

[22nd November 1905 - Norah \(b. 25/9/1905\), daughter of *William* and *Jessie Woodall*, publican, Springfield Lane.](#)

County Advertiser 4/2/1905

“Yesterday morning Mr. A. A. Betham (Deputy Coroner) held an inquest at the BRITANNIA INN, Springfields, Rowley, touching the death of Mary Elizabeth Crow, aged three, whose parents reside at Springfield Lane, Rowley, and who met with her death under shocking circumstances on the 31st ult.

Rosannah Crow, the mother, stated that at 1.30pm on the date named, she left deceased, with two other young children in the house while she went to Warren’s Hall Colliery to pick coal. When she returned she found that the child had been badly burned and was dead. There was no fireguard in the house. She asked a woman named Darby to look after the house. She admitted that her husband was a miner but she went to pick the coal because she had run out of it. She denied she was in habit of picking coal. William Crow, the husband, stated that he knew his wife went to pick coal when they ran short, but she generally left the children in charge of some friends.

Rachel Smart stated that on the date named she heard Mrs. Crow’s children crying in the house. She went to the house, pushed open the door, and saw the deceased child with her clothes in flames, which were subsequently extinguished by a man named Thomas Mason.

Rose Ann Darby, a neighbour, denied that Mrs. Crow asked her to look after the house whilst she was away, and said that the mother was in the habit of picking coal from the colliery even when she had received her allowance coal.

Police-constable Bowers corroborated this.

The Deputy Coroner said it was the worst case he had ever heard in his experience of neglect on the part of the mother. It almost amounted to criminal neglect. In cases like that he hardly knew what they could do.

Mr. J. Chapman (foreman of the jury) said it was a common practice in the district, and in performing his duties as school attendance officer he found that young children were too frequently left alone by their parents in the house.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and on their recommendation the Deputy Coroner severely censured the mother, and also disallowed her expenses. In another such case he should commit the persons to the Assizes for trial. He also cautioned the husband to see when his wife went out to pick coal again that some one was left in the house.

The coroner produced a piece of flannelette, known as ‘non-flam,’ which did not blaze when ignited. He proceeded to show the article to the jury, and recommended that this should be used by people.

The foreman of the jury, at the conclusion of the inquiry, asked the coroner when they would come up to the standard of Worcestershire, and pay the jurymen for their services. The Deputy Coroner sympathised, and said that he would write to the County Council upon the matter.”

County Advertiser 13/7/1907

“Mr. G. G. Lewis (coroner) held an inquest at the BRITANNIA INN, Springfields, Rowley Regis, on Tuesday, concerning the infant male child of James and Beatrice Peters, of Springfields, Rowley, who died suddenly on Monday last. The evidence of Dr. Beasley showed that death was the result of suffocation, caused by convulsions, or by being overlain. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.

Mr. J. Tibbetts, a juror, asked the coroner if there was any likelihood of coroner’s juries being paid in Staffordshire in the same way as they were in Worcestershire. He said that nearly all the men summoned on that day had been fetched from work, and ought to be paid.

The Coroner said he should be pleased for juries to be paid in the district he was responsible for, but he could make no recommendation. The matter was in the hands of the ratepayers, who could urge their county councillors to vote in favour of payment.

Mr. Tibbetts said that in the interests of the working men, he should bring the question under the notice of the County Council.

The Coroner reminded the jury that the cost would fall on the ratepayers.”

1911 Census

5, Springfield Lane

- [1] *Albert Barnsley* (34), potter (moulder), born Dudley;
- [2] *Laura Barnsley* (31), wife, married 11 years, born Dudley;
- [3] *Laura Barnsley* (7), daughter, born Dudley;
- [4] *Adelaide Davies* (18), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

Dudley Herald 17/1/1931

“The death of Mr. *Thomas Benjamin Mason*, licensee of the BRITANNIA INN, Springfield, took place after a short illness on Wednesday last week. Deceased who was well known and highly respected, was 59 years of age. He leaves a widow and a wide circle of friends, by whom he will be sadly missed. The interment was on Sunday, at St. Andrew’s Church, Netherton, where other members of his family are buried. The curate officiated.....”

It was referred to the Compensation Authority on 4th March 1931, on the grounds of redundancy.

Dudley Herald 7/3/1931

“The licensing justices, besides renewing several licenses, heard three cases in which the police recommended that the house should be referred to the Compensation Committee for closure. In two cases – those of the VINE INN, Rowley, and the BRITANNIA INN, Springfield – they referred to the committee, and in that of the ROYAL OAK INN, Banner Street, Cradley Heath, Mr. J. T. Higgs appeared on behalf of the licensee (Mr. Joseph Bennett) and opposed the closure of the house. Inspector Davison said the application was being made by the police on the grounds of redundancy. He considered that there were enough houses of a better class to serve that locality. After further statements had been made the Chairman said the Bench felt that there was no likelihood of the Compensation Committee entertaining the case, and the license would be renewed.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/5/1931

“The Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910. Notice of Principal Meeting. County of Stafford. Notice is Hereby Given, that the Principal Meeting to be held pursuant to the Licensing Rules, 1901, by the Compensation Authority for the above Area, will be held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Monday, the 27th day of July, 1931, at 11 o’clock am. And Notice Is Hereby Also Given, that the Compensation Authority will at the Meeting be prepared to hear, with reference to the Renewal of the Licences of the several Premises specified in the subjoined list, all those Persons to whom under the Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910, they are bound to give an opportunity of being heard.....
List of Licensed Premises.....
BRITANNIA INN, Rowley. Beerhouse ante 1869. Licensee, *Laura Mason*.”

Lichfield Mercury 8/1/1932

“At Staffordshire Quarter Sessions, held at Stafford on Tuesday, the County Licensing Committee reported that the number of licences referred last year from seven divisions and boroughs was ten, seven of which the committee refused to renew, compensation being fixed as follows.....
Rowley Regis Division: BRITANNIA INN, Rowley, beerhouse, £1,591.”

Compensation paid.
Closed.

BRITANNIA

18, Rowley Village, (18, The Village), (Bell End), (Lillipot), ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

Thomas B. Williams and Lizzie Bate, Rowley Regis
Ansells Ltd. (acquired on 15th June 1946)
John Pardoe (acquired in 1988) [1991]
Woodman Taverns [2015], [2019]

LICENSEES

William Taylor [1868] – [1881]
Thomas Southall [1891] – [1901]
John Haden [1904] – 1921);
James Nock (1921 – 1934);
William Dunn (1934 – 1959);
Neville Joseph Lockwood (1959 – 1962);
David Holland (1962 – 1965);
Charles Loughran (1965 – []
John Pardoe (1988 – [2004]

Becky Jones [2013]
Dean Cartwright [2017] – [2019]
Pete Walker [] – 2021

NOTES

Lillipot [1871]
Rowley Village [1870], [1872], [1939], [1940]
18, The Village [1881], [1891], [1911]
18, Rowley Village [1901]

It had an ante '69 beerhouse license.

William Taylor, farmer and beer retailer, Rowley Village. [1868], [1870], [1872]

County Advertiser 6/3/1869 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant Girl. One used to a Public-house preferred.
Apply to Mr. *William Taylor*, BRITANNIA INN, Rowley.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/8/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for Rowley Regis division was held on Friday, at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill.....
The following applications were made for alehouse licenses.....
William Taylor, BRITANNIA, Rowley. Application refused.”

County Express 27/8/1870

“The annual licensing meeting for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division was held yesterday.....
The following beerhouse keepers applied for wine and spirit licenses.....
William Taylor, BRITANNIA INN, Rowley. Application refused.”

1871 Census

Lillipot – BRITANNIA INN

- [1] *William Taylor* (40), farmer of 33 acres, employing 1 man, and beerhouse keeper, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Sarah Taylor (38), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] George Taylor (15), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] William Taylor (13), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Maria C. Taylor (11), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Joseph Taylor (10), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Mary P. Taylor (9), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis
- [8] Thomas Taylor (7), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [9] John Taylor (5), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [10] Elizabeth Taylor (2), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [11] Frank Taylor (6 months), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [12] Ellen Homer (20), general servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 8/6/1872 - Advert

“Wanted, immediately, a good General Servant, used to a Public-house.
Apply to Mrs. *William Taylor*, BRITANNIA INN, Rowley Village.”

Stourbridge Observer 9/11/1872

“On Thursday evening a number of friends met at the house of Mr. *William Taylor*, the BRITANNIA INN, Rowley; and partook of a splendid repast, served up in very good old English style by the worthy host. After the cloth was removed, a number of songs, recitations &c, were gone through in a creditable manner, and an enjoyable evening was spent.”

County Advertiser 21/2/1874 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant, one used to a Public-house preferred.
Apply, Mrs. *W. Taylor*, BRITANNIA INN, Rowley Village.”

County Advertiser 25/5/1878

“A meeting of the masters in the rivet trade was held last night, at Mr. *Taylor*’s, BRITANNIA INN, Blackheath, for the purpose of taking into consideration the question of the wages to be paid in the trade, and the decision of the men to give up work unless they were paid according to the same rates as paid before the agreement of last November. Mr. James Slim presided.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/6/1878

“The Blackheath Rivet-makers and the Truck System.

On Friday evening a conference of the masters and representatives of the men was held at the BRITANNIA INN, Rowley, for the purpose of receiving the report of the deputation appointed to confer with the men relative to the proposal made a fortnight ago for the settlement of the difficulty at present existing in the trade. Mr. J. Slim presided, and Messrs. J. Cashmore and S. Parsons were present on behalf of the men. Mr. Cashmore stated that the outworkers, who had been the cause of the difficulty, had been waited upon, and they had agreed to discontinue work on Saturday, the 8th, unless the masters at present paying their men at reduced rates advanced them equal to the lists fixed in November last. The delegates also reported the result of the interview with Mr. David Willetts, Old Hill, and other masters, who, it was stated, were not paying the full list prices. They (the masters) expressed their willingness to pay their workmen according to the November list, or equal to the Blackheath masters, provided the latter would close their shops and pay the men ready-money for their work, as the Old Hill masters did.

An animated discussion arose between the masters and the delegates concerning the ‘truck system,’ which they alleged prevailed extensively in the Blackheath and Rowley districts, to the great injury of the trade. It was understood that prompt steps would be taken to stop the practice.

It was agreed to postpone action with regard to the difficulty in the trade for another fortnight, in order to ascertain what course would be adopted by the outworkers and their employers.”

County Advertiser 10/8/1878 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant, one used to public-house preferred.
Apply, Mrs. *Taylor*, BRITANNIA INN, Rowley Regis.”

1881 Census

18, The Village – BRITANNIA INN

- [1] *William Taylor* (49), beer seller and farmer of 33 acres, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Sarah Taylor* (47), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *George Taylor* (24), son, clerk, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *William Henry Taylor* (23), son, collector of rates, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Maria Cole Taylor* (21), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Mary Pearson Taylor* (19), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *Thomas Gould Taylor* (17), son, apprentice patternmaker, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] *John Taylor* (15), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [9] *Frank Taylor* (10), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [10] *Sarah Taylor* (8), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [11] *Ellen Taylor* (6), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [12] *Mary Barton* (26), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 27/4/1889

“On Tuesday, Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the BRITANNIA INN, Rowley, relative to the death of *Caroline Price* (67), wife of *John Price* of Belle End, formerly a leader of the nailers, who was found drowned in a pool on Saturday. The husband of deceased said he had been married 46 years, and deceased had never been very healthy. Since Christmas deceased had been in a very desponding state, and had said she would like to go like her daughter – out of her mind. Witness last saw his wife alive on Friday night. They retired to bed about 10.30pm, and when he awoke he found his wife out of bed. Later on he missed her, and upon going down stairs found the door unbolted. Witness went to the pool at the back of his house, where he discovered his wife’s body in the water. He raised an alarm, and with the assistance of a neighbour the body was taken out of the water and doctor was sent for. Upon Dr. *Beasley* arriving he pronounced life to be extinct. Three weeks ago last Sunday deceased told her daughter that she had tried to strangle herself. Shortly after they were married she attempted to destroy herself. The jury returned a verdict of Suicide whilst in a state of Unsound Mind.”

1891 Census

18, The Village

- [1] *Thomas Southall* (58), farmer and beerseller, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Eliza Southall* (58), wife, born Halesowen;
- [3] *Alice Haden* (23), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *John Haden* (24), son-in-law, labourer on farm, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Mary A. Haden* (3), daughter, born Worcestershire;
- [6] *Sarah A. Haden* (19), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 28/4/1894

“At the Rowley Police Court, on Wednesday – before Messrs. W. Bassano, J. H. Smith, and W. H. Holcroft – *James Morris* (24), rivet-maker, Ross, Blackheath, was charged with feloniously wounding *John Parkes*, with intent to do him grievous bodily harm, on the 17th inst. Mr. Ward defended. The case excited great interest throughout the district, and many people waited outside the Court while the proceedings were going on.

Complainant said he lived at Rowley Village. On the 17th inst, about six o’clock, he went to the BRITANNIA INN, Rowley, and found defendant in the house. Witness had a pint of ale, but afterwards drunk with defendant, who gave him some twist tobacco. A short time afterwards a dispute arose between them, and they exchanged blows in the room. They were, however, separated,

and the witness went out of the house at the back. He came back in a short time, and prisoner had then gone. Witness stayed in the house till closing time, eleven o'clock, and then went away towards his own home, in company with James Whitwell and William Horton. On the way they saw prisoner standing in the road, and when they came up to him he said to witness, 'Now, Jack, we have got to have it out; I have been waiting for you coming up the road.' Prisoner took his coat off, and witness prepared to defend himself. Just as they were beginning the fight, prisoner said, 'Wait a bit, Jack,' and fumbled about his clothing as if he was finding something. The fight commenced, and witness knocked prisoner down. The fight lasted about three minutes. The next day he found he had been injured under his arm, in his side, leg, and on the back of the head. The handkerchief he wore round his neck, his coat, vest, and shirt were saturated with blood, and there were cuts in them. He was able to walk home after the fight. He did not see prisoner with any weapon at the time, but he was quite sure that the prisoner made the cuts in the clothing. Witness saw Dr. Beasley the next morning, and he examined the wounds, which were bathed by witness's mother when he got home. Witness had not been to work since the occurrence, and was not at work yet.

Cross-examined: He and prisoner were friendly up to ten o'clock. It was a dark night. He made no complaint while Morris was there, but he was not aware he was wounded until his attention was called to it. His wounds were not yet well, because the stitches were not yet out. He did not say to a man named Reece that he did not know who had done it. He said, 'It is a bit of Jim's work,' and Reece said, 'He's good enough for it.' He did not fall on a spiked wall. The spiked wall was about two yards from the footpath.

William Horton deposed to going up the road with complainant who was a 'pal' of his. Morris was leaning against the wall, and said to prosecutor, 'Jack, you have got — well to fight before you go any further.' Parkes said, 'If I have to fight I reckon I will fight.' They fought about five minutes, and had four or five rounds. He did not see any weapon used.

Cross-examined: He did not see Morris with any weapon in his hand, nor did he see him attempt to use any weapon. The next day he saw prisoner, who asked him whether Morris used a knife, and he said he did not.

Alexander Parkes, brother to prosecutor, said he was told by a woman about eleven o'clock on the night of the 17th, that his brother was fighting, and he went down the road to see. He saw his brother putting his jacket on, and saw blood on his neck and handkerchief. There was a long cut on his neck, and he saw holes in his clothing the same night.

Police-constable Jewson, stationed at Cradley Heath, deposed to receiving the articles of clothing from prosecutor's brother, and arresting prisoner at Blackheath on the 18th inst. When he charged him with wounding, prisoner said, 'I did not stab him; I and he were fighting. I did not use a knife, and why did he not tell me about it last night? I have not had a knife for months.'

Police-sergeant Winfield said he received a complaint from prosecutor's brother on the 19th inst, and visited the spot he described. In the gutter, about five feet from the wall, he found some spots of blood. He examined the wall, and found some spikes on it. The greatest portion of these were turned downwards, were old, and not sharp at all. There were marks of a struggle on the horse road and footpath.

Dr. Beasley, of Rowley, said that between nine and half past on the morning of the 18th, Parkes came to his surgery, and he examined him. He found an incised wound on the left side of the neck, a deep incised flesh wound on the right arm on the inner surface under the arm pit. There was also a deep wound about the middle of the fifth rib, which had penetrated the bone, a smaller punctured wound on the same side, and two small punctured wounds on the scalp at the back of the head. The wounds on the neck, arm, and on the rib were clean cut, and were certainly dangerous. These wounds would, no doubt, be caused by a sharp-edged instrument, like a knife. These wounds, which were of a serious character, would not be caused by spikes on a wall; the minor ones might. The wounds were not dangerous in themselves. Parkes was four days in bed, and would not be able to follow his employment for a week or fortnight. The holes in the clothing corresponded with prosecutor's wounds. It was possible Parkes might walk home under certain conditions without knowing that he had received such injuries.

The Bench intimated that they considered a case made out for committal, and Mr. Ward said he should reserve his defence. Prisoner, when finally charged, said he was not guilty, that it was a stand-up fight, and that he did not use a knife at all.

Thomas Aldridge deposed to being present at the fight, and to seeing no knife used by the prisoner. Prisoner was repeatedly struck by Parkes.

Sarah Danks and Maria Foster gave evidence for the defence, deposing to the fight taking place on the footpath and road, and no knife being used.

Prisoner was committed to the Assizes. Bail was fixed at prisoner's own recognisance of £50, and two sureties in £20 each." [James Morris was tried at the Assizes on 26th July, found not guilty and discharged.]

County Advertiser 14/1/1899

"On Thursday morning, Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest at the MANCHESTER HOUSE, High Street, Blackheath, concerning the death of William Wheeler, aged two-and-a-half years, whose parents reside in Hackett Street, Blackheath, and who was found drowned in a cistern on Tuesday afternoon last.

Elizabeth Wheeler, mother, stated that on Tuesday afternoon, at 1.20, deceased after having had his dinner, went out to play in the yard. About five minutes later witness called to him, and receiving no answer she tried to find him, but she was unable to do so. A search was then made in the cistern, and his body was ultimately recovered. Dr. Freer was called in, but he could only pronounce life extinct.

The landlord of the houses was Mr. *Thomas Southall*, of the BRITANNIA INN, Rowley Village. The cistern had been uncovered for about three months, but previous to that it was covered up. The boards were rotten, and if the child had been playing on them it was likely to fall through. The cistern was not used.

John Blakeway, an old man, aged 77, deposed to entering the cistern, the water in which was 3 feet 6 inches deep, and recovering the body.

Evidence was also given by Police-constable Smith, and the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

The Foreman of the jury (Mr. T. P. Moyle) said he thought the owner should be requested to see that the danger was removed.

Another jurymen said he understood that there were similar cisterns in yards in the same street, which were a great source of great danger to persons residing in the houses.

Mr. E. T. Barnsley (sanitary inspector to the Rowley Urban District Council) said he warned Mr. *Southall* of the dangerous cistern twelve months ago, and he told him that day that he knew some accident would occur. Mr. *Southall* also owned a house on the opposite side of the street to the one where the accident occurred, where the cistern was left unprotected.

Mr. Moyle said there was no doubt in this case it was a standing danger.

Mr. Barnsley said his Council could not regard it as a nuisance, but they had requested Mr. *Southall* to have it filled in, and now that a fatal accident had occurred they would make some move in the matter.

The Coroner said he would write to the owner informing him of the jury's decision, requesting him to remove the danger. If he did not, and another case of that character was reported to him, he might find himself in an awkward position. He would also request the police to call upon Mr. *Southall*.

The Foreman said Mr. *Southall* was liable to be sued for damages by the parents.

Mr. Barnsley also promised to see Mr. *Southall*, and point out the seriousness of the matter should another similar case occur."

County Advertiser 28/7/1900

"The weather during the past week has been so oppressive in the Halesowen, Cradley Heath, Old Hill, and Blackheath districts that the various factories and manufacturing concerns were carried on with the utmost difficulty. A large number of chainmakers at Cradley heath ceased work in consequence of the excessive heat. On Wednesday evening there was a sad occurrence in the harvest field at Old Hill. A man named Henry Windsor (42), a rivet maker by trade, and formerly residing at Bell End, Rowley, was employed in mowing a field, when he was suddenly overpowered by the intense heat. He was conveyed to his home, but expired on the way. Drs. Beasley and Freer, who were called in, said death was caused by sunstroke.

Mr. A. A. Betham, deputy coroner, held an inquest on deceased, yesterday, at the BRITANNIA INN, Bell End. The evidence did not add anything to the above facts. He complained to his wife of the excessive heat. William Handley, of Corngreaves Road, saw him fall down, and assisted him in a way that called forth the commendation of the coroner. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that deceased died from the effects of the extreme heat. He was 46 years of age."

1901 Census

18, Rowley Village

[1] *Thomas Southall* (68), farmer and publican, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Eliza Southall* (68), wife, born Halesowen;

[3] *John Haden* (33), son-in-law, farm labourer, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Alice Haden* (32), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[5] *Mary Alice Haden* (13), grand-daughter, born Halesowen;

[6] *Amelia Haden* (1), grand-daughter, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 11/3/1905

"On Tuesday night last week the annual meeting of the Rowley Cricket Club was held at the BRITANNIA INN, Rowley, Mr. E. Westwood being in the chair. The report of the match secretary (Mr. T. Baker) showed that the first eleven had had a successful season, 18 matches being played, of which 9 were won, 2 drawn, and 7 lost. The second eleven was hardly so good, as they had fulfilled 14 engagements, and only secured six victories....."

County Advertiser 2/3/1907

"The annual meeting of the members of the Rowley Regis Cricket Club took place on Monday night at the BRITANNIA INN, Rowley....."

1911 Census

18, Village – BRITANNIA INN

[1] *John Haden* (44), farmer and innkeeper, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Alice Haden* (43), wife, married 23 years, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *Amelia Haden* (11), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Frances May Haden* (7), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[5] *Thomas Southall* (77), father-in-law, retired farmer, born Rowley Regis;

[6] *Eliza Southall* (78), mother-in-law, married 55 years, born Halesowen:

Evening Despatch 28/4/1914

"Further inquiries into the 'horse maiming' occurrence at Rowley establish beyond doubt that the wounding was an accident. Mr. Green, veterinary surgeon, of Dudley, examined the animal and stated at once that it had been staked, apparently by a jagged stoke of a fence which, it is stated, was broken down overnight unknown to the owner of the horse.

The wounds extended for several inches into the horse's body, and are of such a character that a man could not have caused them with such a blunt instrument as a stake.

The horse – a dark brown cob – belonged to Mr. *John Haden*, the landlord of the BRITANNIA INN, Rowley Regis, and was found lying dead in the yard early yesterday morning. The animal was lying in a pool of blood, and there were two big wounds. Overnight the animal had been left in a field on which Rowley Associates play football. Mr. *Haden* naturally at first thought that an outrage had been committed, and reported the affair to the police.

Superintendent Spendlove (West Bromwich) and Superintendent Johnson (Brierley Hill), together with Inspector Myatt, of Old Hill, visited the place, and a thorough examination was made. It was found that the horse had been literally disembowelled. A trail of blood was found leading from the field to the spot where the horse was found dead, and portions of its entrails were also discovered.

The animal was nine years old, and valued at £20.”

Sports Argus 13/11/1915

“Suburban League.

Rowley Associates v Cradley Heath St. Luke’s.

Played at the Rear of the BRITANNIA INN, Rowley village, before a fair gate.....

Result: Cradley Heath 4. Rowley Associates 0.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/7/1931

“The County of Staffordshire Compensation Authority, at their principal meeting at Stafford, yesterday, refused to renew the licenses of the following seven houses.....

BRITANNIA INN, Rowley Village.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/4/1938

“References to a man’s visits to public-houses before committing suicide were made at an inquest at Old Hill yesterday on Thomas Mansell, aged 56, 63, Mackmillan Road, Blackheath, a refuse collector, employed by Rowley Regis Town Council.

The widow, Elizabeth Mansell, stated that her husband returned from work at mid-day on Saturday and left at one o’clock to have a drink at the SIR ROBERT PEEL INN. He returned at 1.35 and he had had a few drinks. He afterwards went out for a walk, and said he should be back at eight o’clock.

William Dunn, licensee of the BRITANNIA INN, Rowley, stated that at 2.50 Mansell called at his house and asked for a gallon of beer, but he refused to serve him. He was too much over the mark.

Walter Watts, landlord of the KINGS ARMS INN, Rowley, said that at about three o’clock Mansell asked for a gallon of beer, but he refused to supply it. Witness said he would not describe the man as drunk, but he had had enough.

Other evidence showed that Mansell’s coat, waistcoat, and cardigan were found by the side of Rowley Hall pool at 4.30.

A verdict that Mansell committed Suicide while the Balance of his Mind was Disturbed was returned.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/4/1938

“The County Licensing Confirmation Committee sat at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Tuesday, to consider the confirmation of provisional licenses and removal orders granted in the petty sessional courts.....

The committee refused an application for a license to sell wine at the ROYAL EXCHANGE, High Street, Blackheath, and a similar application in respect of the BRITANNIA INN, Rowley Village, Blackheath, was adjourned, the Chairman intimating that the committee did not consider the sanitary arrangements satisfactory.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/5/1938

“Sixteen applications, granted earlier in the year by the 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 granting of a wine license to *William Dunn* in respect of the BRITANNIA INN, Rowley Regis, now a beerhouse, was confirmed, subject to structural alterations being completed by the end of August. Mr. Bergendorff (for applicant) explained that the application was adjourned from the last meeting to enable plans of the alterations to be submitted to the local justices. This had been done and the plans provisionally approved.”

1939 Register

Rowley Village – BRITANNIA INN

[1] *William Dunn*, date of birth 19/4/1891, licensee, married;

[2] Hilda M. Dunn, dob 7/8/1899, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[4] Margaret (Dunn) Lockwood, dob 6/8/1928, at school, single;

It was transferred to a full license on 27th April 1949.

Closed [1987]

The pub was reopened in 1989 after extensive renovation.

Sandwell Evening Mail 10/8/1991

“Bar Talk. BRITANNIA, Rowley Village, Rowley Regis.

Licensee *John Pardoe* is selling up and getting out of his Black Country pub. There is nothing too unusual in that kind of decision as more publicans find it hard to make their businesses pay in tough economic conditions. But *John* isn’t leaving for that reason.

On the contrary, when he does hand over the keys of the BRITANNIA in Rowley Village, Rowley Regis, it will put the final seal on a venture brimming with success. For the pub that *John* re-built, from what he describes as a terrible state, has attracted a tempting offer from a leading brewery.

‘I suppose it is the highest accolade a licensee can get when a brewery comes along and wants to buy his pub,’ said the man who

has raised the worth of several trading posts under his command. A Wolverhampton garage he turned into a restaurant was sold on as a prized addition to a national brewery's chain of steakhouses. His knack of turning opportunity into a gilt-edged asset also worked in the case of fish and chip shops he once owned.

The BRITANNIA has certainly gained in value and reputation since *John* bought it four years ago. He went to town spending a great deal to improve the bars, create a proper dining area and generally give the pub a better impression. Yet there were few obvious signs to show he was making a sound investment. Apart from much-needed structural work, *John* also had to make stern efforts to get rid of customers who were giving the pub a bad name.

That a brewery now sees the BRITANNIA as a valuable acquisition is testimony enough to the result of *John's* own efforts to put the pub back on its feet. 'I have always enjoyed a business challenge and only when I lose that interest will I know it is time to stop,' he said, 'and that hasn't happened yet.' He didn't want to leave the BRITANNIA but found the brewery's offer too good to refuse. *John* said he had another reason for calling 'time' on his career as boss of the BRITANNIA. He wants to be nearer his grandchildren and, because he is also anxious to stay in the pub trade, he has bought the Round Oak at Wombourne, near Wolverhampton.

On the basis of what he and his wife, Sandra, have achieved at the BRITANNIA, look out for another success story from a management team with the Midas touch.

Pubfile.

Pick of the Pints: Banks's Mild and Bitter; Carling Black Label lager, Draught Bass.

Food: Restaurant and bar meals.

Price of a pint: Mild, £1; Bitter, £1.05; Lager, £1,10.

Opening hours: 12am to 2.30pm (3pm Friday and Saturday); and 6.30pm to 11pm."

It was renamed BRITANNIA PUB AND BREWERY in 2017.

It had a brewery at the rear, a satellite of Pig Iron Brewery of Brierley Hill.

Halesowen News 25/10/2018

"Hot-Footing it to help the homeless – that's what Halesowen Parliamentary candidate Ian Cooper is doing as part of a fundraising firewalk. Mr. Cooper, Labour's candidate for the Halesowen and Rowley Regis constituency, will be walking over hot coals at the BRITANNIA pub in Rowley Village on Saturday, November 3.

Firewalk organiser Martin Clee – who is putting on the event to raise money for the Homeless One project (formerly Homeless Heroes) – is an old friend of Mr. Cooper's from their days studying at Rowley College.

Mr. Cooper said, 'When Martin announced he was organising a firewalk I thought it's the least I can do to risk a singed toe or two to help. The BRITANNIA is in my native Rowley and has recently had a makeover, plus a brewery is now on site for real ale fans. That's a good excuse to come along and support a great cause while having a warming drink or two.'

The Firewalk starts at 4pm, with training beginning an hour before."

Halesowen News 25/10/2018

"A firewalk held in Rowley Regis to raise money for the homeless proved to be a blistering success. Parliamentary hopeful Ian Cooper was among more than 50 fire walkers braving the heat with their feet at the BRITANNIA INN for the Homeless One charity.

Mr. Cooper, Labour's candidate in Halesowen and Rowley Regis, estimates his sponsorship figure will top £350. He said, 'It was a pleasure to support organiser Martin Clee and to join over 50 other people who came together to do something about the homeless in our society. I would like to thank the organisers and everyone who took part and also my friends, family and Labour Party supporters who came down to cheer me on. I think everyone enjoyed the experience – I know I did – and no one's toes were toasted as far as I know!'

Although not all the sponsorship money has been collected, organisers say the final total raised from the event is expected to be around £10,000."

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.....

BRITANNIA INN, Rowley Village."

[2020]

BRITISH ARMS

Corngreaves, CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Joseph Hollies [1866]

NOTES

Stourbridge Observer 1/9/1866

“At Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, *Joseph Hollies*, of the BRITISH ARMS, Cradley Heath, was charged with an offence against his license by allowing some men to be in his house drinking on Sunday week, before half-past twelve at noon. Police-constable Fox proved the case. *Hollies* was ordered to pay costs, and mind what he was about in future.”

County Advertiser 15/12/1866 - Advert

“The BRITISH ARMS INN.

To be Let, with immediate possession, that well-situated Public House, containing Bar and Parlour, Front and Back Kitchens, and Three Bed Rooms, and a large Club Room, opposite Corngreaves Iron Works. The Stock and Fixtures to be taken to at a fair valuation. Coming-in about £50. Rent low.

Apply to Mr. Chandler, Auctioneer, Five Ways, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 26/1/1867 - Advert

“BRITISH ARMS INN, Corngreaves, Cradley Heath.

To be Let, with immediate possession, the above Inn, which is situate near the entrance to the extensive Works of the New British Iron Company, and adjoining a great thoroughfare. The Premises consist of Front and Back Parlours, Bar, Kitchen, Club Room, three Bed Rooms, Malt Room, Brewhouse, large Yard; have a good supply of Hard and Soft water, and are arranged for carrying on a large trade, which the situation guarantees. Coming-in about £20. Rent low.

Apply to Mr. Chandler, Publicans' Valuer, &c, Cradley Heath.”

BRITISH OAK

68, (22), High Street / Wrights Lane, (21+22, Garratts Lane), OLD HILL

OWNERS

Joseph Foley Jnr.

Albert Eland Sidaway

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (leased from 1938)

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. (acquired on 14th August 1947)

LICENSEES

James Dimmock [1851] – [1855]

Edward Hewlett [1857] – **1859**)

Joseph Foley Jnr. [1860] – **1878**);

Mrs. Priscilla Foley (**1878** – [1883])

John Green [1884]

Albert Eland Sidaway [1891] – [1912]

William Scriven [1916] – **1938**);

Harry Willetts (**1938** – **1946**);

William Raybould (**1946** – **1950**);

Percy Benjamin Hackett (**1950** – **1960**):

NOTES

Garratts Lane [1860], [1861], [1896]

22, Garratts Lane [1881]
21+22, Garratts Lane [1891]
22, High Street [1908]
68, High Street [1912], [1932], [1940]

James Dimmock = James Dimmack

1851 Census

Garratts Lane

- [1] *James Dimmock* (45), coal miner and beer seller, born Dudley;
- [2] Sarah Dimmock (45), wife, born Rowley;
- [3] Joseph Dimmock (20), son, grocer, born Dudley;
- [4] Sarah Dimmock (15), daughter, born Rowley;
- [5] James Dimmock (12), son, scholar, born Rowley;
- [6] Ephraim Dimmock (10), son, scholar, born Rowley;
- [7] Alfred Dimmock (5), son, scholar, born Rowley;
- [8] Hannah Dimmock (1), daughter, born Halesowen:

Birmingham Journal 29/4/1854 - Advert

“Staffordshire. Eligible Freehold Property, at Old Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by T. W. Coldicott, at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill, on Monday, the 8th day of May next, at Six o’clock in the evening, the undermentioned desirable Properties, in lots to be determined on, and subject to conditions.

All that well-accustomed Public House, known as the BRITISH OAK, with Brewhouse, Shopping, Stable, Out-buildings, spacious Yard, and other conveniences, now in the occupation of *James Dimmack*; also, Three Messuages or Dwelling Houses adjoining, with Nail Shop, Yard, Out-buildings, and conveniences, in the occupations of Mary Bettridge, William Johnson, and Thomas Walker; the whole comprising an area of 1,367 square yards, or thereabouts, and producing an aggregate annual rent of about £37.

All the above Premises are situated in Garratt’s Lane, and near to the Dudley and Hales Owen Turnpike Road, at Old Hill aforesaid, in a populous and thriving neighbourhood, and have a communication with a new street running parallel to Garratt’s Lane.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 23/9/1855

“The Ring. Fights to Come October 22 Davis and Edmonds.....

Davis and Edmonds. We have received the second deposit of £3 a side for this match; the third, of £3 a side, is to be posted at Mr. *Dimmock*’s, BRITISH OAK INN, Old Hill, tomorrow (Monday) evening.”

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.”

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.”

County Advertiser 13/6/1857

“The following persons, keepers of public houses, were fined for offences against their tenor of the licenses, the respective charges being proved by the testimony of Police-officer Burton. Anne Cole, WHITE LION INN, Rowley Regis, 5s, including costs, for having her house open for the sale of liquor during the hours of divine service on Sunday, the 31st ult; *Edward Hewlett*, of Garratts Lane, 2s 6d and costs for a similar offence on the same day.”

Birmingham Journal 7/11/1857 - Advert

“BRITISH OAK, Garratts Lane, Old Hill.

To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, that well-known accustomed House, known by the sign of the BRITISH OAK, at Garretts Lane, in the parish of Rowley Regis, now doing a first-rate Business. The House and Premises are replete with every convenience, having excellent Tap Room, Smoke Room, Bar, Kitchen, Club Room, Yard, Stabling for three Horses, good Brewhouse, capital Cellaring, Piggeries, &c. The House is surrounded by Collieries and Ironworks. The present Proprietor is leaving on account of his having entered into the Farming Business.

For further particulars, apply to T. P. Stokes and Son, Public House Valuers, Priory Street, Dudley.”

Shrewsbury Chronicle 21/10/1859 - Died

“15th inst, at the BRITISH OAK INN, Old Hill, Staffordshire, after a long and painful illness, aged 40, *Edward*, third son of the

late Mr. R. *Hewlett*, of Harlescott, in this county.”

Joseph Foley Jnr. was also a saddler [1861], [1872]

Stourbridge Observer 1/9/1866

“An inquest was held on Tuesday, at eleven in the forenoon, at the BRITISH OAK INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, before Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, touching the death of a child named Elizabeth Wall, aged one year and eight months. Among the witnesses produced was Sarah Wall, mother of the deceased, who stated that her husband was a boatman, living in Garratts Lane. On Wednesday, the 8th inst she gave permission to a girl ten years of age to take her daughter out for a walk, merely telling her to take care of her. Shortly afterwards she heard an outcry, and on running into the road saw her daughter in flames which were put out by a woman who was standing by. A surgeon was immediately sent for, and every possible means were taken to ensure her recovery but after a few days’ suffering she died. John Rock, ten years of age, was next called. He gave his answers with great hesitation, and although closely questioned by the Coroner, all the evidence that could be got out of him was that he assisted in making a fire in a meadow near Garratts Lane, but that he had nothing to do with setting the child on fire. The Coroner observed that no reliance could be placed on the last witness’s statements, and Police-sergeant Powner stated that the witness’s mother had refused any information or assistance whatever in getting up the case. He also stated that there were several boys in the village who were in the habit of lighting these fires, and the Coroner said that the practice must be put a stop to, and gave orders to the police to take all persons into custody who were found near them. Another boy who was mixed up in the affair, named Thomas Shakespeare, was also called, but although he admitted that he was present when the catastrophe occurred, he denied either that he set fire to the deceased, or saw anyone else do so. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the child died from scorching and burning, but how it happened there was no direct evidence to show.”

County Express 3/8/1867

“The members of Court Britain’s Glory (No.4821) of the Ancient Order of Foresters celebrated their first anniversary at their court house, Brother T. Gaunt’s, OLD BUSH REVIVED, Powke Lane, Rowley Regis, on Monday, when upwards of 30 members sat down to an excellent dinner and supper provided by the host, Thomas Gaunt. Brother H. Whittall, secretary of the court, took the chair, and Brother Cornelius Parsons, the vice-chair. The room was handsomely decorated for the occasion. The usual loyal toasts having been given, the chairman addressed the members on the benefits received by joining Foresters’ societies, and said it was the best thing a working man could do to join a society of this sort. The members formed themselves into a procession, and marched through the village to pay a visit to Court Robin Hood’s Cave, No.4737, BRITISH OAK, INN, Garrets Lane, Old Hill, who were celebrating their anniversary on the same day, and after refreshing themselves they re-formed, and returned to the court house, where the evening was enlivened by a variety of songs, glees, and recitations, by Brothers Heber, Whittall, G. Firkn, W. Edwards, and Curtis. The conviviality was kept up to a late hour, when the members separated, highly gratified with the events of the day.”

County Express 10/4/1869

“Quarterly Meeting of Foresters. The quarterly meeting of the Dudley and Cradley Heath district of this important and popular order, took place at the house of Brother *Joseph Foley*, BRITISH OAK INN, Garratts Lane, on Monday The various courts in the district were represented by 32 delegates, one from each court. After having called for the credentials of the various courts, the meeting was duly opened and a great quantity of business dispatched. At six o’clock the party sat down to an excellent dinner provided by the host in his usual excellent style, and to which the bretheren did ample justice.....”

County Advertiser 19/6/1869

“At the Police Court, on Wednesday, Joseph Priest, a collier, was charged with stealing £1 10s belonging to Eliza Starkey, wife of David Starkey, also a collier. Mr. Stokes appeared for the defence. Prosecutrix said she lived in Garrets Lane. On the previous Saturday night she went to pay her husband’s club money, at the BRITISH OAK public house. Prisoner was in the kitchen, and asked her to drink with him. She did so, and afterwards paid for two pints of ‘brown stout’ for herself and prisoner to drink. Prisoner asked her to lend him a shilling, and she at once gave him one. Witness then went to purchase some grocery, and on her return again called at the public house. Prisoner said he wanted to see her son, and she and prisoner walked to her home together. It was about eleven o’clock when they reached the house. They sat side by side for about two hours. When prisoner was about to leave, witness discovered that prisoner had robbed her of £1 10s. Her husband was away from home, but her son lay asleep in the room on a screen. At the close of her cross-examination prosecutrix said she should like to withdraw the case. The case was accordingly allowed to be withdrawn, prisoner at the same time expressing his willingness to give prosecutrix a sovereign. The evidence and cross-examination of prosecutrix, and the looks of injured innocence prisoner attempted to assume, caused no little fun in Court.”

1871 Census

Garratts Lane – BRITISH OAK

[1] *Joseph Foley* (36), publican and saddler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Priscilla Foley* (36), wife, born Willenhall;

[3] *Mary Foley* (11), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Frederick A. Foley* (7), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

- [5] Joseph E. Foley (6), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Henry B. Foley (4), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] William C. Foley (2), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] Sarah Ann Tucker (21), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis;
- [9] Agnes Ella Waterhouse (11), nurse, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 22/7/1871

“Foresters’ Anniversary. On Monday last, at the house of Mr. *Joseph Foley*, BRITISH OAK INN, the members of Court Robin Hood’s Cave (No.4737) held their anniversary, when upwards of sixty sat down to an excellent dinner.....”

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

13th July 1873 - Frances Priscilla, daughter of *Joseph* and *Priscilla Foley*, publican, Old Hill.

County Advertiser 26/7/1873

“On Monday last the members of court Robin Hood Cave, No.4737, held their anniversary. The members met at their court house, the BRITISH OAK INN, Old Hill, and about 70 sat down to an excellent dinner provided by the host, Mr. *Joseph Foley*. Mr. E. S. Lewis, CR, presided, and Mr. James Jones was in the vice chair. The usual loyal and other toasts were given from the chair, and a most pleasant evening was spent.”

County Advertiser 20/5/1876

“John Smith was charged with unlawfully withholding a contribution book belonging to the trustees of lodge Robin Hood’s Cave, No.4737, of the Ancient Order of Foresters Friendly Society, to which lodge he was formerly secretary. Mr. Hayes prosecuted. He said that the defendant was formerly secretary to the above lodge, which was held at the BRITISH OAK INN, Old Hill. Some time ago the defendant made an application for an increase of salary, which being refused, he stated that he would not continue to discharge the duties of secretary. Another man was accordingly elected at the last general meeting to fill the office, but defendant refused to give up the books. After some trouble they obtained all the books from him but one – a contribution book– which he persistently refused to deliver up. As the lodge had every five years to draw up returns, which were forwarded to the Registrar and to the chief Court, they urgently required the book, because unless the return was properly made out they became subject to a heavy penalty. He then called Edward Solomon Lewis, the newly-elected secretary, and William Sadler, one of the trustees of the lodge, whose evidence was in accordance with the facts as above stated.

In defence, Smith stated that he took the whole of his books to the lodge, but the trustees refused to sign the one in question, the contribution book. He therefore refused to give it up until it was signed by them.

The Bench ordered him to give up the book.”

County Advertiser 22/7/1876

“The members of Court Robin Hood’s Cave of the Ancient Order of Foresters held their anniversary dinner at Mr. *J. Foley*’s, BRITISH OAK INN, on Monday night. A procession was formed, and headed by the officers and members, dressed in the several characters of ‘Robin Hood,’ ‘Little John,’ ‘Friar Tuck,’ &c, and the Cradley Heath Brass band, marched through the principal streets of the place to the Court house. After an excellent dinner, the chair was taken by Bro. W. Harrison, CR. The secretary read his report, which showed the court to be in a most satisfactory state; 36 new members had joined during the year, making a total strength of 214; and £450 was at the disposal of the court. The remainder of the evening was most agreeably spent by all present, in songs, and the usual friendly toasts and compliments.”

County Advertiser 21/10/1876

“Mr. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest on Wednesday, at the BRITISH OAK INN, touching the death of James Green (35), a collier, of Wrights Lane, Old Hill. The deceased went to bed, apparently in his usual good health, at half-past eleven o’clock on the night of Saturday last, and in an hour afterwards he was found dead. A verdict of Died from Natural Causes was returned.”

County Advertiser 30/6/1877

“On Thursday, Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the BRITISH OAK INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, on the body of Henry Higgs (19), who formerly resided in Garratts Lane. On the night of the 21st inst the deceased was walking home at about 11.40pm, in company with two other men, named Thomas Goode and William Ashmore. In crossing an entry he fell down, and his two companions, who were close behind him, fell accidentally upon the top of him. He appeared to have been injured by this, and complained of pain in the lower part of the abdomen. Mr. Standish, surgeon attended him, and it was thought probable he would recover, but his injuries terminated fatally on the 26th inst. The Jury heard evidence showing the above facts, and returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/4/1878 - Died

“On the 16th inst, aged 43 years, Mr. *Joseph Foley*, BRITISH OAK, Old Hill; deeply regretted.”

County Express 8/6/1878

“Alehouse Transfers. The Bench allowed the following transfers.....

ROYAL OAK INN, Garratts Lane, from *Joseph Foley* (deceased) to *Priscilla Foley*.”

County Express 6/7/1878

“Forestry. The annual quarterly meeting of the Dudley and Cradley Heath District was held at the BRITISH OAK, Old Hill, on Monday last. Bro. E. Lewis, DCR, in the chair. The usual business was got through in a satisfactory manner. Several deserving cases were met with a spirit which reflected great credit to the delegates present. Bro. J. S. Shinner, of Brierley Hill, was elected district representative to the coming High Court Meeting to be held in August next. The auditor’s report showed the district to comprise of 40 Courts, with 3,464 members, and funds to the amount of £1,487 0s 1½d, £1,000 of which was very advantageously put out as mortgage at 5 per cent. The usual vote of thanks ended the meeting.”

County Advertiser 14/6/1879 - Deaths

“On the 29th ult, aged 12 years, Henry Brevitt, third son of the late *Joseph Foley*, BRITISH OAK, Old Hill, Dudley.”

Dudley Herald 9/8/1879

“Thomas Bryan was charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of *Priscilla Foley* on the 28th ult. Prosecutrix said she kept the BRITISH OAK, and on the day in question defendant refused to quit when she asked him. Defendant was ordered to pay costs.”

County Express 4/10/1879

“An inquest was held at the BRITISH OAK INN, Old Hill, on Monday, before Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, relative to the death of Timothy Priest, Cherry Orchard. It appeared that deceased, who was 51 years of age, was at work getting stone at No.22 pit, Netherton, the property of the Earl of Dudley, on the 24th ult, when a quantity of stone fell upon him, breaking his back and dislocating his right hip. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.

The same day an inquest was held at the BRITISH OAK INN, Old Hill, by Mr. E. Hooper on the body of a man named Joseph Williams, aged 57, Garratts Lane, Old Hill. Deceased was employed under the New British Iron Company, loading wagons, at the Black Wagon Wharf, Old Hill. On the 29th ult, he saw some empty wagons coming quickly down the incline, and endeavoured to stop them with a ‘sprag.’ In doing so he was knocked down, and the wagons passed over him. The jury found a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Dudley Herald 14/2/1880

“Mr. Edwin Hooper, South Staffordshire Coroner, held an inquest at the BRITISH OAK INN, Old Hill, on Thursday, on the body of Phoebe Ann Thompson, a year and a half old. The mother of deceased was giving breakfast to her family on the morning of the 19th ult, when a boy but little older than the deceased overturned a cup containing hot tea. The deceased was thereby badly scalded, and died from the effects on the 8th inst. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

London Gazette 26/3/1880

“Pursuant to an Order of the High Court of Justice, made in an action in the matter of the estate of *Joseph Foley*, deceased, Mayhew against *Foley*, 1879, the creditors of *Joseph Foley*, late of the BRITISH OAK INN, Old Hill, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, Innkeeper, who died on the 16th day of April, 1878, are, on or before the 1st day of May, 1880, to send by post, prepaid, to Messrs. Robinson and Watts, of Dudley, in the county of Worcester, the Solicitors for the defendant, *Priscilla Foley*, the administratrix of the said deceased, their Christian and surnames, addresses and descriptions, the full particulars of their claims, 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 Vice-Chancellor Sir Charles Hall, at his chambers, situated No.14, Chancery-lane, in the county of Middlesex, on Wednesday, the 26th day of May, 1880, at one o’clock in the afternoon, being the time appointed for adjudicating on the claims. Dated this 15th day of March, 1880.”

County Advertiser 10/4/1880

“At the Police Court, on Wednesday, William Woodhouse, chainmaker, Four Ways, was charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of *Priscilla Foley*, BRITISH OAK INN, Old Hill, on the 31st ult. He was further charged with breaking a spirit glass, value 4d. Defendant cross-examined complainant to show that she had told him (defendant) that she wanted neither Liberal nor Radical in her house, and that she herself broke the glass. For refusing to quit defendant was fined 5s and costs, and for the other offence 6d, 4d damage and costs.”

Dudley Herald 8/5/1880

“An inquiry was held on Saturday, before Mr. E. Hooper (district coroner) at the BRITISH OAK INN, Old Hill, touching the death of Emma Weston (27). Deceased, who was the wife of Thomas Weston, grocer, Black Wagon Street, died the previous Wednesday night, from the result of injuries self-inflicted. From evidence tendered by deceased’s husband and a neighbour named Joseph Jones, it appeared that on the night in question, Mr. Weston left home and returned shortly after eleven o’clock, when the nurse in the family, in reply to his question, said his wife had gone to bed. On going upstairs he failed to find her in bed or in the room, and, becoming alarmed, he searched the shop and cellar, but in vain. He then aroused Joseph Jones and a Mrs. Shakespeare, two neighbours, both of whom entered the house and assisted in the search. Blood was found at the back of deceased’s bedstead upstairs, and also on the room floor, that on the floor having the appearance of having been wiped up with an apron which was found saturated with blood. Nothing, however, was then seen of the deceased, and after the house had been searched throughout, even to the back premises, the water cistern, and the washtubs, Jones and Mrs. Shakespeare returned upstairs, when the former lifted the valance of the child’s cot, and there discovered deceased lying underneath, with her head resting in her hand, and her throat cut.

She was not then dead, but died about half an hour later. A medical man having in the meantime been called in, Mr. Weston said his wife had lately suffered from spasms and cramp, and since her last confinement had appeared despondent in her mind. The fact of her mother having married again had also seemed to affect her spirits. Was satisfied that his wife's injuries were self-inflicted. Two of deceased's relatives had suffered from insanity, and one, an aunt, had attempted suicide by cutting her throat. Police-constable Johnson, who was called to the house when deceased was found, described the position in which she lay, and said upon searching the room he found the knife produced (a large shop knife) smeared with blood; it had been pushed between the bed and the mattress, the point being outwards. Full inquiries had been made into the matter, but there were no suspicious circumstances attending the affair.

The Coroner, in summing up, remarked that there appeared to be little doubt that deceased destroyed her own life, and also that she suffered temporarily from insanity, especially when it was remembered that other members of the family had been similarly affected.

The jury returned a verdict of Suicide whilst in a state of Temporary Insanity."

Dudley and District News 24/7/1880

"An inquest was held on Saturday, at the BRITISH OAK, Old Hill, before Mr. E. Hooper, on the body of Joseph Rock (17), boatman, who was drowned in the canal at Tipton a day or two ago under the following painful circumstances. It appears the deceased, with his father and another man, were in charge of a boat at Bloomfield. The deceased accidentally fell over the side of the boat into the water, which at that point is rather deep. The unfortunate man, being unable to swim, struggled in the water and cried loudly for help. His father and his comrade were both afraid to jump in to rescue him, as neither of them could swim. All other available means were tried, but failed, and after a short but painful scene, the poor man sank and was drowned in the presence of his father and fellow-workman. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

County Express 24/7/1880

"The fifteenth anniversary of court Robin Hood's Cave, No.4737, was celebrated on Monday last, at the BRITISH OAK INN, Old Hill, and a most sumptuous dinner was served up under the superintendence of the hostess, on whom the excellency of the repast and the arrangements generally for the enjoyment of the numerous guests, reflected great credit. Mr. A. Crumpton, CR, was voted the to the chair, and Bro. S. Robinson, PCR, the vice-chair. The usual toasts were given, and several excellent speeches were made, and a present to the hostess was made as a token of respect and appreciation. The Secretary, Bro. C. S. Lewis, read a few statistics from the annual balance sheet which showed that the income for the year had been £318 9s 8d; expenditure, £274 11s 4d; total worth of the Court, £725. Various toasts were given and duly honoured, and the proceedings were enlivened by some excellent singing."

Evening Express 17/2/1881

"James Powell, the prisoner in the previous case, Joseph Pool (22), labourer, Powke Lane, Blackheath, and William Ashfield (30), miner, Old Lion Road, Old Hill, were charged with the theft of some silver-mounted harness, a saddle, and a pair of reins, belonging to Thomas Tibbetts, landlord of the FOX HUNT INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill.

Prosecutor lent the saddle and reins to a neighbour in November last, by whom they were placed in a stable at the BRITISH OAK public house in Garratts Lane, and were afterwards missed. Subsequently the prisoner Powell offered the saddle for sale to a man named Burgess, who, however, refused to purchase it, and afterwards Ashfield, with whom Powell lodged, and Pool sold the saddle to Edward Mason, a carter, of Blackheath, for 5s and three quarts of ale, Ashfield then promising to send him the reins at a future day.

Prisoners were each sentenced to one month's imprisonment, with hard labour, and the Bench expressed their disapproval of the conduct of Mason in purchasing the stolen property."

1881 Census

Garratts Lane

- [1] *Priscilla Foley* (45), widow, innkeeper, born Willenhall;
- [2] Frederick A. Foley (17), son, saddler, born Rowley;
- [3] Joseph E. Foley (16), son, pattern maker, born Rowley;
- [4] William C. Foley (12), son, scholar, born Rowley;
- [5] Louisa Nicholls (20), servant, born Dudley:

Dudley and District News 11/6/1881

"In the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division). In the matter of the estate of *Joseph Foley*, deceased.

Mayhew v Foley. Sale of Valuable Freehold Properties, comprising and Old-licensed Inn and premises. Three Front Shops and Seven Dwelling Houses, all situate at Old Hill, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction (pursuant to an order of the High Court of Judicature, dated 13th February, 1880), by

Mr. John Bateman (of the firm of Messrs. Bateman and Son), the person appointed to sell the same, on Monday, the 13th day of June, 1881, upon the above premises, the BRITISH OAK INN, High Street, Old Hill, at six o'clock in the evening, and subject to conditions annexed to the particulars, and to be produced at the time of Sale, the following Valuable Freehold Properties.

Lot 1. The Old-licensed Inn and Premises known by the sign of the BRITISK OAK, situate and being No.22, Garratts Lane, now called High Street, and forming the corner of High Street, Wrights Lane, and Black Waggon Street, at Old Hill, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, with Sadler's Shop and the front Piece of Land, forming the corner part thereof, with spacious and convenient Brewhouse, two-stall Stable, Gig Shed, large walled-in yard and premises, the whole in the occupation of

Mrs. *Priscilla Foley*.....”

West Bromwich Weekly News 24/9/1881

“*Priscilla Foley*, of the BRITISH OAK, Garratts Lane, was charged with permitting drunkenness. Mr. Thomas Cooksey defended.

PC Rowlands said at 10.45pm on Saturday, the 3rd instant, he visited the defendant’s house, and found one of the men whom they had seen at the GATE HANGS WELL [another case], the same evening, who was standing near the counter in a drunken condition. He called the defendant’s attention to it, when she replied that the man came there, and asked to be provided with lodgings. She then ordered him to leave.

PC Rowe gave corroborative evidence.

Several witnesses were called for the defence, who said when the man went into the house he appeared to be sober, and walked straight across the room, and asked if anyone could tell him where he could be accommodated with lodgings. He did not make any disturbance, but left as soon as requested.

Mr. Cooksey urged upon the Bench that the house had always been conducted in a proper manner, and there had not been any complaint made against it for the past twenty years.

The Bench said that due care was not exercised in endeavouring to ascertain that the man was sober before supplying him with drink, and imposed a fine of 5s and costs.”

AND

County Advertiser 24/9/1881

“*Priscilla Foley*, landlady of the BRITISH OAK, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, was charged with permitting drunkenness on the 3rd inst. Mr. Cooksey defended.

The same officers who were in the other two cases went to defendant’s house, and saw there a man named Hobban, leaning against the counter with a glass of ale before him. The man came out of the house shortly afterwards, and it was noticed that he was drunk. They followed him, and as he refused to give his address, they locked him up.

For the defence, Mr. Cooksey called the barmaid who supplied the ale, and other witnesses, to show that the man was not drunk when served with the ale.

The Bench said due care had not been exercised by the barmaid in supplying the man with beer, but the defendant was responsible for that. A fine of 5s and costs was inflicted.”

Dudley and District News 13/5/1882

“At the Old Hill Police Court on Wednesday, before Messrs. W. Bassano and C. Holcroft, William Ball, alias George Keel, Poplar Place, Bridge Street, West Hockley, Birmingham, pearl and stud turner, and John Johnson, 12, Eaton Street, Hockley, pearl turner, were charged with uttering and putting off counterfeit coins representing half-crowns, and one florin, at Old Hill and Cradley Heath, on the 8th inst. On the prisoner Ball was found 8s 9d and five coins, and on Johnson 29s 7½d and two coins.

Joseph Manning, QUEENS HEAD, Corngreaves Road, said on Monday evening last the prisoners came to his house while he was sitting at tea. Ball called for two drinks, and was served by his wife, who called him to look at the half-crown they had tendered for the drink. He looked at the coin and broke it in two. It was bad, and he sent for a police officer, and detained Ball, but Johnson would not stay, and went out because he said he had nothing to do with Ball.

Aquilla Parkes, landlord of the BIRD IN HAND, Spinners End, said Ball came to his house on Monday afternoon about 4.30 and called for a glass of ale, tendering the base half-crown produced, he filled the glass of ale and gave him 2s 4½d back. It rang well on the counter. Ball drank the ale and went out. The next morning a police officer came and asked if he had taken any bad money, and his wife examined the money they took on Monday and picked the half-crown out, it being the only one they took that day. He identified Ball next day.

Susan Harris, wife of Thomas Harris, licensed victualler, CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Providence Street, New Town, said on Monday Ball came to her house and asked for a bottle of soda water, she had none and gave him a bottle of ginger beer, he tendered her half-a-crown, she gave him 2s 4½d in change and he went out. Next day she found that the coin was bad.

Louisa Nicklin said she was servant to *Priscilla Foley*, who kept the BRITISH OAK, High Street. On Monday afternoon both the prisoners came to the house and Ball called for a pint of ale. She filled it and Ball gave her half-a-crown which she took to her mistress who gave her change. She was quite sure that Johnson was with Ball. *Priscilla Foley* said when her servant brought the half-crown and she had given her the change she went into the shop and saw the prisoners standing by the counter. Two more men were with them. When she went into the bar Ball asked for the cup to be filled, and gave her a two shilling piece, she gave him 1s 9½d in change, they did not wait to empty their cup but said they must go so as not to be caught in the rain. Ball and Johnson then left the other men and went out. The two coins she received were bad, and she gave them to the police.

Emma Johnson (14), daughter of Samuel Johnson, the HEARTY GOOD FELLOW, King Street, Old Hill, said she saw the prisoners come into the house on Monday afternoon. Ball called for a quart of ale, she supplied it and Ball gave her half-a-crown in payment. She gave the change, Ball threw the drink down and both went out. Her father wanted some change and she took it to Chances for sixpences.

Hanna Webb, barmaid at Mr. John Foley’s, the SWAN INN, Old Hill, said the prisoner came into the house and Ball asked for some ale and tendered her half-a-crown, she took the coin to Mrs. Foley and gave Ball the change. Hannah Foley said Hannah Webb brought her a half-crown which she put in her pocket with the other money. The same night she gave it to a police officer. PC Litherley said he was sent for to the QUEENS HEAD, Corngreaves Road, on Monday and received the half-crown produced, from Mr. Manning, who said in the presence of Ball, that he had received it from him. He took Ball into custody, and he at first gave the name of George Keel, Hart Yard, Hatton Garden, London, and said it was not half-a-crown but a two shilling piece which he gave. PCs Litherley and Lawrence proved receiving the base coins produced from the witnesses.

Inspector Walters said on Monday the prisoner Ball was brought to the station and gave the name of George Keel, Hart Yard, Hatton Garden, London. He declined to give any reference, and said witness might enquire about it. He took him to Birmingham to the detective department, where he saw detective Baker, who called Keel by his right name, and said, 'How do William Ball.' He then went to Ball's address in Bridge Street, West Hockley, and on going into the house he found the prisoner Johnson lying on a screen, he then gave the name of George William Hobson, No.13, Eaton Street, Abbey Fields, Hockley. He told him he would be charged with being in company with Ball the previous day at Old Hill, and passing counterfeit coins. He replied, 'I know nothing at all about it.' He searched him and found £1 9s 7½d all in small coins. He told him he would have to go with him to Old Hill, when he became very violent, and rushed to the table to get a knife, but he put the handcuffs on him and brought him to Old Hill. He was present in the office when Ball was identified, and he might add that he went to Eaton Street, Hockley, but no such person as the prisoner Johnson was known there.

Honor Chance, wife of John Chance, 2, King Street, underground manager for Messrs. Hingley, said she changed half-a-crown for Emma Johnson on Monday afternoon. Emma came and told her that it was a bad half-crown, and took it back.

Eliza Johnson, wife of George Johnson, publican, KINGS HEAD, Elbow Street, said four men came to her house on Monday, and Ball asked for half-an-ounce of tobacco and a pipe, and gave her half-a-crown which she changed. PC Rowlands came at night, and she found the coin was a bad one.

Mr. Henn, Cradley Heath, said PC Litherly showed him three half-crowns which he examined and found to be bad. They were made principally of lead. PC Rowlands also showed him four half-crowns, and one two shilling piece which were counterfeit.

The half-crowns were all from the same mould, dated 1875, and plated.

Prisoners were remanded to Stafford to appear on Wednesday."

[At the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions, William Ball (32) and John Johnson (27), both button makers, were each sentenced to twelve months, Ball pleading guilty.]

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.....

Priscilla Foley, BRITISH OAK, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, supplying ale to drunken men, fined 5s 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 29/12/1883

"A meeting of the creditors of Mrs. *Priscilla Foley*, of the BRITISH OAK INN, High Street, Old Hill, publican and saddler, took place at the office of Messrs. Warmington and Thompson, Castle Street, Dudley, solicitors for the debtor, on Monday last. The statement of affairs showed liabilities £438 9s 8d and assets £28. It was resolved to accept a composition of 1s in the £, payable within three months from the confirmation of the resolution."

County Advertiser 7/6/1884

"The members of court Robin Hood's Cave, No.4737, met on Monday at the house of Mr. *John Green*, BRITISH OAK INN, High Street, Old Hill, to celebrate the 19th anniversary of this court. One hundred and fifty sat down to dinner. Dr. Standish, surgeon, addressed the members, and a vote of thanks was passed to him for past services. During the day the members formed a procession and paraded the principal streets. The evening was spent convivially."

County Express 28/6/1884

"Mr. Edwin Hooper (District Coroner) held an inquest on Tuesday at the BRITISH OAK INN, Garratts Lane, touching the death of a little girl named Sarah Ann Nock, who had been found drowned in a tub of water. The child was sent on a visit to her grandmother's house in Cherry Orchard, and during the temporary absence of her nurse she fell into a tub of water and was drowned. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

West Bromwich Weekly News 23/4/1887

"Mr. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the BRITISH OAK INN, Garratts Lane, on Monday, respecting the death of Joseph Pearson (54), chainmaker, of Garratts Lane.

David Pearson, son of the deceased, said on Friday last he heard that his father had been kicked by a horse. Witness immediately went to his home and found the deceased lying on a sofa, insensible, and blood was flowing from his right ear.

Isaac Hodgkins, Francis Bloomer, and Polly Garratt, a little girl, also gave evidence to the cause of the death, and the Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Dudley Mercury 25/5/1889

“Moses Phipps, miner, Waggon Street, Old Hill, was charged with wounding Emma Bryant, Wrights Lane, Old Hill, on the 18th inst. Complainant said she went to the BRITISH OAK INN, Old Hill, to look for her husband, who was a very drunken fellow, and never brought any money home. While she was there defendant came in with her husband and another man named Jones. Witness’s husband gave his money to Jones, and as she was getting it from him, the defendant nearly cut one her fingers off with a knife. Defendant said he intended cutting the pocket handkerchief which held the money, and complainant put her finger in the way, and he only ‘nicked’ it. The Bench said they were of opinion that the injury was caused accidentally, and dismissed the case. The costs would be remitted.”

Dudley Mercury 6/7/1889

“Ebenzer Garratt, breeze burner, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of *Albert Elon Sidaway*, landlord of the BRITISH OAK, Garratts Lane, on the 1st inst.

Mr. Goodman: Are you guilty, or not guilty? – Defendant: I was tipsy in beer, but did not use the knife as was said. No knife was used.

Mr. Goodman: You are simply charged with being drunk. Do you admit it? – Defendant: Yes, sir.

Police-constable Keegan said that at 9.30 on the morning in question the defendant’s wife came to the Police Station and reported to him that her husband had inflicted a cut two and a half inches long on her left wrist. He went to the BRITISH OAK and found the defendant sitting in the bar in an intoxicated condition. Witness took him to the station, and found, from enquiries, that his wife struck the defendant on the face with a jug, and that the cut on her wrist was done in the struggle.

Defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs, or seven days.”

County Express 25/1/1890

“On Monday night a meeting of miners was held at the BRITISH OAK INN, Old Hill. Mr. B. Winwood reported that he had written to the MPs in the surrounding districts to ascertain their opinions on the eight hours question. He had received a letter from Staveley Hill, QC, MP, who pointed out that, speaking at Kingswinford, he explained he was in favour of lessening the hours of labour for miners, but could not pledge himself to vote for a bill before seeing it. Mr. Brooke Robinson, MP, said that if it were the wish of the general body of miners to have an Eight Hours Bill he saw no reason why he should not support it. Mr. B. Hingley, MP, had not replied to the communication addressed to him.”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/2/1890

“Yesterday, a meeting of miners employed at the Granville (‘Clipper’) Colliery, Old Hill, was held at the BRITISH OAK INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, under the presidency of Mr. B. Winwood.

The Chairman explained that the men had laid down their tools in consequence of being called upon to work during half the time appointed for the dinner hour, and after the proper hours at night. The men had been working from twenty to forty minutes later than they ought to do at night, and had only been having half an hour for dinner. He had visited the colliery twice, but had been unable to see Mr. Collis. There were about 150 men concerned in the strike.

A resolution was passed deciding not to resume work until Mr. Collis had interviewed their agent (Mr. Winwood) and promised to remedy the evils complained of. They further instructed Mr. Winwood not to wait upon the employer again until he was requested to do so.”

County Express 19/4/1890

“Joseph Green, St. John Street, Netherton, and William Green, Tory Street, Blackheath, were charged with being drunk in the BRITISH OAK INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, on the 5th inst, and on the evidence of Police-constables Insley and Hegan, defendants were each fined 5s and costs.”

1891 Census

21+22, Garratts Lane

[1] *Albert E. Sidaway* (30), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Mary A. Sidaway* (27), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *Edith S. M. Sidaway* (2), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Matilda Belfield* (17), domestic servant, born Brierley Hill:

County Express 25/4/1891

“On Friday night last a meeting of miners was held at the BRITISH OAK INN, Old Hill, for the purpose of receiving the report of the delegate (Mr. B. Winwood) who attended the Paris Conference on behalf of the Old Hill and District Miners’ Association. A resolution was passed unanimously approving of the action taken by the British delegates at the recent Congress in Paris with regard to the formation of an International Miners’ Federation, and the eight hours question, and also agreeing to stand firmly together until the eight hours working day is secured in England by legislation or other means.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/6/1892

“Yesterday the annual celebration in connection with Court Robin Hood’s Cave, No.4737, of the Ancient Order of Foresters, took place at Old Hill. The business meeting was held at the BRITISH OAK INN, Garratts Lane, the Chief Ranger (Mr. S. Thompson) presiding. The secretary (Mr. J. Darby) presented a report showing that there were 384 members in the lodge, an increase of 26 during the year. The total worth of the society was about £1,800.....”

County Advertiser 3/12/1892 - Advert

“Old Hill. Notice of Sale by Auction of Excellent Freehold Dwelling Houses, with the Mines and Minerals, and Building Land. Alfred W. Dando has received instructions to Sell By Auction, at the BRITISH OAK INN, Old Hill, on Tuesday, December 13th, 1892, at Six o'clock in the Evening for Seven precisely, subject to Conditions of Sale, then to be produced, as follows.....”

County Advertiser 15/7/1893

“On Tuesday night a largely-attended meeting of miners under the auspices of the Old Hill and District Miners' Association was held at the BRITISH OAK INN, Old Hill, to consider what steps should be taken in the event of a proposal to reduce wages which appeared to be imminent Up to within the past few months they had enjoyed two or three years' prosperity in the trade, and through the loyalty of the members of the Federation, and the energy and untiring perseverance of its leaders, they had obtained and retained 40 per cent advance in their wages. The time had come when their employers said they should submit to a reduction of 25 per cent, leaving them 15 per cent of the previous gain, and it was for them to say whether they were prepared to make the sacrifice which their employers said they must make if they were to carry on their work at a profitIt was unanimously decided to resist any reduction if proposed.”

County Advertiser 29/12/1894

“On Thursday afternoon, Mr. E. Hooper (coroner), held an inquest at the BRITISH OAK INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, touching the death of a female child, one month old, of Samuel and Sarah Ann Nock, of Park Lane, Old Hill, who was found dead in bed on the 25th inst. The mother stated that the child went to bed on the night of the 24th inst with her. Upon awaking early on the morning of the 25th she found deceased dead in bed. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

AND

“On Thursday afternoon, Mr. E. Hooper (coroner), held an inquest at the BRITISH OAK INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, concerning the death of Felix Walker, aged 56 years, formerly residing at Garratts Lane, and who died suddenly on the 23rd of December. Isabella Walker, wife, stated that deceased had been in very good health. On Sunday morning he was taken ill, and about eight o'clock he went upstairs to go to bed, but when near the top of the stairs he called out. Witness's son-in-law ran up the stairs, and took him into the bed room. A doctor was sent for, but deceased expired before he arrived. In answer to the coroner, witness said that deceased had been an excessive drinker. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes, accelerated by excessive drinking.”

County Advertiser 8/6/1895

“Yesterday (Friday) Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest, at the BRITISH OAK INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, respecting the death of Patrick McDonald (68), formerly residing in Wrights Lane, who died suddenly on Tuesday last. Maria McDonald, wife, said during the past six years deceased had occasionally been ill, but with those exceptions he had enjoyed very good health. Witness last saw her husband alive about two o'clock on Whit-Tuesday afternoon, when he started to drive some relatives and neighbours to Hagley. About half an hour afterwards witness was informed that deceased was dead, but for some time she could not realise that such a thing had happened. George Hayward, son-in-law, said on Whit-Tuesday afternoon deceased was driving a horse and trap through Cradley Heath, en route to Clent Hills, when he suddenly fell back and expired in a few minutes. Witness fetched Dr. de Denne, who pronounced life to be extinct. It was stated that several of deceased's relatives had died in a similar way. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

County Express 21/8/1897

“The first of what is intended to be an annual demonstration of the friendly societies in the Old Hill district, was held on Sunday, the object in view being to help the funds of the Dudley Guest Hospital, Dudley Dispensary, and Birmingham Eye Hospital the day was bright and promising, and there were large numbers of people all along the route. At one o'clock the 1st Worcestershire Volunteer Band started from the CROSS INN, proceeded across Halesowen Road, calling at Trinity Schools and GEORGE HOTEL; then across Lawrence Lane into Reddal Hill Road, calling at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, and proceeding to the Cross, where the final procession was formed. Meanwhile the Old Hill Brass and Red Band started from the WHITE LION INN, proceeded by way of Powke Lane and Garratts Lane to Wrights Lane (as far as the PRINCE OF WALES INN), and returned to Garratts Lane, calling for lodges at the BRITISH OAK INN, FOX HUNT INN, Tabernacle, DUKE WILLIAM INN, VINE INN, to the Cross. On the arrival of this contingent a huge line was formed, and very pretty it looked. Members of the various lodges wore their regalia, and these being interspersed with the more elaborate honorary members' scarves, gave the line a very bright appearance.....”

County Advertiser 4/12/1897

“On Thursday morning, Mr. A. A. Bethan (acting coroner) held an inquest at the BRITISH OAK INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, on the body of Zachariah Pearson (30), chainmaker, of Wagon Street, Old Hill, who was found hanging from the ceiling at his house, on Sunday last. It appeared from the evidence that deceased came home about 10-15 on Sunday night, his wife being in bed. She was awakened by the bed shaking, and on going downstairs found deceased hanging by a handkerchief from a hook in the ceiling. She called in George Jones, a neighbour, who cut him down, Dr. Mitchell meanwhile being sent for. The evidence of Dr. Mitchell was to the effect that he found deceased on the floor. Life was not extinct, and witness opened a vein in the arm and resorted to artificial respiration. Deceased made no spontaneous efforts to breathe, and death resulted in about ten

minutes afterwards. The cause of death was strangulation, and there was no dislocation of the neck. He said he should like to add his testimony to the great assistance rendered by Inspector Given and the policemen.

Deceased, it appeared, had complained of pain in his head, and he had been out of employment for five weeks; and these things seemed to have preyed on his mind. He, it was stated, made several attempts to hang himself.

The jury found a verdict that deceased committed Suicide whilst Temporarily Insane.

The Coroner remarked that the mortuary was great convenience for coroner, jurymen, and relatives of the dead persons taken there, and the building was not only a good one, but it was well fitted up and kept properly clean. The jurymen concurred in the Coroner's remarks."

County Advertiser 26/2/1898

"On Wednesday afternoon, Mr. A. A. Betham (acting coroner) held an inquest at the BRITISH OAK INN, Garratts Lane, concerning the death of Priscilla Treviss (44), formerly residing in Garratts Lane, who died suddenly on Sunday night. The evidence of the husband showed that deceased expected confinement, and retired to bed on Sunday night. Later on she suddenly awoke her husband, and said she was going to die, as things were not right. She was bleeding profusely, and the husband went for Dr. Mitchell. His assistant attended, and said it was a sad case, but he would do all he could. Shortly afterwards she expired. Death was due to haemorrhage. The Jury returned a verdict in accordance with the doctor's evidence."

Dudley Herald 25/6/1898

"On Thursday morning Mr. H. A. Pearson held an inquest at the BRITISH OAK INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, respecting the death of Samuel Siviter (75), banksman, who died through injuries received by falling down in the street. Deceased has been unable to follow his employment, as he had been suffering from senile dementia. On the 16th inst he went out for a walk, and fell down and dislocated his right hip. He was attended by Dr. de Denne, and died on the 24th inst. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

County Advertiser 2/7/1898 - Advert

"Preliminary Notice.

E. H. Boilstone has been favoured with instructions from the Exors. of Joseph Barnsley, deceased, to Sell by Auction, at an Early Date, at the house of Mr. *Sidaway*, the BRITISH OAK INN, Old Hill, the whole of the Valuable Freehold Properties and Building Land situate at Reddal Hill, Old Hill, Cherry Orchard, and Cradley.

Further Particulars next week.

Further information may be had from Thos. Cooksey, Esq, Solicitor, or the Auctioneer, both of Old Hill."

County Advertiser 27/8/1898

"On Sunday afternoon the annual hospital parade and open-air service, arranged by the various friendly societies in Old Hill and the surrounding district took place. Processions were formed at different points of members of the Foresters, the Free Gardeners, and provident societies, numbering altogether about 1,000, and these, accompanied by the Blackheath, Halesowen Temperance, and Old Hill Bands, paraded the principal streets of the locality, after which they marched to a field in Garratts Lane, lent for the occasion by Mr. A. Sidaway, where a special service was held. Addresses were delivered by the Revs. E. Brewer, MA (vicar of Old Hill), and W. B. Cheshire (Primitive Methodist). A collection was made along the route and at the service in aid of the Guest Hospital, Dudley Dispensary, and Birmingham Eye Hospital, this realising £25 14s 5³/₄d.

The following was the order of procession issued by the committee. The Blackheath Village Band will start from the WHITE LION INN, Powke Lane, at 1-45 prompt, proceed down Garratts Lane, calling for societies at the BRITISH OAK INN, Tabernacle, DUKE WILLIAM INN, and VINE INN, turning across Queen Street on to the old football ground (by kind permission of Mr. W. H. Jarvis). The Halesowen Temperance Band will start from the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Wrights Lane, at 1-45 prompt, proceed round Cherry Orchard Street, into Wrights Lane, turning down Wagon Street, calling at the OLD ENGINE INN, proceeding down Elbow Street and King Street, across Halesowen Road, to the old football ground. The Old Hill Band will start from the CROSS INN at 1-45 prompt, calling for societies at Trinity Schools and GEORGE HOTEL, proceed across Lawrence Lane, turning up New Street, Ridding Street, Pear Tree Street, Pear Tree Lane, thence into Reddal Hill Road, calling at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, and proceeding to the old football ground. A grand procession will be formed as follows....."

County Advertiser 13/5/1899

"Strike Of Clay Miners At Saltwells.

Mr. B. Winwood, agent to the Old Hill and District Miners' Association, has issued an appeal on behalf of the men who are on strike in consequence of the dispute at Messrs. Doulton's works. The Dispute, he says, shows the necessity of union, and calls upon the miners employed at the different collieries to collect yesterday or to-day on behalf of the men on strike. The proceeds of all collections should be paid over, either at the BRITISH OAK INN, Old Hill, from 6 to 7pm each Saturday; or to Mr. Winwood, Clent View, Olive Lane, near Halesowen, who will acknowledge all sums sent."

County Advertiser 27/5/1899 - Advert

"Wanted, a good General Servant, not under 20 years of age.

Apply, Mrs. *A. E. Sidaway*, BRITISH OAK INN, Old Hill."

County Advertiser 29/7/1899

"On Tuesday afternoon, the coroner, (Mr. H. A. Pearson) held an inquest at the BRITISH OAK INN, Garratts Lane, concerning

the death of Edward Tromans (43), formerly residing in Pear Tree Street, Old Hill, who was killed whilst following his employment at the Rowley Hall Colliery, belonging to Messrs. W. Bassano and Sons, on Saturday last. Mr. S. Dimmock, under manager, represented the firm, and Mr. W. B. Scott, Government inspector of mines and quarries, was also present.

Mary Ann Tromans, the widow, gave evidence of identification, and said deceased worked for the firm for twenty-four years. George Holloway stated that about eleven o'clock on Saturday morning, one of the horse drivers called his attention to the lagging in the roof that was breaking. He called deceased, who was looking at lagging, when a quantity of it broke, and two of the slabs struck the deceased, knocking him down, and he was buried under several tons of coal that followed. He was extricated about fifteen minutes later, but he was dead.

William Hadley, fireman, stated that the last witness called to him on the morning in question, and told him that deceased was buried under six tubs of coal. Witness had examined the workings about ten minutes previously to the accident, and the place appeared all right.

Dr. J. S. Beasley stated that when he saw deceased at the colliery he was dead, and the body was removed home. Deceased's neck was broken, and a verdict of Accidental Death was returned by the jury.

Mr. Barnsley, sanitary inspector to the Rowley Regis District Council, complained to the coroner that when acting upon his precept to remove the dead body of the deceased from a small house in Pear Tree Street, in which there were only two sleeping rooms, in which a mother and eight children slept, to the public mortuary, the relatives objected to the removal, and caused upwards of 200 people to assemble and subject him to great annoyance. The body was in a very decomposed state, and for the safety of the family it was necessary that it should be removed.

The Coroner expressed the hope that the officer would not be interfered with again."

West Bromwich Weekly News 8/9/1900

"On Wednesday Mr. A. A. Batham (deputy coroner) held an inquest at the BRITISH OAK INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, respecting the death of William Darby (71), platelayer, Gorsty Hill, Blackheath, who was killed at the Haden Hill Colliery, Old Hill, belonging to Messrs. W. Bassano and Son. Mr. W. H. Pickering (deputy inspector) was present and Mr. L. Meacham represented Messrs. Bassano.

Deceased had been employed at the colliery for about 36 years. He had recently been pensioned, and it was optional whether he went to work, but he frequently visited the colliery for the purpose of repairing the rails. On the 3rd inst he was found lying across the tram lines on the pit bank near the tunnel, with serious injuries. It was supposed that he was knocked down by some loaded tubs of coal. It was stated that it was not his duty to be on the tram lines. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

County Express 29/12/1900

"On Monday some eighty workmen in the employ of Mr. Robert Fellows were entertained at the BRITISH OAK INN to dinner. Mr. J. Willetts presided, and Mr. R. Fellows and Mr. D. Fellows attended. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. R. Fellows, proposed by Mr. J. Weaton, seconded by Mr. T. Brooks, thanking him for his kindness. Mr. Fellows suitably acknowledged this. A very enjoyable gathering concluded with a vote of thanks to the host."

County Express 19/1/1901

"On Thursday afternoon, Mr. A. A. Bentham (deputy coroner) resumed the adjourned enquiry at the BRITISH OAK INN, Old Hill, concerning the death of Noah Crewe, of Overend, Cradley, who was killed in a colliery accident at No.24, Saltwells Pit, belonging to the Earl of Dudley.

The Coroner explained the enquiry was adjourned in order for the man Davies to attend, who was the only man who could throw some light upon how the accident occurred. He had a letter handed to him from the surgeon of the Guest Hospital, dated January 15th, in which he said, 'The patient Davies is still under our care, and will not be able to leave for a month or six weeks.'

Inspector Given said he saw the doctor on the previous night, and gathered from his conversation that the probabilities were that Davies would not be able to attend the inquest for the next two or three months. From enquiries he (Inspector Given) had made in other quarters, he gathered that Davies would not be able to throw much light upon the matter, and in fact the first question Davies asked was how did it happen, so it would appear that he was very much in the dark about it.

The Coroner thought he would be able to throw some light on it when examined. It was not very likely a man should have been in a certain position, and did not know what that position was, unless the injuries had affected his brain. He (the coroner) had adjourned the inquest twice for Davies to attend, and he thought if there was any possibility of his attending – and from the letter it appeared there was – he should adjourn it again.

Inspector Given: He was very ill last night, but there is a possibility of his recovering.

The Coroner: In any case I think it is best to adjourn again, in fact, I have made up my mind about this.

After consultation with the jury the inquest was adjourned to March 14th."

Smethwick Weekly News 2/2/1901

"On Monday morning Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest at the BRITISH OAK INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, concerning the death of William Downing (65), foreman bricklayer, formerly residing at Hipkins Street, Burnt Tree, Tividale, whose dead body was recovered from the engine pool at No.24 Saltwells Colliery, Cradley Heath, belonging to the Earl of Dudley, on Friday. The evidence showed that deceased left home on Friday morning to go to his employment at the Saltwells Colliery, and shortly after seven o'clock a stoker named Joseph Foxall recovered the body from the engine pool at the colliery. Dr. T. V. De Denne who made a post mortem examination, attributed death to apoplexy. He supposed that deceased was seized with a fit, and fell into the water. There were no signs of drowning.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes."

County Express 16/3/1901

“Mr. A. A. Bentham (deputy coroner) resumed the adjourned enquiry at the BRITISH OAK INN, Old Hill, respecting the death of Samuel Noah Crewe (17), engine driver, formerly residing at Butcher’s Lane, Cradley, who met his death at No.24 Saltwells Colliery, Cradley Heath, belonging to the Earl of Dudley, on November 13th. Mr. W. H. Pickering (assistant inspector of mines) was present at the enquiry. Mr. W. Waldron represented the Earl of Dudley, Mr. T. B. Eastley the engine driver (Joshua Crewe), and Mr. G. B. Raybould (from the office of Mr. Cooksey) the deceased’s relatives.

The coroner read over the evidence given at the previous enquiries by Moses Crewe (deceased’s father), and Joshua Crewe, the engine driver.

John Davies, of Darby End, said he was a collier, and on the day of the accident was at work at No.24 pit, Saltwells Colliery. About 6.30pm something went wrong with the water tank, which came up the pit empty. Witness and deceased were as a rule ordered to attend to it when anything went wrong. On the night of the occurrence the engine driver, Joshua Crewe, sent them to look at the tank, and they found the chains were wrapped round the lever which opened the valve. They experienced some difficulty in disentangling it, and called for more rope. At the same time witness asked the engine driver to come and look at it. Witness did not remember whether the required rope was given or not, and he did not see the engine driver leave the engine house. Witness did not remember anything more that happened. At the time the accident occurred witness and deceased were standing on the water tank. Replying to the jury, witness said he did not know whether the employers were told the tank frequently went wrong. He had never called the engine driver before, but on this occasion the chain was in a bad mess. There was a banksman employed at the pit, but he was old and feeble. Replying to Mr. Pickering, witness said he did not remember whether the rope went slowly or fast. By Mr. Waldron: Witness did not blame anyone for the accident. He made no complaint about the tank not working. Henry Lucas, engineer, said the tank was five feet high and four feet in diameter. He had never heard of any complaints respecting the working of the tank or any accidents in connection with it before. He was of the opinion that when the engine commenced to creep the eccentric fell, and the steam caused the overwinding; or the engineman made a mistake and put the steam in the wrong way, and so, instead of lowering the tank, he caused it to rise.

David Danks (67), the banksman, stated that whilst the two youths were standing on the water tank they were pulled over the pulley.

Police-sergeant Picher gave evidence as to removing the body to the mortuary. Deceased had sustained shocking injuries.

The Coroner said the jury had to consider whether there was any negligence on the part of the engine-driver.

The Jury, after a short deliberation, returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and no blame whatever to the engine-driver. They, however, added an expression of opinion that a more active person should be employed as banksman at the colliery.”

1901 Census

22, Garratts Lane

[1] *Albert E. Sidaway* (41), licensed victualler and brewer, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Mary A. Sidaway* (38), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *Edith S. M. Sidaway* (12), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Albert J. Sidaway* (9), son, born Rowley Regis;

[5] *John F. Sidaway* (7), son, born Rowley Regis;

[6] *Emily F. Sidaway* (2), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[7] *Blanche M. Chapman* (12), niece, born Rowley Regis;

[8] *Sarah Haywood* (17), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis;

[9] *Polly Davies* (17), domestic servant, born Dudley:

County Express 13/4/1901

“An inquest was held on Wednesday evening, at the BRITISH OAK INN, by Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner), concerning the death of Allan Brookes (49), ales fittings maker, who had resided at Birmingham Road, Blackheath, and whose body was found in the Birmingham Canal, near Powke Lane Bridge, Old Hill, on Tuesday morning. Mr. G. Green was present, representing the deceased’s relatives.

Edith Brookes, deceased’s daughter, who identified the body at Old Hill Mortuary, said they last saw her father alive on Monday morning, when he left Blackheath Station by the 10.19 train to Windmill End. He had never threatened to make away with himself, and when he left home on Monday he was all right. He was of a cheerful disposition.

Albert Sidaway, landlord of the BRITISH OAK INN, deposed to deceased calling at the house shortly before eight o’clock on Monday evening. When he left just after eight, he said he was going to do other business. He appeared to be in his usual state of mind. Replying to Mr. Green, witness said he knew the spot where the body was found. It was, in his opinion, and unsafe place, and a regular death trap. Several persons had got into the canal there during the last few years, and he believed some had been drowned. Deceased would be going in the direction of home that way.

John Halebond, a boatman, of Yew Tree Lane, Netherton, deposed to finding the body of deceased in the canal, at 5.30am on Tuesday morning. He obtained the assistance of John Stafford, of the NEPTUNE INN, Powke Lane, to get the body out.

Police-constable Horne deposed to removing the body to the mortuary. He found £4 12s 6d in money upon the deceased. He considered the place where deceased was found very dangerous, and it should be protected by a gate. Dr. T. V. deDenne, who had made a post-mortem examination, said death was due to drowning.

A Juryman said he has passed along this road on many occasions at night, and although accustomed to it, he had fallen into the canal.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Smethwick Weekly News 11/5/1901

“Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest on Monday, at the BRITISH OAK INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, concerning the death of Fanny Willetts (68), formerly residing at Pear Tree Street, Old Hill, who was found drowned in a disused marlhole in Halesowen Road, Old Hill, on Sunday morning. The evidence showed that deceased, who had suffered from ill health for about twenty years, had also suffered from cancer.

The Coroner remarked that no doubt the pain deceased had suffered had driven her to commit the rash act. The jury returned a verdict of Suicide whilst of Unsound Mind.”

Smethwick Weekly News 18/5/1901

“Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner), held an inquest on Tuesday at the BRITISH OAK INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, concerning the death of Daniel Price, aged five years, whose parents reside at Garratts Lane, Old Hill, and who was drowned in the Bowling Green Pool, Netherton, on Saturday afternoon. The evidence showed that deceased and a number of other lads were fishing at the pool, when in trying to reach a stick he overbalanced himself and fell into the water. A nine year old lad, named Benjamin Bennett, residing at the Cross, Old Hill, jumped into the pool, but was unable to rescue deceased, and in order to save his own life he clung to some brickwork in the pool until he was rescued. Deceased was eventually got out of the pool by a young man, named William Harris, and Dr. Mitchell tried to restore animation by means of artificial respiration, but without success.

The Coroner said it was extremely plucky for the lad Bennett to risk his life in attempting to save his companion. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and the Coroner rewarded Bennett for his plucky conduct.”

County Advertiser 20/7/1901

“William Rose, of Birmingham Street, Dudley, was charged before the Borough Bench with a violent assault upon Ellen Downes, a woman who cohabited with him. The woman subsequently left the house and went to her mother’s at Springfield, Rowley Regis, where she remained till her death a few days ago.

An inquest was held yesterday, at the BRITISH OAK INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, upon Downes, who was only 26 years of age.....

Dr. Beasley deposed to making a post mortem examination of the body. Death was caused by acute pneumonia. In reply to the Coroner, he said there was a remote possibility of this being associated with violence; but he found nothing to connect death with anything but pneumonia.

The Coroner said there was no doubt a fierce assault had been committed upon the unfortunate woman, but it would be difficult for the jury, in face of the medical evidence, to make Rose criminally responsible for the unfortunate woman’s death.

The jury, after a lengthy deliberation, returned a verdict that death was the result of Natural Causes.

It was stated that Rose would have to answer to the charge of assault.”

[William Rose (49), fish hawk, was sentenced to three months hard labour.]

Smethwick Weekly News 5/10/1901

“Yesterday, Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest at the BRITISH OAK INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, respecting the death of Patrick Malay (31), a slater and plumber, formerly residing at Trinity Street, Langley, who was killed whilst employed at the Bell End Colliery, Rowley, on Wednesday afternoon. Deceased was engaged to paint the pit frame. For this purpose ladders were secured to the pit frame, and placed upon a railway, upon which waggons ran to and from the colliery. One of these came in contact with one of the ladders, and deceased was thrown to the ground, a distance of 27 feet, and sustained a fractured skull and fractures of both arms, death taking place immediately afterwards. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, but expressed the opinion that more care should have been exercised in ascertaining if the tubs could pass under the ladder, also that a man should have been placed at the foot of the ladder.”

County Express 2/11/1901

“On Saturday evening, Mr. H. A. Pearson conducted an enquiry at the BRITISH OAK INN, relative to the death of John Hackett, 29, pikeman, formerly of Wrights Lane, who was killed by a fall of slack whilst working at Haden Hill Colliery, belonging to Messrs. W. Bassano and Co. Mr. W. H. Pickering, Government Inspector of Mines, and Mr. L. Meachem, representing the owner of the colliery, were present. From the evidence it appeared deceased, with another miner named Elijah Lowe, was engaged in removing trees when several tons of slack fell upon them, burying them. Lowe was rescued alive, but when deceased was got out he was found to have been suffocated. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

County Express 31/5/1902

“The circumstances surrounding the death of Mr. Giles Bloomer, chain manufacturer, of Maple Tree Lane, Cradley, whose body was recovered from the Pig Lane Pool, Old Hill, on Thursday week, as reported in our last issue, were investigated at an inquest held at the BRITISH OAK INN, Old Hill, on Saturday, by Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner).

The Coroner stated that the widow of the deceased was so ill that she was not in a fit condition to give evidence. She had, however, made a statement to the effect that Mr. Bloomer, had resided at Maple Tree Lane, Cradley, and that he had suffered for some time from depression and delusions. He was apprehensive that when he died he would not go to heaven.

Thomas Southall, a step-son, stated that the deceased left home on Thursday morning with the intention of seeing his father. After he had been out some time Mrs. Bloomer became uneasy, and asked witness to go in search of deceased at Overend. He accordingly did so, but could not trace him. He afterwards went in the direction of Pig Lane Pool, Old Hill, and a young man named Cartwright pointed to him a body floating on the water face downwards. Witness recognised the body as that of his step-father,

whose hat and umbrella were on the embankment. The deceased had lately suffered from delusions.

George Cartwright, of Garratts Lane, Old Hill, deposed to finding the body in the pool, and to giving information to the police. PC Maisey stated that when the body was recovered, deceased was fully dressed. There were no papers in his pocket giving any reason for the deceased taking his life. The pool was properly fenced, and to get to the water the deceased would have to climb the fence.

Dr. Tibbetts said he had attended the deceased for influenza, and since the attack, which was a severe one, he suffered from depression and delusions. He could not say deceased suffered from religious mania, but he was continually under the impression that God had abandoned him. He had given instructions that the deceased should be watched, and he believed that had been done as much as possible.

The Coroner, in summing up, remarked that influenza was evidently responsible for the state in which deceased was.

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

County Advertiser 21/3/1903

"On Wednesday morning, Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest at the BRITISH OAK INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, respecting the death of Ann Bradley (52), a married woman, of Pear Tree Street, Old Hill, who died suddenly under tragic circumstances on Monday night.

James Bradley, husband, stated that deceased had been in fairly good health recently. About 8-30pm on Monday night she went to the BLUE BALL INN to pay some club money. He subsequently heard screams, and saw his daughter and her husband quarrelling in the house. He went to his daughter's house and saw his wife fall to the ground, and Dr. Mitchell, who was called, pronounced life extinct.

Sarah Elizabeth Moore, daughter of the deceased, stated that on the night in question she had a few cross words with her husband through him drinking. Her mother came into the house and suddenly fell to the ground without being struck by anyone.

Noah Moore, husband of the last witness, said that deceased came and pushed witness into the house while he was having some words with his wife. He did not strike the deceased, neither did anyone else, nor did he threaten her.

Police-constable Gratage deposed to making inquiries into the case, and found that deceased was injured by no one.

Dr. Mitchell stated that there were no marks of violence upon the body, and that death was due to syncope, brought on, no doubt, by the excitement of the moment. The heart was in an extreme condition of fatty degeneration, and death might have resulted from any unusual exertion.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes."

County Advertiser 12/9/1903

"An occasional license was granted to *A. E. Sidaway*, landlord of the BRITISH OAK INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, on Saturday from 2pm till 9pm, on the occasion of the brass band contest."

County Advertiser 12/3/1904

"District Council Nominations Rowley Regis Old Hill Ward.....

Albert Eland Sidaway, licensed victualler, Garratts Lane, Old Hill."

County Advertiser 26/3/1904

"Rowley Regis Urban District Council Election, March, 1904, Old Hill Ward. To the Electors.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We, the undersigned, offer ourselves for election upon the District Council as five members who are united upon questions of local administration.

We believe in true economy, which consists in spending nothing unnecessarily, and in getting twenty shillings' worth for every pound that is spent.

A firm hand, and a united Council, are required to keep the expenditure of this Parish within reasonable limits, while effecting such improvements as are from time to time rendered necessary or advisable.

We would, if elected, endeavour always to conduct your business with industry and perseverance, by deeds and not by words, and in the spirit of modern business method and application.

Your interests are great, and the field of public work is ever widening, and now, more than ever before, do you need responsible men who themselves have a substantial stake in the parish, and who cannot afford to trifle with matters of Public Importance.

We beg earnestly for your votes, not for ourselves individually, but as a whole united Five.

Alfred H. Bassano, James Billingham, E. H. Boilstone, John Priest, *Albert E. Sidaway*."

[None of them were elected.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/6/1904

"A meeting of the Joint Unionist Association for Old Hill district was held at the BRITISH OAK INN, Old Hill, last night. After the election of officers, Mr. Councillor W. E. Lovsey, of Birmingham, delivered an address."

Birmingham Mail 17/8/1904

"Last evening Mr. H. A. Pearson held an inquest at the BRITISH OAK INN, Old Hill, respecting the death of Alfred Edward Hackett (23), labourer, Surfet Hill, Cradley Heath, who met with his death by falling down a marlhole belonging to Messrs. Swindell and Collis at Old Hill on Saturday night.

Sarah Ann Adams, Hackett Street, Blackheath, stated that she had kept company with the deceased for a fortnight. On Saturday

night she met him close to her home, and they walked together across some fields at Haden Hill. As they were crossing the fields witness hesitated and told the deceased that she did not think there was a road in existence at the spot. They had missed the footpath, and at length they reached a fence. Deceased urged witness to get over the fence, as he would take her a nearer way home. Witness refused to do so, and then Hackett got over. Witness again warned him not to go over, but upon reaching the other side deceased held out his hand and said to her, 'Come on, it is all right.' She drew back, and immediately afterwards her companion fell backwards and disappeared. Witness, who did not know that a marlhole existed at the spot, shouted loudly for help, but no one came to her assistance. She then found her way back with much difficulty in consequence of the darkness, and obtained the assistance of Police-constable Emms, who went to the place.

Police-sergeant Bentley deposed to finding the dead body of the deceased at the bottom of the marlhole. He had fallen a distance of 50ft, and his cap was upon a small ledge 14ft from the top. Witness had examined the spot, and found that the marlhole was securely fenced.

Dr. Freer stated that deceased's neck was broken, and death must have been instantaneous.

Mr. H. R. Makepeace (Government Inspector of Mines) pointed out that the edge of the marlhole was about 10ft from the fence, and deceased must have walked forward a short distance after getting over the fence.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

County Advertiser 27/8/1904

"On Sunday afternoon the eighth annual parade and service arranged by the various friendly societies in the Old Hill district took place under favourable circumstances. The proceedings commenced with a large procession.....

The Halesowen Temperance Prize Band started from the OAK TREE INN, Waterfall Lane, at one o'clock, and proceeded down Waterfall Lane and Clifton Street to Wrights Lane, calling for the societies at the PRINCE OF WALES INN and the BRITISH OAK INN. Afterwards they marched to the field.....

Upon arrival at the field a grand procession was formed This paraded the principal streets of the locality for some time, after which they proceeded to a field in High Street, kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. A. E. Sidaway. Here a service was held, the chair being occupied by Dr. T. E. Mitchell. Notwithstanding the threatening state of the weather there was a large attendance..... A collection was made upon the route, and at the service, on behalf of the Dudley Guest Hospital, Dudley Dispensary, Birmingham Eye Hospital, Birmingham General Hospital, Birmingham Ear and Throat Hospital, and the Old Hill Nurses Fund."

County Advertiser 1/7/1905

"On Sunday afternoon a shocking discovery was made in the Haden Hill Colliery, Old Hill, belonging to Messrs. W. Bassano and Co, when two miners and four horses were found dead in the workings.....

On Tuesday afternoon Mr. A. A. Betham (deputy coroner) opened the inquest of the BRITISH OAK INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill.....

Dr. T. E. Mitchell deposed to making a post mortem examination of deceased, and attributed death to the inhalation of carbon monoxide gas. One per cent of this gas would kill within two minutes.

The Deputy Coroner, in summing up, said it was for the jury to consider whether the ventilation in the pit on Sundays was sufficient, and whether anyone was to blame.

The jury, after deliberating for over half an hour returned a verdict of Accidental Death, but considered that this was due to the ventilation at the time being insufficient. They added a rider to the effect that more care should be exercised in future by persons in charge of the pit, in keeping the ventilation pure and good on Sundays as well as week days. Mr. A. H. Bassano said that his firm would carry out the recommendation. He also expressed sympathy with the relatives of the men."

County Advertiser 22/12/1906

"On Tuesday evening Mr. G. C. Lewis (Coroner) held an inquest at the BRITISH OAK INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, concerning the death of Joseph Raybould (56), carter, formerly residing at Lodge Forge Lane, Cradley, whose dead body was recovered from the River Stour at Cradley Heath, on the 17th inst.

The evidence showed that on the night of the 15th inst deceased paid a visit to a friendly society club at Cradley Heath, and was last seen alive when he was walking in the direction of his home. Nothing was seen of or heard of him afterwards until he was found head foremost in the River Stour at Cradley Bridge, on Monday morning, by a woman, several hundred yards away from the place where he must have got into the water. The body was taken from the water by Police-sergeant Wood, and removed to the Old Hill mortuary. It was stated that the night was rather foggy and wet, and deceased was supposed to have missed his way when passing over the bridge, and to have walked up a private road and fallen into the river.

Several of the jurymen commented upon the dangerous position of the road, but the Coroner pointed out that they could do nothing in the matter as the road was a private one.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

County Advertiser 16/2/1907

"The annual dinner of the Old Hill Cricket Club took place on Monday night, at the BRITISH OAK INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill....."

County Express 18/1/1908 - Advert

"On Wednesday. Blackheath And Rowley Regis, Staffs.

Highly Important Sale of Valuable Freehold Shops and Dwelling Houses. To Investors and Others.

Alfred Hill has been instructed to Sell By Public Auction, at the house of Mr. A. E. Sidaway, the BRITISH OAK INN, High Street,

Old Hill, on Wednesday the 22nd day of January, 1908, at 7.30 on the Evening precisely, subject to Conditions of sale to be then read.....”

County Express 8/8/1908

“On Sunday afternoon there was held the twelfth annual service promoted by the united friendly societies in the Old Hill district. The occasion was favoured with brilliant weather, and there was a large attendance at the services. The proceedings opened with a large procession, which aroused considerable interest in the district. The Old Hill Ironworks Band started from the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Wrights Lane, at one o’clock, and proceeded to the OLD HOUSE AT HOME INN for sick and draw club, through Cherry Orchard, calling for Court Robin Hood’s Cave and BRITISH OAK sick and draw club; by way of Wagon Street, calling for Success-to-the-FOX-HUNT Lodge; Elbow Street for Court Benjamin and KINGS HEAD sick and draw club; Halesowen Road, calling for Provident Institution, and on to the field. The Cradley Heath Salvation Army Band started from COOKSEY’S HOTEL at one o’clock with Snowdrop Lodge, by way of Halesowen Road, calling for Court Loyal Marlborough; Bank Street, Queens Street, High Street, and on to the field. The Cradley Heath Town Prize Band started from the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill, with Court Robin Hood the Brave; by way of Reddal Hill Road, calling for the WHY NOT sick and draw club, and on to the BRIDGE INN for Welcome to the Bridge Inn Lodge, across Plant Street, Lawrence Lane, Clyde Street, Petford Street calling for Druids Society; Pear Tree Street, Riddings Street, New Street, Halesowen Road, calling for Court Royal Sherwood and Rechabites Society and ROYAL EXCHANGE sick and draw club; High Street to the field. A grand procession was then formed.....”

County Express 20/3/1909

“On Saturday Mr. G. C. Lewis (coroner) held an inquest at the BRITISH OAK INN, Garratts Lane, respecting the death of Ann Southall (62), widow, formerly of Petford Street, who died suddenly yesterday week. It was stated that the deceased had suffered from bronchitis for 20 years, but had not been medically attended for four years. Late on Friday night she was taken suddenly ill, and died before Dr. Tibbetts could arrive. The recent severe weather had affected the deceased, and Dr. Tibbetts, who made a post mortem examination, stated that death was due to heart failure as the result of bronchitis. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

Tipton Herald 12/6/1909

“At the BRITISH OAK INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, on Monday afternoon, Mr. G. C. Lewis, coroner, held an inquest into the circumstances attending the death of Daniel Samson Cox, aged 54, labourer, formerly residing in Spring Street, Cradley, who was found drowned in the canal at Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, on Friday last week.

A son of the deceased, Lawrence Cox, who resides at Spring Street, Cradley, identified the body as that of his father. Witness last saw him on the 3rd inst, when he appeared to be in good health. He had never heard him complain of any trouble. Deceased had had his leg broken, but was in receipt of compensation. His father had not said anything to him to make him believe he should commit suicide. He had no trouble at home. The reason he was in Old Hill district might be that he had been to see his sister at Blackheath.

A thirteen year old lad named Alfred Robinson, of Powke Lane, Blackheath, deposed that on the 4th inst shortly after 12 o’clock he was standing on the Waterfall Lane Bridge, when he saw the deceased walking along the towing path in the direction of Old Hill. Suddenly deceased stopped, laid his stick on the path, and put his feet in the water, holding to the side of the bank. Deceased started splashing with his feet, and he loosed the side and went into the water. Deceased did not shout or struggle. He went under several times. Then witness ran home and told his mother.

Ernest Gill, of Old Hill, said he saw the deceased about 12 o’clock. There was nothing in the man’s conduct that was out of the common.

Daniel Lewis, of Station Road, spoke to getting the body out of the water at 12.50 on the date named. The body was floating in the middle of the canal. Witness applied artificial means of respiration, but without success.

Dr. T. M. Tibbetts said he had made a post mortem examination on the body. Death was due to suffocation from drowning.

The Coroner said he deemed it necessary to have a post mortem examination in order to clear up any doubt that might have existed as to whether deceased was seized with sudden illness and fell into the water.

The Rev. B. Irwin, of Cradley, said he met the deceased prior to the occurrence, and he was then in very good spirits. He expressed his intention of going to see his daughter at Blackheath, but witness thought that his leg had become painful and he had gone to see his son in law, who worked close to the canal side.

The Coroner, in summing up, said they had to decide whether the witness Robinson was near enough to the deceased to see what actually happened. If they did not believe his story, they must return an open verdict.

The jury consulted in private and afterwards returned a verdict of Found Drowned.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/6/1909

“The principal meeting of the Staffordshire County Compensation Authority, adjourned from the 11th inst.....

The decision of the local licensing magistrates to refuse the renewal of the FOX HUNT alehouse, Old Hill, tenant, Arthur E. Jew, was opposed.....

In opening the case, Mr. Lawrence said that the house was fully licensed, and he thought the main fact to be borne in mind in coming to a decision was the situation of the adjoining licensed houses. There was one – the QUEENS HEAD (a beerhouse) – actually next door. There was another full licence – the BRITISH OAK – only 51 yards away, and there were others within a short distance.....”

Tipton Herald 26/6/1909

“On Thursday night a largely attended meeting under the auspices of the Old Hill and Highley Miners’ Association was held at the BRITISH OAK INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, for the purpose of receiving a report from the delegates appointed to interview the employers with reference to the working of the Eight Hours Act in the district.

A miner presided, and expressed satisfaction that the Eight Hours Act would come into force on the 1st of July. It was not all the miners had asked for, but they must, at present, be satisfied and see how it worked. One colliery manager had said there was sufficient room to drive a motor car through the Act, and this should only make them more alive to their own interests (hear, hear). . . .”

Tipton Herald 26/6/1909

“At the BRITISH OAK INN, High Street, Old Hill, on Saturday morning, the Coroner (Mr. G. C. Lewis) held an inquest into the circumstances attending the death of George King, aged nine years and ten months, of Wagon Street, Old Hill, who was drowned in the canal at the Fly Colliery Basin, Old Hill, on the 16th inst.

The father of the boy, said he last saw the boy alive on the 16th inst, when he went to play with a number of other lads. He was present when the body was recovered from the water.

A twelve-year-old boy named Samuel Priest, of Wagon Street, Old Hill, said that on Friday night he went with the deceased to the Fly Colliery Basin. Deceased got on to one of the boats for the purpose of having a ride upon it. He unloosed the rope, and pushed the boat off. Witness did not see the deceased fall into the water, but he heard a splash. Then he saw his comrade rise to the surface of the water. Witness jumped on to the boat, and made an effort to save King by hanging over the side of the boat. He got hold of the deceased’s coat and tried to pull him out. The weight, however, was too much for him, and he was pulled into the water. Witness could not swim. He still retained his hold of the deceased’s clothing, but after struggling a short time he became exhausted and had to let him go. Deceased sank and witness was immediately afterwards rescued.

Frank Evans, fitter, of Clifton Street, Old Hill, stated that upon hearing the cries for help he ran to the spot and saw the last witness struggling in the water. He put his hand in the water and pulled him out. The body of the deceased was recovered shortly after. The Coroner said it was clear that the deceased over-balanced himself and fell into the water while playing on the boat. Boys would be boys, and as long as they took such risks those accidents would happen. At the same time it was very creditable on the part of Priest to make such a plucky attempt at rescue. Had it not been for the presence of Evans, Priest also would have been drowned. The thanks of the parents were due to both of them.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death and expressed appreciation of the conduct of Evans and Priest.”

Tipton Herald 31/7/1909

“At the Old Hill Police Court on Wednesday, Mr. *A. E. Sidaway*, landlord of the BRITISH OAK INN, High Street, made application to the Old Hill magistrates for a special license to sell intoxicants on the occasion of the Rowley Regis Fire Brigade Sports today. It was granted.”

County Express 7/8/1909

“On Monday afternoon an inquest was held by the deputy coroner (Mr. W. L. Lewis), at the BRITISH OAK, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, concerning the death of Frank Bate (18), horse driver, Long Lane, Blackheath, who was killed whilst following his employment at the Ramrod Hall Colliery, belonging to Messrs. H. S. Pitt and Co, on the 30th ult. Mr. Johnstone, Government Inspector, was present at the enquiry.

The evidence showed that the deceased was employed in the underground workings as a horse driver, and on the date named a tub laden with coal, which was drawn by a horse, jumped the rails. Whilst deceased was making an effort to replace it the horse plunged and collided with a tree, which had been erected to support the roof. About 14cwt of coal and dirt fell on the deceased, and before it was possible to rescue him he was suffocated. In reply to a juryman, Mr. Johnstone said so far as he had been able to ascertain every precaution had been taken for the safety of the miners. The Deputy Coroner said the colliery officials ought not to have interfered with the place where the accident occurred until the Government Inspector had made his examination.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

Much regret has been expressed in the district at the young man’s untimely end. He was a member of the Church Institute and other societies in the district, and was very much respected.”

County Express 3/12/1910

“On Saturday morning Mr. G. C. Lewis (coroner) held an inquest at the BRITISH OAK INN concerning the death of Daniel Smart (54), frost nailmaker, Clifton Street, who died suddenly on Wednesday week, at his home.

Pamilla Smart, wife, stated that her husband complained of pains in his side, but otherwise was in good health. On the Wednesday night while witness was upstairs she heard screams from the children, and on going down found her husband had fallen backwards into the chair. He died immediately.

Dr. Tibbetts said a post mortem examination had revealed that death was due to heart failure, following on pleurisy.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

1911 Census

68, High Street – BRITISH OAK INN

[1] *Albert Eland Sidaway* (50), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Mary Ann Sidaway* (47), wife, married 23 years, assisting in the business, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *Blanche Mary Chapman* (22), niece, assisting in the business, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Albert John Sidaway* (19), son, brewer, born Rowley Regis;

- [5] Edith Sarah Maria Sidaway (22), daughter, assisting in the business, born Rowley Regis;
[6] John Foley Sidaway (16), son, junior clerk, born Rowley Regis;
[7] Emma Foley Sidaway (12), daughter, school, born Rowley Regis;
[8] Alice Mary Sidaway (7), daughter, school, born Rowley Regis;
[9] Maria Billingham (22), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

Dudley Chronicle 26/8/1911

“A meeting of the Old Hill Parade Committee was held on Thursday last week at the BRITISH OAK. Mr. Sam Edwards was in the chair, and Mr. M. Bagley was vice-chairman. It was resolved that the offer of the Rev. C. L. Tack to conduct a service in the Tabernacle on behalf of the parade on September 3rd be accepted, and also the offer of Councillor Fry to preside at the organ. Messrs. Edwards and Partridge were deputed to arrange with two artistes to give their services.

Dr. Tibbetts is to be asked to preside.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Tom Edge for his excellent services in regard to the flower stalls, a similar compliment being accorded Inspector Needham and his staff.

The 5s prize for the best turnout at the parade was won by the PEAR TREE Sick and Draw Club, and Mr. J. H. Taylor, who received it on their behalf, handed it over to the funds.”

County Express 2/9/1911

“On Saturday morning the Coroner (Mr. G. C. Lewis) held an inquest at the BRITISH OAK, High Street, Old Hill, concerning the death of Samuel George Danks (18), labourer, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, who was drowned whilst bathing in the Birmingham canal at Garratts Lane on the previous day.

John Henry Danks, father of the deceased, said his son was a labourer at Messrs. Lowe’s timber yard, Powke Lane. Between one o’clock and 1.30 on the Friday he came home and had a fairly good dinner. He was ten minutes to a quarter of an hour at dinner, and then went off in hurry to bathe. Witness did not know he was going. The place where he bathed was close to his works, and about 100 yards away from his home. Witness heard of the fatality about two o’clock while at work. He was informed that his son could swim, but he had never seen him in the water.

Alfred Collins, Broad Street, Kingswinford, stated that he was employed at Messrs. Lowe’s timber works and knew deceased. He was bathing with deceased at 1.35 on the Friday, Danks having come down to the water a few minutes before. He did not see him come. They were bathing close to the works, and deceased appeared to be undressing in a hurry. Witness had bathed with deceased several times. He was a swimmer but not a good one. Deceased had been swimming in the water about ten minutes when he went down. Witness was about 100 yards away, and he got out of the water and ran along the side, but before he could get him out deceased went down. Witness saw him struggling and he only went down once. Witness was about to catch hold of him when he sank. Witness got him up within twenty seconds from the time he sank. Witness got him on the boat, ran the water out of him, and tried artificial respiration for five minutes, after which time a sailor succeeded him and continued the efforts until the doctors arrived and pronounced life extinct. He did not hear deceased shout when he sank.

Charles Edwards, another employee at Messrs. Lowe’s, said he was sitting on the canal side when he saw deceased hurrying from his room to the boat for the purpose of undressing. He got into the water, and a little later witness turned round and saw him struggling with his hands above his head.

Dr. Tibbetts said when he arrived artificial respiration was continued for five minutes without success.

The Coroner: Can you say whether he was drowned or whether he died from heart failure? – Dr. Tibbetts: I should say he had died from exhaustion after having had a hearty meal. Deceased would be fatigued.

The Coroner: Would it be his heart failure which would cause him to go down? – Dr. Tibbetts: He would be spent and would go down.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

County Express 16/9/1911

“The Coroner (Mr. G. C. Lewis) held an inquest at the BRITISH OAK, High Street, on Saturday respecting the death of an unnamed child of Nora Priest wife of David Priest, of Wagon Street, which took place on the previous day ten minutes after birth, the mother having not been attended by a doctor.

Mrs. Jemima May, of High Street, said she attended Mrs. Priest at the birth. The baby was born ten minutes to six the previous day, and it died ten minutes later. There was nothing unusual to account for death. Witness would have sent for a doctor if she had had time.

Dr. T. M. Tibbetts said he had seen the child that morning. The cause of death was suffocation. Such a thing might easily happen. Had a doctor been attending the mother and recognised what was the matter he might have saved the child.

The jury agreed that there was no neglect on the part of the midwife, and returned a verdict of Death from Suffocation.”

Albert Eland Sidaway, BRITISH OAK, 68, and brewer, 27, High Street. [1912]

Albert Eland Sidaway – see also DUKE WILLIAM.

County Express 31/8/1912

“An enquiry was held at the BRITISH OAK INN, Old Hill, on Tuesday, by the Coroner (Mr. C. G. Lewis) touching the death of George Plant, of Nolan Villa, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath. The deceased was a colliery agent, and was found poisoned in his house on Saturday night.

The widow gave evidence of identification. She stated that on Saturday the deceased came home at half-past three and went out shortly afterwards. He came back about five, and had his tea. He then went to lie down. The first she knew of anything wrong was about 7.30 when her daughter called out, 'Oh! Mother. Come to father, he's hurt himself.' She went and found him in an unconscious condition on the sofa.

The Coroner: Do you know this bottle? – Witness: I have never seen it before.

Do you know what cause your husband had to do this? Had he any troubles? – His master died a month ago, and he has not been the same man since. He had worked for him for seven years, and they were more like brothers than master and servant. He was never treated as a servant.

Do you think the death of his master made him take his life? – I am certain.

Dr. Waugh said he was sent for at 7.45pm, but the man was dead when he arrived. Witness was handed the bottle produced, and he found it contained nicotine, judging from the smell. He made a post mortem examination, and found there were no signs of injury. The organs were all perfectly healthy. From the signs he found he came to the conclusion that death took place owing to nicotine poisoning.

PC Weston was called, and questioned by the Coroner as to the discovery of the bottle of nicotine, but he said the bottle was handed him by the doctor.

Dr. Waugh stated that the bottle was taken out of the deceased man's pocket by a neighbour.

The Coroner, addressing the jury, said the cause of death was perfectly clear. He would like to tell the jury this. He was informed on proper authority that the deceased's business concerns were quite in order, and there was nothing to suggest there was anything wrong. He rather came to the conclusion that the widow's surmise was correct, and that the man was depressed owing to the death of his employer.

The jury returned a verdict of Suicide whilst of Unsound Mind."

County Express 16/11/1912

"The coroner (Mr. G. C. Lewis) held an inquest at the BRITISH OAK INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, on Wednesday, touching the death of Alfred Nock (61), miner, Bloomfield Street, Halesowen, who died suddenly at Old Hill railway station on Monday.

Hugh Watson, son-in-law, said deceased left home at 6.20 in his usual health. He was last attended by a doctor in July for a chest affection.

Harold Pasfield, booking clerk, stated that he heard a fall in the waiting room, and found the deceased lying unconscious on the floor. He applied some smelling salts, but the man gave one movement and expired.

Dr. T. E. Mitchell deposed that a post mortem revealed signs of an old standing depressed fracture of the skull. This, however, had nothing to do with the death, which was due to syncope, brought about by fatty degeneration of the heart. The morning was boisterous, and probably deceased had hurried to the station. That would accelerate his death.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes."

Tipton Herald 22/2/1913

"The body of Daniel Weston, aged 21, striker, of Cherry Orchard, Old Hill, was recovered from the Birmingham canal near the Fly Colliery, Old Hill, on Saturday.

The young man, it is stated, left home at 11pm on Friday evening. It being his usual custom to have a walk, after partaking of supper. On Saturday morning his jacket was found on the towing path. PC Flowers recovered the body, which was removed to the mortuary in High Street, Old Hill, to await an enquiry.

An inquest into the circumstances attending the sad occurrence was held at the BRITISH OAK, High Street, Old Hill, on Friday afternoon. It was conducted by Mr. W. C. Checkley. Mr. A. Thompson was the foreman of the jury.

Lavinia Weston, 19, Cherry Orchard, Old Hill, was the first witness. She said she was the brother of the deceased, who was a fitting striker in the employ of Messrs. Stewart and Lloyds, at the Lion Works, Old Hill. She last saw him alive at ten past 11 on the 14th inst. He was then apparently in good health.

The Coroner: Was he sober? – Yes, sir. Well he had had a pint of beer, but he was sober.

He had had beer, but was not drunk? – Yes.

Did he have his supper? – Yes, and then he went out. He usually went out after supper and stayed out half an hour or more.

Had he had any trouble? – He had a touch of the rheumatic fever just before Christmas.

But he got over it? – He has not been the same boy since.

Has he ever threatened to take his own life? – No, but on the Friday night father asked him what was the matter. He had something heavy on his mind, but he would not say what it was.

Did you think he would do anything in the shape of taking his life? – No. We left the door open all night. When I shouted him at 5.0 in the morning he was not there.

At the inquest of the Coroner, PC Flowers asked questions of the witness.

Did you receive 6s 8d from your brother? – He put it on the table and told me to take it upstairs when I went.

That was something unusual? – Yes.

Mr. Thompson: Have you ever heard him threaten to take his life? – No.

Mr. Willetts: Did he give you any reason for taking the money upstairs? – No.

It would seem strange, wouldn't it? – I did not think anything about it.

Mr. Thompson: When he did not return did you think to report his absence? – We left the door open as usual. We went to bed and took no notice of it.

Mr. Thompson: It is rather strange.

Reuben Willetts, 86, Clifton Street, Old Hill, a fitting maker at Messrs. Stewarts and Lloyds, said the deceased was his striker. He

had worked for him 2½ years. The relations between them had been pleasant. So far as he knew deceased had no trouble on his mind.

The Coroner: Have you given him notice? – No, but on the previous Monday he told me he should give me notice on Saturday. I said, ‘Oh, all right, if that is it. Let me work comfortably until the weekend.’ He did not turn up on the Tuesday. He came on the following day, and worked up till Friday night, when I paid him 10s. It is a common thing for people to have a miff as in most trades. They were generally made up in no time.

Have you ever heard him threaten to take his own life? – No.

PC Flowers: Was the quarrel about the tools? – Well, it was like this. We had a quarrel, but really it was not a quarrel. He struck over a tool three times, and it flew across the shop. Then he struck again too hard, and I told him to chuck it as I should not have it, and he could chuck it if he was not satisfied.

Mr. W. Willetts: Did he do it intentionally? – No, any man might do it.

The Coroner: Was he in a temper? – Yes.

Benjamin Homer. 40, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, said he was a labourer in the employ of Messrs. Fellows at the Fly Colliery. When he went to the canal on the day in question, he saw the deceased’s coat near the canal. Later in the day, a man named Charles Underhill told him that he had heard as he came along the railway line deceased had threatened to commit suicide, and that the coat was his.

The Coroner: Enquiries have been made and Underhill denies it.

Witness: It’s true that he told me.

Mr. Thompson: Are you prepared to swear that Underhill told you that Weston told him he was going to drown himself? – I did not say that. I said Underhill told me that he had heard.

Mr. Thompson: The probability is somebody must know of it.

PC Flowers said he recovered the body at 5am on the Saturday, minus the coat. I have seen Underhill, he proceeded, and he said he did not tell Homer that Weston was going to drown himself. He said that he had heard that he was, but he could not say who had told him. I have made exhaustive inquiries, but can get to know nothing further. They did not seem to render the assistance they ought to.

In summing up, the Coroner said the case was a most extraordinary one. He was sorry they had no further evidence. Rumours of the kind they had heard did sometimes get about after the event. There was no direct evidence to how the man got into the water, and there was no evidence that he was of unsound mind. Perhaps the best verdict they could return would be an open one.

Mr. W. Willetts to the constable: Did you mean to say that the people did not tell you what you thought they might?

The constable: Yes, sir. They seemed to be holding something back.

You think he said something? – Yes, but I can’t prove it.

The Foreman: It is extraordinary that no alarm was made until the following day. He received the wages, and had 6s 8d left.

What about the other?

Another Juror: He would not have much difficulty in getting through that.

Mr. Thompson: Then would he be sober?

The Coroner: It is doubtful.

An open verdict of Found Drowned was returned.”

A team from here won the Sidaway Bowls League in 1927.

A team from here won the Langley and District Bowls League in 1928.

Dudley Herald 28/2/1931

“Mr Frank Cooper (District Coroner) held an inquest at the BRITISH OAK, Old Hill, on Thursday afternoon, relative to the death of Jesse Greenfield, aged 39, 65 Cherry Orchard, Old Hill, which took place suddenly on Wednesday morning about four o’clock. The widow (Mrs. E. R. Greenfield) said deceased was employed as a driller at Oldbury. He was a healthy man as far as she knew, for during the nine years she had been married to him he had not been attended by a doctor. A fortnight ago he complained of pains in his chest, and his head was hot, but continued to work until Tuesday last, when he did a full day’s work. Returning home that day he had a light tea and supper, and went to bed at 11pm. He roused her just before 4am on Wednesday, and said he felt very ill, and that his chest and head were ‘red hot.’ His head was wringing wet with sweat, and he was very sick. He suddenly started to gurgle in his throat, and died immediately.

Dr. H. D. Findlay said he had made a post mortem examination, and found extensive congestion of the right lung, which was the first stage of pneumonia, and lesser congestion in the left lung. There were some old scarrings near the left groin, which was well healed, and showed no signs of recent trouble. The cause of death was acute pneumonia.

The Coroner: Does it come as any surprise to you that the man should work on Tuesday and die on Wednesday?

Witness: Not if it was influenza pneumonia, which comes on quickly, and is fatal early. It is of a very toxic type, and produces the symptoms very rapidly. There is a great deal of influenza pneumonia about. I have attended one or two cases where death has taken place within twelve hours of onset.

A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned.”

Dudley Herald 4/4/1931

“When two little boys were playing in a scrapyard at Cradley Heath, on Monday they dislodged a 22cwt pipe, which fell on the one and killed him.

The inquest was held on Tuesday at the BRITISH OAK HOTEL, Old Hill, by Mr. J. H. F. Pearson (Deputy Coroner), at which the father of the deceased boy gave evidence of finding his son pinned beneath the huge iron tube.

The lad's name was Victor Billingham aged 11, of 62, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, and his father is George Cornelius Billingham. He stated that he was employed by the Midland Scrap Iron and Hardware Company at their scrapyards in Lomey Town, Cradley Heath. On Monday he saw some lads playing in the yard. They had built a sort of hut against a stack of tubes, and were playing in it. He went away for a time, and was told that one of the tubes had fallen on a lad. Running back he found his own son underneath one of the pipes, dead. He lay face downwards, and with the pipe across his back. He and the other employees had found it impossible to keep the children out of the yard, and when they put a fence round they came in by another way.

Dr. A. W. Tibbetts said he was called to the spot, and found the boy dead. He had slight abrasions to his knees, and no other apparent injuries. No bones were broken, and he would expect that death was due to shock owing to the heavy iron pipe falling on the lad. He certainly had not died from anything else but shock.....

Sidney J. Edwards (secretary and manager of the company) said that hundreds of children went to play in the yard every day, and the police had done all they could to keep them away. The men engaged there tried to send them away, and got stones thrown at them. It was difficult to keep them out, as there were certain rights of way through the yard, and an open siding on one side. He expressed his sympathy with the lad's parents, and said it was a great shock that one of their own employees had lost a boy in the yard.

The Coroner returned a verdict of Accidental Death caused by shock. He expressed his regret and sympathy with the boy's parents, and said no blame could be attached to the owners of the yard. It was unfortunate that the children had not a better place to play in, for such a place was bound to have a fatal attraction for them. He felt that everything had been done to prevent a recurrence."

Dudley Herald 12/12/1931

"'Goodbye. Look after my lad. I am innocent, but can't prove it. They are crooks and blackmailers.' That was the dramatic message left by Lois Jennings, aged 51, who committed suicide at the home of her sister and brother-in-law, 4, Wrights Lane, Old Hill, last Saturday. The note was read by the Coroner (Mr. J. H. F. Addison) at an inquest held at the BRITISH OAK INN, Old Hill, on Wednesday.

Thomas Nock, an accountant, of 4, Wrights Lane, Old Hill, said deceased was his sister-in-law. She was married, but lived apart from her husband for about 17 years. Her husband, Leonard Jennings, had held a number of positions, including those of ship's cook, gun-layer and boat-maker. He was engaged in the last named when witness heard of him last, ten or twelve years ago. During the time deceased had lived with him she had been a healthy woman, but in the last eight or nine days had seemed disinterested. He knew of no worry she had at that time, and apart from a business worry he knew of nothing since. He had no reason to think she took minor financial troubles seriously, but she was a very secretive woman, and rarely, if ever complained about or discussed her business transactions. The trouble he knew of was that she thought she had incurred a debt for rent. It was not very much, but she took it seriously, and it was a worry to her. When he left for work last Saturday morning deceased was no more depressed than she had been for the past few days. He returned home at one o'clock, and found his wife, who had returned a little earlier, was unable to get into the house. At first he took no serious view of the situation, but after gaining an entrance by means of a ladder and an upstairs window, he found his sister-in-law in her bedroom, and dead. The room was full of gas, and a tube which was used in connection with the kitchen gas oven was attached to a bracket on the wall, and the other end lay on the floor. The woman was lying with her head to the foot of the bed. The note was left on the breakfast room table. He was now well satisfied that the reference to 'crooks and blackmailers' was made to people she was in business with. As far as he knew, there was only one man in the business. He had seen that man, but had never spoken to him. Deceased kept her worries to herself very much indeed.

Mrs. Rebecca Nock, wife of the previous witness, said her sister was quite healthy and cheerful up to a few days ago. Regarding her characteristic secretiveness, she confirmed the evidence of her husband. The cause of the depression was trouble at Blackheath. A man came to their house and asked deceased to take tea from him and act as an agent in selling tea. She was to get so much commission, and she accepted the position. She had been selling this tea for some time, when he told her he had had some words with his firm, and he was going to 'start a business on his own.' He said he had a shop premises at Blackheath, and if she would go there to work with him it would be much better for both of them. The lady who lived behind the shop was going to leave, and she (deceased) could have the house, and could supervise the service of the agents. She agreed to go into partnership with the man, and to live on the premises he had mentioned, and share the firm's liabilities equally with him. He came later and told deceased to be ready to move into the shop premises between November 26th and December 18th. After she had packed all her things in preparation to go, deceased took a walk to Blackheath to see the shop and house. She was then told by the woman living at the rear of the premises that she knew nothing about going out of the house. The man mentioned had disappeared for four or five weeks. There was a quantity of tea left on the premises. Since that day her sister had been very depressed. A week before her death she told witness, 'I shall have to have the Blackheath job settled,' and seemed very worried about it. She said she had been deceived. Deceased had signed a contract to pay half the liabilities, and had it on her mind that she would have to pay the man's debts when she had no money to do it. She did not know to what extent he was in debt, other than the Blackheath affair, and it was driving her mad. Witness had not heard of the man since. She was sure that was the only trouble on her sister's mind, as she had heard her use the phrase, 'It is the fear of the unknown,' in reference to the possible extent of the debts. It was suggested deceased should go to the police last Friday evening, but she was dissuaded, as that would have worried her still more.

Dr. Graham C. Campbell said he was called to the house and there viewed the body. Death was due to gas poisoning.

Summing up, the Coroner said this seemed rather a tragic case, because there seemed no reason why the woman should have taken the steps she had taken. She probably would not have done it if only she had confided in her friends as to what was on her mind. She was evidently a woman who kept her worries to herself a good deal, and, no doubt, the thing did weigh upon her mind. His verdict would be Suicide whilst Temporarily of Unsound Mind."

Dudley Herald 26/12/1931

“An obsession during the period of change of life was said to be responsible for the death of Harriet Turner Heath (50), 4, King Street, Old Hill, who was found hanging in a chain shop, by a chain, specially forged by her own hands for the purpose, on Friday afternoon last. These were the facts revealed by Mr. Frank Cooper at an inquest held by him at the BRITISH OAK INN, Old Hill, on Monday afternoon.

Edwin Frederick Parkes, a male nurse at a Northfield Mental Institution, said deceased was his aunt. She was single and made chain for a living. She worked in the shop at the rear of his uncle's house at 7, King Street. When he saw her a week ago she seemed very depressed. His father had been in hospital for an operation for internal trouble, and this had worried her. She had not, to his knowledge, threatened to take her life.

William Henry Parkes, 7, King Street, Old Hill, said he had known deceased for 30 or 40 years. She worked as a chainmaker at the rear of his house. She had not seemed the same woman for the last week or two, and had complained of a pain in her back. At 2.30 on the 18th she came into his house for some fire, which she took to the chain shop and began to work. He saw her at work at 3.45, and at about 4.30 he went to lock up as he thought she had gone home. He saw something down the shop, and going in saw her hanging from a beam by a piece of chain. The chain was round her neck and the other end hooked over the beam. She must have got on to the platform of a weighing machine to put the chain up. Her feet were so near the floor at first he thought she was standing up. He lifted the weight off the chain and called for a man to come and assist him. Deceased made the chain which was round her neck. It was a specially made chain, for she had not orders for a similar one, and he could see no other use for it. A large link on one end allowed the remainder of the chain to pass through it and so make a noose.

Mrs. Mary Horton, 275, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, knew deceased very well, as they had worked together for the same firm for the past two years. She had been in the habit of going to the shop where deceased worked, for her own hearth was not far away. For the past few weeks the woman had been depressed, and told her of an eating, burning pain in her back. She asked, ‘Do they have cancer in the back?’ and witness told her age was to blame for her trouble. She heard deceased say, ‘If I have to have an operation I'd rather drown myself.’ On the 18th she and Miss Heath took some chain to Bowling Green, and she seemed rather quieter than usual. While there they got a little order, and deceased picked up the iron for the work. In the afternoon she went to deceased's chain shop and saw her standing in the corner with a chain in her hand. Witness hailed her, and she threw the piece of chain down and acted in a mesmerised way. That deceased made the chain (produced) she had no doubt. She saw her working on it three weeks ago in an order for traces, but at that time the big link was not on it, and it should not be on for any other purpose than the one for which it was used.

Dr. J. Davison said deceased visited his surgery on the 9th, where he examined her for pains in her back. He diagnosed lumbago and treated her. She told him she was rather worried about some trouble, and that her sister's husband had undergone an operation for a growth. The doctor said that had the woman had an obsession about cancer it was likely to upset her mental balance having regard to her time of life. Death was due to hanging, the neck being dislocated.

The Coroner said he hesitated often to find that a person was insane when committing suicide, but in this case he had no doubt that the woman was not of sound mind. She was at a time of life when the mind, if any undue stress was put upon it, was apt to go wrong. She was worried because her brother-in-law suffered from what she thought was a serious malady. That, together with the change of life, brought about a mental state during which she committed suicide. That she committed suicide in such an extraordinary way led him to come to that decision. There was no doubt that she met her death with a chain made by her own hand. He had never known a case of hanging with a chain, much less a case where a person had actually forged with her own hand the implement with which to commit suicide. His verdict was Suicide whilst of Unsound Mind.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/9/1936

“A form of ‘harvest home’ was held at the BRITISH OAK INN, Old Hill. Customers and friends brought garden produce for competition and subsequent disposal to hospitals. A magnificent collection of vegetables secured the first prize for W. Williams, a Blackheath Council house tenant.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/5/1938

“*William Scriven*, aged 56, who, as licensee of the BRITISH OAK INN, Old Hill, had in the past prepared for scores of inquests at the public house, which was a recognised place for such enquiries, was himself the subject of an inquest yesterday.

He was found gassed on a couch in a downstairs room of the inn on Wednesday evening.

His wife and son had gone to Birmingham, and when it was noticed at 6.55pm that the house had not been opened for custom an entrance was effected and the tragedy was discovered.

A terrier, *Scriven's* favourite dog, was whimpering about the house and during today's inquest sat, a pathetic object, in the room where the inquiry was being held.

A note left by *Scriven* read, ‘Goodbye, but how much I love you all no one knows. Forgive me, as God will. I felt giddy and depressed.’

Albert J. W. *Scriven* said his father had a serious operation 16 years ago, and 12 months later seriously injured himself while helping to lay a bowling green for his cousin. He ignored the advice of a specialist to undergo another operation and had suffered a good deal since. For about two years he had eaten very little, and for six months had been very depressed and suffered from giddiness. Mrs. *Scriven* had also been ill, and that had further depressed him. Moreover, he had eye trouble, which worried him.

On Wednesday afternoon witness took his mother to Birmingham, and on their return at 7.30 they heard of what had happened. Horace Patrick Powell, of 62, High Street, Old Hill, said that when his attention was drawn to the fact that the BRITISH OAK INN was not open at 6.55 on Wednesday evening, he investigated and found all the doors locked. He obtained a ladder, got into the house by a bedroom window and found *Scriven* dead in a downstairs room, lying on the couch, with rubber tubing attached to the gas jet by his mouth.

Arthur Hudson, *Scriven's* brother-in-law, described *Scriven* as a man of buoyant spirits who kept a lot of his personal suffering to himself.

The deputy coroner, Mr. J. F. Addison, in recording a verdict that *Scriven* took his life while the balance of his mind was disturbed, referred to the many times he had seen *Scriven* on occasions of inquests and said that he observed on the last occasion that he was looking very ill. He expressed sympathy with the relatives as also did Inspector Davis.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/5/1938

“Some 50 members of the licensed trade attended the funeral ay Cradley Heath yesterday of Mr. *William Scriven*, for 24 years licensee of the BRITISH OAK INN, Old Hill, who was found dead on Wednesday. The service, held at St. Luke’s Church, Cradley Heath, was conducted by the Rev. H. Card, Vicar of Rowley Regis, and Mr. A. B. Heys was at the organ. The bearers were Ald. G. Palmer, Councillor S. Willetts, Messrs. W. L. Edwards, M. Stephens, L. Round, D. Wellings, S. Edwards, and T. Foley. Among those present were the Mayor of Rowley Regis (Ald. C. C. Lewis), Ald. B. Hobbs, Ald. D. M. Chapman, Messrs. W. Craddock, and F. S. Tomley (Messrs. Mitchells and Butlers), representatives of the Old Hill Canine Society, Black Heath and District Bowling Club, the Sidaway Bowling League, the BRITISH OAK Bowling Club, and the local lodges of the AOF and the RAOB.”

1939 Register

68, High Street

[1] *Harry Willetts*, date of birth 22/8/1907, licensed victualler, married;

[2] *Mary Jane Willetts*, dob 26/1/1911, unpaid domestic duties, married;

The license was surrendered on the grant of a Final Order in respect of the BULL TERRIER.

It closed on 7th December 1960.

It was demolished in 1971.

BUILDERS ARMS

95, (98), Oldbury Road, BLACKHEATH

OWNERS

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

William Wilson [1867] – [1882]

William Elcock Fletcher [1888] – **1906**);

Joseph Kite (**1906** – []

James Martin [1911] – **1926**):

NOTES

98, Oldbury Road [1881]

95, Oldbury Road [1891], [1896], [1901]

It had an ante ‘69 beerhouse license.

County Advertiser 31/8/1867

“Rowley. The Annual Licensing Meeting.....

There were thirteen applications for spirit licenses. The applications of the following were refused.....

William Wilson, Black Heath.”

William Wilson, builder and beer retailer, Blackheath. [1868], [1870]

Stourbridge Observer 11/12/1869

“*William Wilson*, beerhouse keeper, Blackheath, was charged by Superintendent Mills with selling ale during prohibited hours on Sunday, the 28th ultimo. Defendant pleaded guilty, and the Bench, without hearing any evidence, fined him 2s 6d and costs.”

County Express 18/12/1869

“George Homer, Thomas Stone, Thomas Yardley, Samuel Yardley, Thomas Tromans, and Thomas Weston were charged with

being drunk and riotous at the house of Mr. *William Wilson*, BUILDERS ARMS, Blackheath, on Friday, the 12th ult. They each paid costs.”

County Express 27/8/1870

“The annual licensing meeting for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division was held yesterday.....

William Wilson, BUILDERS ARMS, Blackheath were all cautioned in reference to the future conduct of their houses.”

1871 Census

Blakeheath

[1] *William Wilson* (35), carpenter and publican, born Birmingham;

[2] Phebe Wilson (32), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Thomas H. Wilson (11), son, born Rowley Regis;

[4] James W. Wilson (10), son, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Maria M. Wilson (8), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[6] George Wilson (6), son, born Rowley Regis;

[7] Ellen A. Wilson (2), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[8] Ann J. Wilson (1), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[9] William Wilson (64), father, widower, carpenter, born Birmingham:

County Advertiser 22/3/1873

“*William Wilson* was charged with permitting drunkenness in his house, the BUILDERS ARMS, Blackheath, on the 10th inst.

Police-constable John Wade said he was sent for to the house by the defendant’s wife, about 10pm, to eject some men. He saw two men in the house named Isaac Parkes and William Poole stripped. They were both drunk. One had a glass of wine, the other a pint of ale. He ejected them. He visited the house again in half an hour. He found the same men there again. Could not tell whether they had ale. Poole had a ginger beer bottle in his hand. The defendant’s wife was called and said the men were not drunk. They were talking loud. The defendant said he was out at the time. He instructed his wife if any disturbance arose to send for a police officer. The case was dismissed.”

County Advertiser 25/7/1874

“Richard Plant was charged with having assaulted David Moore, on the 20th inst, at Blackheath. Complainant said that on the above date he was in the BUILDERS ARMS having a pint of ale, when the defendant came in and struck him without any provocation. He also kicked him after leaving the house. Defendant was fined 20s and costs, or one month’s hard labour.”

County Advertiser 21/11/1874

“*William Wilson*, was charged by Phoebe Hodgetts with having assaulted her, on the 11th inst. Mr. Addison prosecuted.

The evidence of complainant was to the effect that on the above date she was in a public house in company with her husband. A quarrel took place and she, on going to interfere, was knocked down and kicked on the knees by the defendant.

William Hodgetts, the husband of the complainant gave corroborative evidence.

The defendant called a witness for the defence to prove that no assault was committed by him upon the complainant.

William Hodgetts was charged by *William Wilson*, junior, with having refused to quit the BUILDERS ARMS INN, Blackheath.

Mr. Addison defended.

The complainant said the defendant came into his house and commenced a quarrel with his (complainant’s) father. He requested defendant to leave but he refused, and on attempting to turn him out of the house, defendant tore his clothes. Cross-examined:

Was not drunk. His father did not pick up a poker to strike defendant.

Police-constable Jackson said that on Wednesday night he visited the house and found defendant and complainant struggling together on the floor. Defendant was given in charge, but he did not take him into custody. The complainant’s clothes were torn, and the windows of the house broken.

For refusing to quit defendant was fined 10s and costs or 14 days, and the other case was dismissed.”

Stourbridge Observer 12/12/1874

“*William Gould* was charged with feloniously stealing a watch on the 3rd inst, the property of William Steventon. Prosecutor, who resides at Blackheath, said that he was in the BUILDERS ARMS, sitting near the fire. Several persons were present. He had a silver watch in his possession, and showed it to those in the room, and the watch was passed from one to another. The prisoner went out of the room, and he asked those present for it. They denied having it. He then went with the police, and pointed the prisoner out as the man who had got his watch. Prisoner gave it to the police officer at once. The Bench did not think there was any felonious intent, and dismissed the case.”

County Advertiser 6/5/1876 - Deaths

“On the 1st inst, Phoebe, the beloved wife of *William Wilson*, BUILDERS ARMS, Blackheath; deeply lamented.”

County Express 26/5/1877

“*William Mills*, butcher, was charged on remand, with having stolen a stone bottle containing ale, of the value of 3s, the property of *William Wilson*, publican, Blackheath.

Joseph Strickley said he saw the prisoner carry a bottle from prosecutor’s cellar to the brewhouse, but it was afterwards found

concealed in the yard.

Police-constable Stiles said that he went to the prosecutor's house on Saturday night and saw prosecutor who informed him that Mills had taken a bottle containing ale from his cellar. Witness subsequently found a bottle concealed underneath some timber, and seeing prisoner upon the premises, he arrested him and charged him with stealing a bottle of ale, the property of Mr. *Wilson*. Prisoner said, 'No, sir, I'll speak the truth when I get down there.' On the way to the station prisoner said, 'I know I am not innocent. I did it, and I'll speak the truth.'

Mills now pleaded guilty, and had nothing to say in defence. He was sentenced to one month's hard labour."

County Advertiser 19/10/1878

"John Bateman, miner, Henry Mole, and Joseph Priest, rivet makers, were charged by *William Wilson*, landlord of the BUILDERS ARMS, Blackheath, with gambling with coins on the 6th inst. Mr. Addison defended.

Mr. *Wilson* said he heard them playing cards in an outhouse on his premises, and spoke to them. They said they were doing nothing, and followed him into the house, where some time afterwards he discovered them tossing with coins. Some cards were afterwards found in the outhouse. On finding the men tossing in the house he said he should summon them, and bade them leave his premises, at the same time picking up the coin, a shilling, with which they had been playing. The men offered no denial to what he said. A witness named Willetts spoke to seeing the defendants 'dating' coins – a kind of gambling.

The defence was merely a denial of this evidence, a witness alleging as to the shilling that it had been put down by one of the men in payment for some beer.

The Bench thought the case very clearly proved, and made worse by the fact that it occurred on Sunday. They fined Moule and Priest 5s and costs, with the alternative of twenty-one days' hard labour; and as Bateman had been convicted several times during the present year, they sentenced him to a month's hard labour."

County Advertiser 28/6/1879

"At the Police Court on Wednesday, Richard Taylor and Ezra Smith were charged with disorderly conduct and refusing to quit the licensed premises of *William Wilson*, BUILDERS ARMS, Blackheath, on the 14th inst. The offence was proved by the landlord. A penalty of 2s 6d and costs was imposed in the case of Taylor, and Smith who had been previously committed was fined 5s and costs or 14 days."

AND

Dudley Herald 28/6/1879

"Richard Taylor and Ezra Smith were charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of *William Wilson*, landlord of the BUILDERS ARMS, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, on the 16th inst.

Prosecutor said on the day in question the defendants came to his house and began to fight. He ordered them out but they would not go, so he and his son forcibly ejected them.

The Bench fined Taylor 2s 6d, and Smith 5s, and costs."

1881 Census

98, Oldbury Road – BUILDERS ARMS

[1] *William Wilson* (44), builder and beerhouse keeper, born Warwickshire;

[2] Elizabeth Wilson (56), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Ellen Wilson (12), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Ann Wilson (11), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[5] William Wilson (9), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Harry Wilson (7), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

Birmingham Mail 24/5/1882 - Advert

"Pony, Trap, and Harness for Sale. £10 the lot.

W. Wilson, BUILDERS ARMS, Black Heath, Rowley Regis."

William Elcock Fletcher = William Elcocks Fletcher

County Express 5/5/1888 - Advert

"Wanted, a good General Servant; age about 18.

Apply, BUILDERS ARMS, Oldbury Road, Blackheath."

Dudley Mercury 17/11/1888

"James Wilson, miner, Blackheath, was charged with being disorderly and refusing to quit the licensed premises of *William Elcock Fletcher*, BUILDERS ARMS, Blackheath, on the 10th inst, and also with damaging a window. Mr. Tanfield prosecuted, and Mr. Travis defended.

Defendant was fined 5s and costs for refusing to quit, and was ordered to pay 1s 3d damage in the other case."

County Express 14/2/1891

"Henry Taylor, labourer, Blackheath, was charged with assaulting Jonah Mole, and with being disorderly on the licensed premises of *W. E. Fletcher*, the BUILDERS ARMS, Blackheath, on the 31st ult. Mr. Jackson prosecuted. A concert was being held at the BUILDERS ARMS, and whilst singing was going on, the defendant, who was in company with his father, went round begging

from the company. He was asked to desist but refused, and also refused to leave. Mole spoke to him about his conduct and then defendant struck him in the mouth knocking him to the ground. Mole had two cups containing beer in his hand, and these were smashed, and defendant sustained a slight injury from one of them. It was also alleged that defendant bit Mole and attempted to strangle him. Fined 10s and costs in the first case, and 5s and costs in the second.”

1891 Census

95, Oldbury Road

- [1] *William E. Fletcher* (36), beer retailer, born Smethwick;
- [2] Mary E. Fletcher (22), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] William E. Fletcher (12), son, scholar, born Smethwick;
- [4] Louisa Fletcher (11), daughter, scholar, born Smethwick;
- [5] Eliza Hodgetts (19), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 26/3/1892 - Advert

“Highly Important Sale of Machinery, Brewing Plant, Traps, Wagonette, and other Effects, in the Yard at the Back of the BUILDERS ARMS INN, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, Rowley Regis.

Mr. W. Hackett has received instructions to Sell by Auction, on the Premises, as above, on Wednesday, March 30th, 1892.....”

County Advertiser 7/5/1892

“*William Fletcher*, landlord of the BUILDERS ARMS, Blackheath, was charged with assaulting Mary Eliza *Fletcher*, his wife, on the 29th ult. Mr. Tansfield appeared for the complainant, and said she has asked him to apply for the withdrawal of the summons, which had been taken out in a fit of temper. The circumstances were entirely her own fault, and she was to blame.

Inspector Bishop objected saying that it was not the first time an assault had been committed.

Complainant was, after some further argument, called, and stated that on the day named she and her husband had some unpleasantness. Witness threw a mop at defendant, who gave her a slap on the face discolouring it, but she did not wish to press the case against him at all.

The case was dismissed.”

William Elcocks Fletcher, beer retailer, 95, Oldbury Road. [1896]

County Advertiser 31/7/1897

“George Poole, of Oldbury Road, Blackheath was charged with refusing to quit the licensed of the BUILDERS ARMS, Blackheath; Charles Poole, also of Oldbury Road, was charged with assaulting the landlord, William, *Elcock Fletcher*; and both defendants were also charged with assaulting a man named William Jones. The cases were proved.

George Poole was fined 10s and costs for refusing to quit, and 1s and costs for the assault; Charles Poole was fined 10s and costs for the assault on *Fletcher*, and 1s and costs for the other.”

Smethwick Telephone 4/6/1898

“At the Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, Elias Lones (33), traveller, of Burnt Tree, Tipton, was charged with stealing £2 19s 6d from a till belonging to *William Elcock Fletcher*, landlord of the BUILDERS ARMS, Blackheath, on the 21st ult. It was alleged that the prosecutor’s wife locked up the money in the till. The prisoner, who said he had called to settle an account for Mr. Cheshire, of Windmill Brewery, Smethwick, was seen standing by the counter and when he left, the money was missed. Inspector Given asked for a remand for a week, which was granted.”

County Advertiser 11/6/1898

“Elias Lones, commercial traveller, of Burnt Tree, Tipton, was charged with stealing £2 19s 6d, the moneys of *William Elcock Fletcher*, landlord of the BUILDERS ARMS, Blackheath, on the 21st ult.

Mrs. *Fletcher*, complainant’s wife, said that on the day in question prisoner went to the house and was supplied with ale in the bar. There was no one else in the room at the time while prisoner was there. Witness had occasion to go to a drawer to change half a sovereign. Prisoner got up of his seat and could see what witness was doing. In the drawer there was £2 19s 6d, witness left the room, and no one else went in. In about ten minutes prisoner left the house, and shortly afterwards she went to the drawer and then missed the money. She gave information to the police.

Mr. B. Shakespeare, for the defence, admitted that at the time prisoner committed the offence, he was very much under the influence of drink. His wife said she had also been to a doctor to ascertain his state of mind. He was most respectably connected, and produced a letter as to prisoner’s good character from the Vicar of Tividale.

The Bench said that in consideration of prisoner having been in prison for 14 days already, they would commit him for only another 14 days, or otherwise it would have been a month’s imprisonment.”

Dudley Herald 3/9/1898

“Trust and Hope lodge, Free Gardeners, held at the BUILDERS ARMS, Blackheath, had their first annual outing on Monday last to Kinver. The members including the worthy host (Mr. *W. E. Fletcher*) were conveyed in brakes by Mr. E. Mason. On the outward journey a brief halt was made at the YEW TREE HOTEL, Wallheath, and at the Cat Hotel, Enville. On arrival at the Spring Gardens Hotel a dinner was partaken of and to which full justice was done. After dinner the party visited places of interest. After an enjoyable day the party reached the BUILDERS ARMS shortly before 9 o’clock.”

Dudley Herald 17/9/1898

“Eliza *Fletcher*, wife of Mr. *William Elcock Fletcher*, landlord of the BUILDERS ARMS INN, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, committed suicide on Wednesday morning, in a very determined manner. Deceased left her bedroom shortly after eight o’clock, as usual, in the morning. She appeared to be strange in her manner, however, but this was thought to be due, it is alleged, to her recent heavy drinking. She subsequently returned to her bedroom, and opening the window, shouted to passers by that she had been locked up for two days, and that her husband was starving her. As there was no truth in this allegation it clearly proved the deceased could not have been in her rational senses. Soon after this, about ten o’clock, Mr. *Fletcher* heard a fall in the bedroom, and at once rushed upstairs. Here he was met with a sickening spectacle, his wife was lying in a pool of blood. There was a deep gash in her throat, the windpipe and the main arteries being severed. It was evident that deceased had inflicted the wound herself as a razor was lying near her body. Dr. Griffiths, of Blackheath, was called in immediately, but he was unable to render any assistance, as life was extinct.

Yesterday morning Mr. H. A. Pearson held an inquest at the BUILDERS ARMS, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, respecting the death of Mary Eliza *Fletcher* (30), wife of *William Elcock Fletcher*, publican, who committed suicide on Wednesday morning last. Mr. S. Ward was present on behalf of the deceased’s husband.

William Elcock Fletcher stated that lately the deceased had given way to drink and at times was very violent in her manner. On Monday and Tuesday she appeared to be better, but was very depressed. He had remonstrated with her for her excessive drinking. Six months ago she said she wished herself dead, but he had never known her threaten to commit suicide. On Wednesday morning she seemed to be very strange and not responsible for what she said. He heard a fall in the room upstairs. The servant girl said her mistress must have knocked something over, but expressed herself as too afraid to go and see what was the matter. Witness went upstairs and in the bedroom found deceased on her back near the chest of drawers. He noticed blood and on lifting her head saw the wound. She was alive then, but could not speak, and she died whilst witness and his son held her in their arms. It was quite true there had been words between them in consequence of his wife’s drinking propensities, but he had not struck her during the past twelve months.

The Coroner drew attention to a book in which was some handwriting and witness explained that on the previous Tuesday night she came to him and asked him how to spell intoxicants and expressed her intention of abstaining from drink for six months. She said ‘she could manage for the other part of her life, if she succeeded in abstaining for the six months.’

The Coroner: Then this is an informal signing of the pledge? – Witness, Yes, sir.

In reply to Mr. Edwin Simpson, journalist, Oldham, brother to the deceased, witness denied having systematically beaten his wife in the most shameful manner, and she had not to go home in consequence of being several times turned out at night. He had not refused to give her anything to eat, and he also denied taking her drives to atone for his ill-treatment. A summons was issued against him some years ago but it was withdrawn.

In answer to Mr. Ward witness said deceased was very violent when under the influence of drink, and had to be forcibly restrained. He had frequently called in the police to her. She had not wanted for food and medical attendance. Her drinking had caused her to be subject to fits.

PS Onions said that on one occasion she complained that her husband had turned her out and ill-used her. She was not sober when she said that.

Edwin Simpson, deceased’s brother, elected to give evidence, and stated that deceased and her husband had had a very unhappy life for the past ten years. She had complained of his ill-treatment, and he had seen bad bruises seven weeks ago. She seemed extremely weak then. He had never seen her intoxicated. In his opinion she committed suicide through worry, and not as a consequence of drink.

James Winfield, a former police-sergeant stationed at Blackheath, said from what he knew of deceased she was not a sober woman, and he had seen her very drunk on several occasions. When in that state she was very violent and excitable. He had seen her challenge her husband to fight, and put up her fists, and also pick up a carving-knife to him. She had complained of her husband assaulting her, but afterwards she would say it was her own fault and it would not occur again. He had seen her with bruises, and on one occasion he believed she took out a summons for assault, but withdrew it.

The jury returned a verdict of Suicide whilst in a state of Unsound Mind.”

County Advertiser 24/9/1898

“A large number of persons assembled on Saturday afternoon in Blackheath Parish Churchyard, to witness the funeral of Mary Elizabeth *Fletcher*, the wife of *William Elcock Fletcher*, a well-known licensed victualler, who had committed suicide. At the inquest it was alleged that the deceased woman had been ill-treated on several occasions during the last few years, but the husband denied many of the allegations. At the conclusion of the funeral service, hundreds of women hooted and booed at Mr. *Fletcher*, and an attempt was made to push him into the grave. When entering the car with other mourners, after leaving the churchyard, he received a very hostile reception, and on arriving at his residence in the Oldbury Road, he was groaned and shouted at, and but for the presence of Police-sergeant Onions and other police officers would in all probability have been subjected to other indignities.”

Wellington Journal 7/4/1900 - Advert

“Housekeeper, Wanted, honest and trustworthy (age from 35 to 40), to a widower; servant kept; no children. Apply, BUILDERS ARMS, Blackheath, near Dudley.”

1901 Census

95, Oldbury Road

[1] *William Fletcher* (46), beer retailer, born Smethwick;

[2] Ellen Fletcher (39), wife, born Shrewsbury;
[3] William Fletcher (22), son, brewer, born Smethwick:

Wellington Journal 11/4/1903 - Advert

“Strong Girl Wanted, age about 19 or 20, for May 6th next.
Apply, Mrs. *Fletcher*, BUILDERS ARMS, Blackheath, near Birmingham.”

County Advertiser 22/10/1904

“*William Elcock Fletcher*, landlord of the BUILDERS ARMS INN, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, was charged with using bad language on the 10th inst. Police-constable Orme who proved the offence stated that he received several complaints from neighbours respecting the conduct of defendant. *Fletcher* urged that he had a dispute with his wife over the servant. He was fined £1 including costs.”

County Advertiser 12/11/1904 - Advert

“General, strong, age 19. Good character. No washing; no children.
Apply, *Fletcher*, BUILDERS ARMS, Blackheath.”

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.....
William Elcocks Fletcher, BUILDERS ARMS, Blackheath, on the ground that the premises were ill conducted, and that the character and fitness of the proposed holder is unsatisfactory.....
The Chairman told *William Elcocks Fletcher*, of the BUILDERS ARMS, that if he used bad language in his own house again, the Bench would not accept his excuse. He would lose his license if it occurred again.”

County Advertiser 3/3/1906 - Advert

“Preliminary. BUILDERS ARMS, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, Staffs.
Alfred Hill has been instructed by the Trustees of the late *W. E. Fletcher*, to Sell by Auction, on the Premises as above, on Monday, March 12th, 1906, the whole of the Excellent Household Furniture.
Light Cart, Dennett Gig, and other Miscellaneous Articles.
Full Particulars Next Week.
Auctioneer’s Offices, Halesowen.”

County Advertiser 10/3/1906 - Advert

“Monday Next, March 12th, 1906.
BUILDERS ARMS, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, Staffs.
To House Furnishers, Brokers, and Others.
Alfred Hill has been instructed by the Trustees of the late *W. E. Fletcher*, to Sell by Auction, on the Premises as above, the whole of the Excellent Household Furniture and Effects, including capital Full-trichord Upright Iron Grand Piano, check action (by Lieder), Six Old Mahogany-frame Horsehair Chairs, Inlaid Oak Corner Cupboard, Weather Glass, Drawing Room Suite, Velvet Pile, Walnut Frames (7 pieces), Mahogany Folding Table and other Tables, Capital Hand Sewing Machine, Pictures, Windsor, Cane-seated, and other Chairs; Steelyards, Scales and Weights, Flour Scales, Sofa (leather covered), Mahogany Night Chair (fitted), Wash Stands and Dressing Tables, Brass Rail and Mahogany Bedsteads, Feather Beds, Bolsters and Pillows, Swing Glasses, Flock Beds, Mattresses, Muzzle-loading Gun, Violin and Case, Brass Meat Jack, Several Driving Bits and Curbs, Crockeryware, Stone Jars, Fenders, Small Writing Desk, Wringer, Oil Tank and Cabinet, Carpenter’s Bench, Chaff Cutter, Malt Crusher, and other Odd Tackle, Corn Bins, small Light Cart (equal to new), Capital Light Dennett Gig, with lamps and cushions complete; and other Miscellaneous Articles.
Sale to commence at Two o’clock sharp.
Auctioneer’s Offices, Halesowen.”

County Advertiser 10/3/1906

“The license of the BUILDERS ARMS, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, was transferred from *William Elcocks Fletcher* (deceased) to *Joseph Kite*.”

1911 Census

Oldbury Road – BUILDERS ARMS

[1] *James Martin* (44), beer retailer, born Wolverhampton;
[2] *Fanny Rebecca Martin* (38), wife, married 17 years, born Birmingham;
[3] *Hilda May Martin* (16), daughter, feeble minded from birth, born Birmingham;

[4] William Arthur Martin (15), son, errand boy, born Birmingham;
[5] Beatrice Marie Martin (6), daughter, born Birmingham;
[6] Charlotte Pearson (16), general servant, born Dudley:

James Martin, beer retailer, 95, Oldbury Road. [1912], [1924]

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on the grounds of redundancy in February 1926.

Staffordshire Advertiser 31/7/1926 - Notice

“The Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910. County of Stafford.

Notice as to sending in Claims to be treated as Persons Interested in Licensed Premises.

Notice is Hereby Given, that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 28th day of June and the 12th day of July, 1926, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below.....

BUILDERS ARMS, Blackheath. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *James Martin*. Registered Owner, Mitchells and Butlers Limited.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 18/12/1926

“The Licensing Committee for the County have fixed the following sums as compensation.....

BUILDERS ARMS, Blackheath, ante '69 beerhouse, £1,500.”

Compensation was paid on 24th December 1926.

It closed on 31st December 1926.

James Martin – see also FOUNTAIN, Dixons Green, Dudley.

BULLS HEAD

86+87, (83), (88), Oldbury Road, (Whiteheath Road), BLACKHEATH

OWNERS

Stephen Rollason [1884]

J. Rolinson and Son

Thomas B. Williams and Lizzie Bate, Rowley Regis

LICENSEES

Stephen Rollason [1881] – [1884]

Ezra Homer (1885 – [1891]

William Cooper (1890 – []

Ezra Homer [1901]

William Harris [1902]

James Richards [] – 1903);

John Horton (1903– 1905);

Ezra Homer (1905 – 1906);

Samuel Chatwin (1906 – 1910);

Thomas Goode (1910 – [1911]

Samuel Tromans [1919] – 1922);

Thomas Dudley (1922 – 1924);

NOTES

88, Oldbury Road [1881]

83, Oldbury Road [1884], [1891]

86-87, Oldbury Road

Whiteheath Road [1903], [1905], [1940]

It had an ante '69 beerhouse.

It had a pigeon club.

Stephen Rollason = Stephen Rollinson = Stephen Rolinson

1881 Census

88, Oldbury Road – BULLS HEAD INN

- [1] *Stephen Rollason* (45), corn dealer and beerhouse, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Mary Rollason (47), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Alice Rollason (19), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Sarah Rollason (16), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Ann Rollason (12), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Jonah Rollason (10), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Polly Rollason (9), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 9/8/1884 - Notice

“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 or Division of Rowley Regis, and to all whom it may concern.

I, *Stephen Rollason*, Beerhouse Keeper, now residing at Blackheath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, do Hereby Give Notice, that it is my intention to Apply, at the General Annual Licensing Meeting, for the Division of Rowley Regis, to be holden at the Public Office at Old Hill, in the said County, on the 27th day of August next ensuing, for a License to hold an Excise License to sell Wines by Retail, to be consumed on and off the premises known as the BULLS HEAD, Blackheath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis aforesaid, in pursuance of the Act 23 Victoria, cap.27, section 3, and Acts amending the same, of which said premises I am the owner, and the same are of the annual value by law required, and are now in my own occupation.

Given under my hand this 31st day of July, 1884.

X *Stephen Rollason*. His Mark.”

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.....

Mr. Cooksey applied for a license for British and foreign wines for the BULLS HEAD INN, Blackheath, in the occupation of *Stephen Rollinson*. Mr. Cooksey pointed out that there was already an ale license to the house, and as the house was very much frequented by commercial travellers and others, a wine license was applied for. Mr. Bassano called the attention of Mr. Cooksey to the large number of drunken cases mentioned in Inspector Walters’s report. Mr. Cooksey said that if the persons who had got drunk had drunk wines, for which he applied for a license, instead of beer, there is no doubt they would have stopped when they had had enough. (Laughter.) The application was refused.”

Dudley and District News 13/9/1884

“On Tuesday Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, relative to the death of *Stephen Rollinson* (42), beerhouse keeper, of No.83, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, who was fatally injured on Thursday last by being thrown out of a trap.

Enoch Hadley, rivet maker, of Causeway Green, said he met the deceased in Birmingham; they had been at several public houses on their drive home. Witness drove the trap the whole of the time. When they got near to Langley Green he ran into a wagon. He did not see the wagon until he had run into it as it was dark. Both he and his friend were thrown out, and the trap was upset. As soon as he came to himself he found deceased lying in the road in an unconscious state, and he could see that he was badly injured. Witness and the deceased were both sober. Witness went to see the deceased on Sunday, but he was dead.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

County Advertiser 2/5/1885

“*Ezra Homer*, landlord of the BULLS HEAD INN, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 6th inst. Mr. Waldron prosecuted on behalf of the police, and Mr. Shakespeare defended.

Police-sergeant Salt said that at 10.30 on Easter Monday night he visited the defendant’s house with Police-constable Lavin. The house was filled with 60 or 70 men and women, many of whom were drunk and staggering about. There were not more than a dozen sober persons in the house. He called the attention of the landlord to the condition of the drunken persons and left. Ten minutes later he went to the house again with Police-constable Whiston, and found the drunken persons were still there. Shortly afterwards the house was cleared, and many of the persons who left staggered up the street. In cross-examination witness said he never saw a more disorderly house. There had been pigeon matches near the house during the day.

Police-constable Lavin, who corroborated Police-sergeant Salt’s evidence, said that one man who got up to drink out of a cup and was so drunk that he fell headlong on the floor.

Police-constable Whiston corroborated the evidence.

In addressing the Bench for the defence Mr. Shakespeare said that the defendant was new to the business, only having been in the house about a week. On the day in question there had been a pigeon match, and 60 or 70 drunken men rushed into the house, the result being that the defendant lost all control.

Defendant was fined £1 and costs, the costs to include the solicitor’s fee.”

County Express 25/7/1885

“*Ezra Homer*, innkeeper, Blackheath; Frederick Homer and Harry Homer, his brothers, potters, were summoned for neglecting to contribute to the maintenance of their mother, who is in receipt of 2s 6d per week from the Dudley Union. Mr. Allen (Clerk to the Dudley Guardians) appeared in support of the summonses, and stated that the defendants were willing to pay something, but could not agree as to the respective amounts for each. Mr. Cooper, relieving officer, having given evidence in support of the summonses, the Bench made an order on *Ezra Homer*, for the payment of 3s per week, and 1s per week in each of the other cases.”

County Advertiser 29/8/1885

“On Wednesday the annual brewster sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Rowley Regis, were held at the Court House, Old Hill.

The following was the black list Beerhouse keepers.....

Ezra Homer, BULLS HEAD INN, Blackheath, permitting drunkenness, 29th April, 1885, fined 20s and costs.....

The Bench said they would not now renew the licenses of those who had been convicted, but would reserve them for consideration till the adjourned licensing day.”

County Express 3/10/1885

“This being the adjourned licensing day the magistrates granted the renewal of licenses to the following persons, whose names had appeared on the black list.....

Ezra Homer, BULLS HEAD, Blackheath.”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/9/1887

“The annual Licensing Sessions for the Old Hill petty sessional division was held yesterday.

Mr. Wright appeared on behalf of Mr. *Ezra Homer*, BULLS HEAD, Blackheath, and applied for an extension from a six days’ to a seven days’ house. He pointed out that his client had conducted the house in an admirable manner, and to the satisfaction of the police. A memorial was handed to the Bench, signed by a society of Oddfellows, asking the magistrates to grant the application. The application was granted.”

County Advertiser 12/5/1888 - Advert

“To Ironmasters, Colliery Owners, Brewers and Others.

The BULLS HEAD INN, Oldbury Road, Blackheath.

Mr. E. H. Boilstone has received instructions from the representatives of the late Mr. *Stephen Rollinson*, to Sell by Auction, on Monday, May 14th, at the above address, at Two o’clock sharp.

Four capital strong Wagon Horses and Two Hackneys, Two strong Wagons, Breeze Cart (nearly new), capital lot of strong Wagon Harness, excellent Chaff Machine, and other Effects.

Offices, Old Hill and Halesowen.”

Birmingham Daily Post 13/2/1890

“At Old Hill Police Court, yesterday, William Parry, William Crump, and Henry Rowe, of Blackheath, trustees of the Mayflower Lodge, 1004, of the Nottingham Ancient Imperial United Order of Oddfellows’ Friendly Society, held at the BULLS HEAD INN, Blackheath, were summoned to show cause why John Rose, a member of the society, should not receive the sum of £3 18s due to him for sick pay under the rules of the society.

The defendant Parry said they had no money in the society.

The Magistrates’ Clerk: It is insolvent? – Mr. Parry: Yes, sir.

The Magistrates’ Clerk: Have you never made an application for a dissolution if it?

Mr. Parry said they had been suspended, and in a month or two they should be able to pay out money again. They had not paid anything out for six months. They did not want to apply for a dissolution on account of the old members. They had borrowed money from the landlord of the house to pay claims with.

The Bench adjourned the case for a fortnight, in order that the books might be examined by an independent person.”

County Express 1/3/1890

“William Parry, Henry Roe, and William Crump, trustees of the May Flower Lodge, No.1004, of the Nottingham Ancient Imperial United Order of Oddfellows’ Friendly Society, held at the BULLS HEAD INN, Blackheath, were summoned by Ellen Rose, on behalf of her husband, John Rose, for the sum of £3 18s, being the arrears of twenty-six weeks’ sick pay. The case was adjourned a fortnight ago in order that the books of the lodge might be investigated by Mr. Joseph Williams, assistant overseer.

Mr. Goodman said when the case was last adjourned, the defendants admitted that the sick pay was due to Mrs. Rose, but they alleged they had not sufficient funds to pay it with.

Mr. Williams said he had examined the books of the society, and found there were about forty members in it. He found the society had not paid out any sick pay since August 12th, 1889, and now they had in hand £11 1s. They were indebted to sick pay to the amount of £12, besides Mrs. Rose.

Mr. Goodman: As long as you continue the society you are bound to pay the sick pay.

Mr. Parry: We are aware of that, but we have not got it.

Mr. Walker: You are drawing a weekly sum from the members.

Mr. Parry: Yes, but it don’t supply it.

Mr. Walker: You have sufficient funds in hand to supply this case, and we must make an order upon you for the amount claimed, and the other persons who have claims must claim in the usual way.

Mr. Crump: The members are going out of the society. Old members are in, and are entitled to £10 at the funeral.

Mr. Walker: That rests with the members of the society.

Mr. Goodman: You must apply to the registrar for an order to wind up your society. That is the only thing to do.

Mr. Crump: But our articles state that if there is any dispute it shall be settled by an arbitrator.

Mr. Goodman: You have had notice from Mrs. Rose consenting to have the matters referred to arbitrators. Have you complied with the demand? – Mr. Crump: No, we have not.

Mr. Walker: We must make an order upon you.”

1891 Census

83, Oldbury Road – BULLS HEAD INN

[1] *Ezra Homer* (55), gun patent breech forger and licensed brewer, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Emma Homer (58), wife, born Halesowen;

[3] Albert Homer (26), son, general labourer, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Mary Ann Parkes (7), niece, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Ezra Homer (17), son, coal miner, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Mary Osborne (18), cousin, domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

1901 Census

Oldbury Road

[1] *Ezra Homer* (66), widower, innkeeper, born Blackheath;

[2] Sarah Hadley (33), daughter, domestic servant, born Blackheath;

[3] Mary Hadley (17), niece, domestic servant, born Blackheath;

[4] Luther Hadley (13), grandson, born Blackheath:

County Advertiser 11/1/1902

“At an inquest held at the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Blackheath, on Tuesday last, by Mr. H. A. Pearson, one of the jury-men, *William Harris*, landlord of the BULLS HEAD INN, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, arrived about a quarter of an hour late. His excuse was that he had mistaken the time whilst at work. Mr. Pearson severely reprimanded him for being late, and said he did not know but what he ought to fine him 40s. He had kept the other twelve jurymen and himself waiting for more than a quarter of an hour. He would be summoned on the next inquest, and if he was a minute late he should fine him 40s.”

Manchester Courier 7/4/1902

“The South Staffordshire police on Saturday made raids on betting men at the BULLS HEAD, Blackheath, and the RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, arresting altogether 33 men, including the two publicans. An inspector and 20 policeman arrived at each house in a furniture van. The men were brought up and remanded.”

County Express 12/4/1902

“As a result of a clever ruse on the part of the police authorities, the RAILWAY HOTEL, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, and the BULLS HEAD INN, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, were raided on Saturday afternoon, and a large number of men, who, it is alleged, frequented the houses for the purposes of betting, were captured. The police adopted a modus operandi which, although not new in the annals of the force, was new to the district, and caused considerable amusement to those not immediately concerned. Two large furniture vans were chartered, and the one, containing Inspector Hodgkinson, PS Pitcher, and fourteen constables, drew up outside the RAILWAY HOTEL; while the other, containing Supt. Spendlove, PS Harris, and twelve constables, was drawn up outside the BULLS HEAD INN. Immediately the vehicles stopped, the officers raided the premises and secured the men they found there. It is alleged upon being searched, these were found to be in possession of betting papers and tickets. The men submitted quietly to the arrests, and were conveyed to Old Hill Police station in the vans. Naturally, the news of the occurrences quickly spread, and caused great excitement and some consternation in the districts. Later in the evening they were all brought before Messrs. W. Bassano and C. W. Bassano, and charged with offences under the Betting Act. Formal evidence was given by Supt. Spendlove and Inspector Hodgkinson, and the prisoners remanded until Wednesday, bail being allowed to the landlords themselves in £50 each and one surety of £50 or two £25 each, and the other men on their own recognisances of £10 each.”

County Express 19/4/1902

“A large crowd assembled at the Old Hill Police Court yesterday, when a special session was held to hear the charges against the persons concerned in the recent betting raids at Cradley Heath and Blackheath. The magistrates in attendance were Messrs. W. Bassano, J. F. Pearson, A. H. Bassano, R. Hill, and J. Billingham.

In the first instance *W. Harris*, landlord of the BULLS HEAD INN, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, was charged with wilfully and knowingly permitting his house to be used for betting on March 24th, 25th, and April 5th. George Adams, butcher, Blackheath, was charged with unlawfully using the house for the purposes of betting, and George Clift, Halesowen Street, Blackheath, was charged with a similar offence on March 24th, 25th, and April 5th.

Mr. Clulow prosecuted, and Mr. Vachell (instructed by Mr. G. Green) defended. Mr. Vernon watched the case on behalf of the owners of the house.

The case for the prosecution, as stated by Mr. Clulow, was that on March 24th, PC Kent, accompanied by an independent witness, found some thirty men in the tap room who had a number of newspapers relating to horse racing. The conversation was also about horse racing. *Harris* supplied many of the persons with slips of paper, upon which they wrote the names of horses picked

from the papers. They then put money in these slips and handed them back to the landlord or to Clift, who apparently assisted the landlord. One man in particular was seen to write on his paper 'Duchess of Kent and Little Jim the Second, 3s for a double' on the bar counter in front of *Harris*. On the 25th Kent and his companion again visited the house and again slips of paper containing money were given to the landlord or Clift. On this occasion Kent's companion backed a horse and the landlord supplied him with the paper and pencil. He wrote 'Squire Jack and a shilling to win' on the paper, and signed it Wakefield. Squire Jack won, and on the following day the man received 9s 4d as a result of the bet. On April 5th Supt. Spendlove and the police raided the house, and found numerous sporting papers and slips of paper which they saw the men had thrown away, containing the names of horses running at Alexandra Park that afternoon. Supt. Spendlove took a book from *Harris*'s waistcoat pocket which contained the names of horses running in the Water Orton handicap on March 31st, and in the Kineton stakes, Warwick, on April 7th. PS Bentley also found two books underneath the counter.

PC Kent was called to substantiate this statement and, while giving evidence, Mr. Vachell intimated that having heard what this officer had to say, it would be hopeless for him to suggest that betting was not going on on some of the days that had been mentioned, and with the knowledge of the landlord. He had pointed out the cogency of the evidence to his clients, and upon his advice they withdrew the plea of not guilty, and pleaded to the commission of one of the offences. He could only hope the Bench would consider that justice would be met by a conviction being recorded in respect of one of the days only.

Mr. Clulow did not oppose the suggestion, and left the matter entirely in the hands of the Bench.

The Bench reserved their decision until the Cradley Heath cases were heard.....

Harris was fined £100, costs, and solicitor's fee of £2 2s; Adams and Clift were fined £50 and costs each.

Mr. Vachell asked the Bench to grant a case in Clift's case and this was consented to.

The following men who were charged with using the licensed premises for the purposes of betting were bound over not to take part in any betting transactions for six months, and ordered to pay the costs.....

Thomas Blakemore, painter, Oldbury Road, Blackheath; George Darby, traveller, Halesowen Street, Blackheath; George Henry Pratt, labourer, Birmingham Street, Blackheath; William Portman, labourer, Oldbury Road, Blackheath; Mark Bickerstaff, miner, Hackett Street, Blackheath; Isaac Baker, miner, Short Heath, Blackheath; Benjamin Rose, fitting-maker, Causeway, Blackheath; Josiah Westwood, miner, Oldbury Road, Blackheath; Thomas Taylor, labourer, Birmingham Road, Blackheath; Joseph Smith, rivet-maker, Hackett Street, Blackheath; and George Osborne, miner, Maltmill Lane, Blackheath."

County Advertiser 6/9/1902

"Police-constable Kent, who created such a stir in Cradley Heath and Blackheath districts, and took the principal part in the betting raids successfully made at the RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, and the BULLS HEAD INN, Blackheath, retired on Monday last from the Staffordshire police force, after serving for ten years....."

James Richards, beer retailer, 86-87, Oldbury Road.

County Advertiser 14/2/1903

"On Wednesday the annual licensing session for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held at the Court House..... Superintendent Spendlove had given notice that he should oppose the following licenses....."

James Richards, BULLS HEAD INN, Blackheath, Betting House Act.....

License renewed."

County Advertiser 2/5/1903

"The case, adjourned from the previous week, in which Thomas Hackett and George Evans, both of Blackheath, were charged with assaulting Joseph Strickley, farmer of Cakemore Farm, Blackheath, on Easter Tuesday, was again called on. It was alleged by prosecutor that, whilst sitting in the BULLS HEAD INN, Blackheath, the defendants and another man Hezekiah Plant, who has since absconded, threw some sawdust in the cup he was drinking from.

The complainant, whose face was still badly disfigured, stated that on the night in question he went into the BULLS HEAD INN, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, to have a pint of ale, when a man named Hezekiah Plant put some sawdust in his beer, and also struck him two violent blows on the head. A warrant had been issued against him, and he had absconded. The landlady afterwards turned them all out of the house, and when in an entry the two defendants and Plant savagely assaulted him, and inflicted on him very serious injuries.

Witnesses were called who stated that considerable larking was resorted to, one man being dressed in a policeman's uniform.

The defendants denied the assault, and said they protected defendant from the violence of Plant.

The Bench held the offence to be proved, and fined each defendant 10s and costs, or in default fourteen days' imprisonment."

County Advertiser 9/7/1904

"William Plant, labourer, of Cardale Street, Blackheath, was charged with being drunk and disorderly, and also with refusing to quit the licensed premises of the BULLS HEAD INN, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, on the 25th ult. The landlord stated that defendant became quarrelsome in the house and he requested him to go. Defendant, however, refused to leave. Police-constable Heath proved the charge of drunkenness. Defendant pleaded that he quarrelled over some sports, and promised to sign the pledge. Defendant was fined 15s including costs, or fourteen days' imprisonment."

County Advertiser 26/11/1904

"Hezekiah Plant, a labourer, of Mott Street, Blackheath, was charged with assaulting Joseph Stuckey, a farmer, of Cakemore, on the 14th of April, 1903. Prosecutor alleged that on the date in question he was drinking in the BULLS HEAD INN, Oldbury Road,

Blackheath, when defendant and two other men threw some sawdust in his cup of beer. Witness remonstrated with him, when they attacked him in a violent manner. He was dragged into an entry and left in an unconscious condition. Defendant absconded at the time he was summoned, and was not arrested until the 18th inst. He was fined 20s and costs, or a month's imprisonment."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/2/1906

"Midland Wills.....

Mr. *Ezra Homer*, of the BULLS HEAD INN, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, Staffs. Gross Estate £340 16s 9d."

1911 Census

Oldbury Road – BULLS HEAD

- [1] *Thomas Goode* (26), sanitary worker, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Minnie Goode* (27), wife, married 4 years, born Whiteheath;
- [3] *Clifford Goode* (3), son, born Whiteheath;
- [4] *Lily Dyas* (14), servant, born Whiteheath:

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on the grounds of redundancy.

Dudley Chronicle 13/2/1924

"The Adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Old Hill Petty Session Division was held at the Police Court on March 5.....

Objection was made by the police to the renewal of the license of the BULLS HEAD INN, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, kept by *Thomas Dudley* and belonging to the executors of the late Mr. T. Williams, on the grounds of redundancy.

PS Sharratt gave particulars regarding the accommodation of the house for the general public, and said the weekly sale so far as he knew was 2½ barrels. The structural condition of the premises was bad. Within a distance of 500 yards there were five fully licensed houses and seven beer houses (on).

Mr. Williams said he could show a much better trade than that given by Sergeant Sharratt. The average weekly sales had been 3½ barrels for a long time past.....

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 licenses of fifteen house on the ground of redundancy.....

The houses in respect of which the authority declined to renew the licenses were as follows.....

BULLS HEAD, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, ante 1869 beerhouse."

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.....

BULLS HEAD, a beerhouse, Oldbury Road, Blackheath."

It closed on 31st December 1924.

Lichfield Mercury 9/1/1925

"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.....

BULLS HEAD, Blackheath, £1,500."

BULLS HEAD

121, High Street, Five Ways, CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

John Biggs [1878]

Benjamin Buttery, Kidderminster

John Thomas Webb (acquired on 13th March 1935)

Grigg and Brettell [1941]

LICENSEES

Thomas Westwood [1858] – [1865]
H Harmshaw [1866]
J Mason [1869]
Thomas Burgess [1870] – [1876]
Samuel Burgess [1874]
John Biggs [1877] – [1892]
Benjamin Hingley [1897] – 1908;
Mrs. Hannah Hingley (1908 – 1914);
Benoni Buttery (1914 – 1922);
Samuel Buttery (1922 – 1927);
Richard William Griffin (1927 – 1929);
Benjamin Davis (1929 – 1931);
John Thomas Webb (1931 – 1944);
Cyril Rogers (1944 – 1950);
Victor Dennis Rollason (1950 – 1952);
Leslie Norman Grainger (1952 – 1955);
Henry Herbert Biggins (1955 – 1957);
David Whitehouse (1957 – 1960);
William Stanley Witton (1960 – 1961);
Leslie Walter Senter (1961 – []

NOTES

It had an ante '69 beerhouse license.

County Advertiser 16/10/1858

“A most barefaced robbery has been perpetrated at Cradley Heath, under the following circumstances. A farm servant, named John Howell, who thirteen years ago lived at Cradley, but who now resides at Mount Pleasant, near Wordsley, went over on Monday last to visit his old locale, and paid a visit to the BELL INN, where he remained all night. He left on the following morning, having first ascertained that his purse, containing about £20, was quite safe. In the course of Tuesday he went to Mr. *Westwood's* beerhouse, also at Cradley Heath, and known by the sign of the BULLS HEAD. Here he remained drinking in company with a number of other men for some time, and ultimately fell asleep. While thus recovering from the effects of the drink he had imbibed, someone of the multitude of loose characters which infest that neighbourhood relieved him of his money, and made clear off, without leaving the slightest clue to their discovery. The landlord was out at the time, and his wife knew nothing about the affair till Howell proclaimed his loss on awakening.”

County Advertiser 12/2/1859 - Advert

“In consequence of the bad state of the Chain Trade, a Splendid Fat Sheep will be Roasted and Given Away, at Mr. *Thomas Westwood's* BULLS HEAD INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath, on Monday, the 14th day of February, 1859.”

Thomas Westwood, beer retailer, Cradley Heath [1861]

1861 Census

High Street – BULLS HEAD

- [1] *Thomas Westwood* (41), retail brewer, born Kingswinford;
- [2] Elizabeth Westwood (35), wife, born Rowley;
- [3] Alice Westwood (13), daughter, scholar, born Rowley;
- [4] Mary Westwood (12), daughter, scholar, born Rowley;
- [5] Thomas Westwood (9), son, scholar, born Rowley;
- [6] Ann Maria Westwood (7), daughter, scholar, born Rowley;
- [7] Emma Elizabeth Westwood (4), daughter, scholar, born Rowley;
- [8] John Westwood (1), son, born Rowley;
- [9] Mary Huggings (27), house servant, born Tipton:

Thomas Westwood, retailer of beer, Cradley Heath. [1862]

Thomas Westwood, beer retailer and butcher, High Street. [1865]

County Advertiser 14/1/1865 - Advert

“Wanted, a good Servant Girl; one used to a Public-house preferred.
Apply to Mr. *Thomas Westwood*, BULLS HEAD INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 10/11/1866 - Advert

“BULLS HEAD INN, High Street, Cradley Heath.

To be Let, with immediate possession, the above well-accustomed Inn. From its proximity to the Market Place, Five Ways, and the great traffic which is continually passing by, renders it a most valuable house of business. The Premises contain Bar, Parlour, Smoke Room, Tap Room, Three Bed Rooms, Club Room, Three excellent Cellars, Kitchen, good Brewhouse, Malt Room, Stable, Piggeries, spacious Yard, &c, and are plentifully supplied with Water. The House, being double-fronted, is well adapted for two trades. Stock, Plant, and Fixtures at valuation. Cause of leaving, illness of the Proprietor. Apply to Mr. Chandler, Publicans' Valuer, &c, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 1/12/1866 - Advert

“BULLS HEAD INN, High Street, Cradley Heath. Clearing-Out Sale.

Mr. Chandler will Sell by Auction, on Monday Next, December 3rd, 1866, at Eleven o'clock.

The valuable Brewing Plant, consisting of 160-gallon, 70-gallon, and 18-gallon Iron Furnaces, with grates and fixings; Two large Deal Ale Vats, about 8ft by 4ft, with refrigerator and lead pipe to cellar; strong 20 strike Mash Tub, Coolers, and other Tubs; also the Stock of superior Cooper's-made seasoned Ale Casks, including One 200-gallon, Eight 130-gallon, Two 120-gallon, and Nine Half-hogshead Ale Casks, all in fine condition; an excellent Malt Crusher, Boarded Floor to Malt Room, 8ft 9in by 6ft 6in; Flight of Steps, and Effects appertaining to a small Brewery, by direction of Mr. *H. Harmshaw*, who has made arrangements to sell for a large brewery, and has no further use for the same.

The Auctioneer has much pleasure in recommending the above Plant and Stock to the trade, it having been recently laid in regardless of cost, and is in excellent condition.”

County Advertiser 29/6/1867 - Advert

“Wanted, a strong General Servant. One accustomed to a public-house preferred.

Apply at the BULLS HEAD INN, Cradley Heath.”

London Gazette 13/4/1869

“*Thomas Westwood*, now and for the last nine months of Corngreaves Street, Five Ways, Cradley Heath, in the county of Stafford, Butcher, and previously thereto of the FALCON INN, Lye Waste, near Stourbridge, in the county of Worcester, and then carrying on the business of a Licensed Victualler and Butcher, and previously thereto of the BULLS HEAD INN, High-street, Cradley Heath aforesaid, and then carrying on the business of a Retail Brewer and Butcher, having been adjudged bankrupt under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Worcestershire, holden at Dudley, on the 22nd day of March, 1869, a public sitting for the said bankrupt to pass his Last Examination, and make application for his Discharge, will be held at the said Court, at Dudley, on the 30th day of April instant, at twelve o'clock at noon 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 Mr. William Shakespeare, of Oldbury, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.”

Stourbridge Observer 12/6/1869 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale at the BULLS HEAD INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath.

To Publicans, Brokers and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Thomas Homer, on Monday Next, 14th June, 1869, the Possession of the above well-situated Premises, together with the Stock, Brewing Vessels, and Public-house Fixtures, comprising Oak Ale Casks, Wash Tub, Cast-iron Boilers, Ale Coolers, Tubs, Shop Fixtures, 4-pull Ale Machine, Tables, Benches, Jugs, Glasses, Fittings, and part of Household Furniture, belonging to Mr. *J. Mason*, who is giving up the Business.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.

Auctioneer's Office: Five Ways, Cradley Heath.”

Thomas Burgess = Thomas Burges

Birmingham Daily Post 5/4/1870 - Advert

“Found, a Bull-and-Mastiff Bitch, about 10 months old. The owner may have it by paying expenses. If not owned in three days will be Sold.

Apply to *Thomas Burgess*, BULLS HEAD, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 27/8/1870

“The annual licensing meeting for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division was held yesterday.....

The following beerhouse keepers applied for wine and spirit licenses.....

Thomas Burgess, BULLS HEAD, Cradley Heath. Application refused.”

1871 Census

High Street

[1] *Thomas Burgess* (33), beer seller, born Dudley;

[2] Selena Burgess (30), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] William G. Burgess (10), son, scholar, born Kingswinford;

[4] Ann Timmings (18), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 17/2/1872

“Thomas Evans appeared in answer to a summons, which charged him with being disorderly in the BULLS HEAD public house, Cradley Heath, on the 25th ult, and refusing to leave when required. Mr. Hayes appeared for the landlord, whose name was *Thomas Burgess*, and Mr. Homer appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Hayes said that the defendant was drinking in prosecutor’s public house on the date referred to, and he (defendant) began using very bad language, and his conduct was very beastly. Defendant was making some very unbecoming remarks about his wife, from whom he was separated. One of the company took it up, when defendant offered to fight anyone in the house. Some members of a club entered the room, and he began an altercation with them. Subsequently the man went into the yard to fight someone, and the landlord ordered him to leave the premises. He refused to go, so the prosecutor turned him out by force. Defendant entered the house again, and commenced using very bad language. He was again ordered out, but refused to go, saying that no one in the place could turn him out. The landlord then again took hold of defendant and ejected him from the house, but in doing so he knocked the defendant’s head against a glass door in the passage. The glass was broken by the blow, and defendant’s head was seriously cut; but this was brought on entirely by the defendant’s refusing to leave the house and his opposition to the landlord, who was determined to put him out in consequence of his bad conduct.

Witnesses were called, whose testimony supported this version of the case.

Mr. Homer urged that there was no case against his client. It was not proved that the defendant was drunk, and there was no doubt that he was very badly used. His client was about to bring an action against the complainant in the County Court for the injuries he had sustained through the ill-usage which he had been subjected to at his hands; and there was no doubt that the prosecutor in this case was taking these proceedings in order to forestall the County Court action, and render it ineffective and useless, if possible, by being able to state there that Evans had been convicted of riotous behaviour in the Police Court.

Witnesses called for the defence then endeavoured to prove that the landlord had interfered with the defendant when he ought not – when, in fact, defendant was perfectly orderly in his conduct, comporting himself like a sober man, as they alleged he was.

The Magistrates were of opinion that he had committed an offence, and fined him sixpence and the costs.”

County Adviser 3/8/1872

“On Saturday last, at Mr. *T. Burgess*’s, BULLS HEAD INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath, a quarterly meeting of the New Grand Junction Company was held for the purpose of settling the accounts of the preceding quarter. An excellent supper was provided. Mr. Arthur Griffiths presided. After the business had been disposed of, the evening was spent agreeably.”

Stourbridge Observer 7/3/1874

“On the evening of the 27th ult, upwards of 20 persons sat down to a convivial supper at the house of Mr. *T. Burgess*, the BULLS HEAD INN. The host prepared a substantial supper.....”

County Advertiser 14/3/1874 - Advert

“High Street, Cradley Heath. To Publicans and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. T. Homer, on Monday, March 16th, 1874, 5,000 Gallons of Prime Herefordshire Cider and Perry, in splendid condition for Draught or Bottling, removed for convenience of Sale to the Large Yard of Mr. *Burgess*, BULLS HEAD INN, High Street.

Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock.”

Stourbridge Observer 21/11/1874

“At the Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, before Messrs. F. D. L. Smith and H. Howard, George Homer was charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the BULLS HEAD INN, Cradley Heath when requested. *Samuel Burgess*, the landlord, said the summons was taken out for the 15th October 1873, but defendant absconded and was only apprehended on Tuesday night last. On the day in question defendant was drunk in the house, and he requested him to leave. Defendant refused to go, and witness sent for a police constable. Defendant was fined 5s and costs; in default 21 days.”

County Express 24/4/1875 - Advert

“Small Gig, for Pony, to be sold cheap, at *T. Burgess*’s, BULLS HEAD INN, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 8/5/1875

“*Thomas Burgess*, landlord of the BULLS HEAD, Cradley Heath, was charged with having on the 2nd and 3rd insts, used threats to his wife, whereby she was afraid he would do her some bodily harm. Mr. Homer prosecuted. The complainant stated that on Sunday night she returned from chapel, and found her husband at home. He, however, left, and did not return till a little before eleven o’clock. The servant then asked him to have his supper. He afterwards got a knife, and said he would cut her (complainant’s) — throat. The servant, however, took the knife from him. The defendant afterwards went upstairs and made use of similar threats, but he had not the knife in his hand. He also threatened her the following day, and she was now afraid he would do her some bodily harm. She had not slept at home since the threats were made use of. Defendant admitted having made use of certain threats to his wife, but said he had been ‘put upon’ by the whole family, and they had tried to do him an injury. He was ordered to find two sureties in £10 to keep the peace.”

County Advertiser 18/3/1876 - Advert

“BULLS HEAD INN, High Street, Cradley Heath.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. S. Leonard, on Monday, March 27th, 1876.

The whole of the Brewing Plant, Public House Fittings and Fixtures, Household Furniture, &c, comprising 5-pull Beer Machine, 4-pull ditto, with piping and taps; quantity of Jugs and Cups, Ale Glasses, Cross-leg Ale Tables, 8 Hogshead Casks, 4 Half-hogs-head ditto, Mash Tub, Wort Vats, 54-gallon Boiler, with door and frame; 180-gallon ditto, with brickwork, &c; Malt Mill, 6 Store Pigs, capital Dog Cart, with lamps and cushions; light Spring Trap, 2 Counters, with mahogany tops; Painted Desk, Mahogany Horsehair-seated Sofa, 6 Mahogany Horsehair-seated Chairs, 2 Mahogany Centre Tables, Imperial Sewing Machine, by Wheeler and Wilson; Kidderminster Carpet, 2 Clocks, and other Effects, belonging to Mr. *Thomas Burgess*, who is leaving the Premises. Sale at Eleven o'clock in the Morning.

Catalogues may be had of the Auctioneer, Cradley Heath and Halesowen."

Thomas Burgess – see also GEORGE, Old Hill.

County Express 25/8/1877

"After the business of the Petty Sessions had been disposed of the Annual Licensing Sessions were held.....

John Biggs, the BULLS HEAD INN, Cradley Heath, applied for a license to enable him to sell intoxicating liquors either on or off the premises.

Mr. Hayes, who supported the application, said that his client at present held a seven days' beer license but he proposed if the Bench granted his application to discontinue the sale of all intoxicating drinks on Sunday; an arrangement which he thought very desirable.

Mr. Taft, of the TALBOT HOTEL, opposed, on the ground that his business would be injured by the granting of an additional license in the neighbourhood, as there were already a number of public houses in close proximity to this one.

Application refused."

County Advertiser 9/2/1878

"John Finlow, shoemaker, the Stoneyard, Cradley Heath, was brought up on a charge of stealing a silver watch, value £7, the property of Joseph Wilkes, shoemaker, on the 5th inst.

The prosecutor said he lived at Cradley Forge. He knew the defendant, and was with him at the BULLS HEAD INN, Cradley Heath, on the previous day (Tuesday) from about eleven o'clock in the morning till half-past ten at night. At this time he left to go home, and prisoner followed and struck him, knocking him down. When he got up he missed his watch and chain, and could not find it anywhere about. He did not see the prisoner take it, but no one else touched him. He had the watch safe in his waistcoat pocket when he came out of the public house. He went down the road, and on meeting a policeman told him what had occurred, and the officer went with him to the prisoner's house.

Police-constable Sylvester, the officer whom prosecutor met, said he went along with him to the prisoner's house, and demanded admittance, but prisoner refused twice to open his door. On prosecutor speaking to him, however, he admitted them, and Wilkes then gave him into custody on the charge of stealing his watch. Witness charged him with the theft, and he replied, 'You are charging me with that which I know nothing about.' He then said, 'Well, let me see what you've got about you,' and prisoner replying, 'That won't do,' put his hand into his right hand coat pocket, and pulled out the watch by the chain. They were standing in the yard at the back of Finlow's house then, and without saying anything prisoner threw the watch away, and witness heard it drop on an outhouse. Afterwards witness found the watch on the roof of a chainshop close by.

In answer to the Bench, the officer said both prosecutor and prisoner were 'muddled,' though not drunk.

Prisoner denied knowing anything about the watch, and made a statement about some dog-fighting between a dog of the prosecutor's and another. He was committed for trial at the March Assizes."

County Express 23/3/1878

"Staffordshire Spring Assizes.....

John Finlow (on bail) was indicted for feloniously assaulting George Wilkes, on the 5th of February, at the parish of Rowley Regis, and stealing from his person one silver watch and one chain. Mr. Selfe prosecuted, and Mr. Darling defended. It was alleged by the prosecution that prisoner and prosecutor, with other men, were drinking in the BULLS HEAD, Cradley, and that on prosecutor leaving at night prisoner followed, and overtaking him in a quiet neighbourhood, knocking him down and took the watch out of his pocket. The jury found the prisoner not guilty, and he was therefore acquitted."

County Express 17/8/1878 - Notice

"To the Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Rowley Regis, and to the Superintendent of Police for the Rowley Regis Division of the County of Stafford.

I, *John Biggs*, Beerhouse Keeper, now residing at the BULLS HEAD INN, situate in High Street, Cradley Heath, in the said Parish of Rowley Regis, and County of Stafford, Do Hereby Give Notice that it is my intention to Apply at the General Annual Licensing Meeting, to be holden at COOKSEY'S HOTEL, Old Hill, in the said Division and County, on Wednesday, the 11th day of September now next ensuing, for a License or Licenses to Sell by retail under the Intoxicating Liquor Licensing Act, 1828, all Intoxicating Liquors to be consumed either on or off the premises thereunto belonging, situate in High Street, Cradley Heath, in the said Parish of Rowley Regis, and County of Stafford, of which house and premises I am the owner and occupier.

Given under my hand this 9th day of August, 1878.

John Biggs."

County Advertiser 14/9/1878

“Rowley Annual Licensing Session.....

Mr. Wright applied on behalf of *John Biggs*, the BULLS HEAD, Cradley Heath, for a spirit license; Mr. Waldron opposing. It was refused.”

1881 Census

121, High Street

[1] *John Biggs* (37), beer retailer, born Dudley;

[2] Ann Biggs (42), wife, born Cradley Heath;

[3] Benjamin Hingley (23), son-in-law, brewer, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Sarah Biggs (13), niece, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Hannah Poole (21), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 16/4/1887

“As reported in our special edition, on Thursday evening in last week, at about twenty minutes to seven o’clock, there was a terrible and fatal explosion of a powder magazine, belonging to Mr. H. Mould, ironmonger, of High Street, Cradley Heath. The building in which the powder was stored was completely wrecked, and five houses situated near had all the window frames blown out. Two children were fatally injured and three others were seriously hurt. Several large plate-glass shop windows belonging to different tradesmen situated on the other side of the street were also shattered.....”

West Bromwich Weekly News 16/4/1887

“Mr. Edwin Hooper, coroner, opened the inquest on Monday afternoon at the BULLS HEAD INN, Cradley Heath, on the bodies of the two children who were killed by the explosion of gunpowder at the back of the shop of Mr. H. Mould, ironmonger, of High Street, Cradley Heath, on Thursday week. Mr. Waldron represented Mr. Mould’s assistant, George E. Millward; and Mr. Shakespeare had been instructed on behalf of Mr. Mould.

A considerable number of people assembled in the vicinity of the public house where the inquest was held, and the collection on behalf of the sufferers was largely augmented during the day, altogether a sum of nearly £20 having now been received.

Thomas Billingham, chainmaker, father of Thomas Lot Billingham, and Thomas Birch, baker, father of Lily Birch, the victims of the explosion, gave evidence of identification, and the Coroner, addressing the jury, then said: It is not my intention to take any further evidence in this case. The case is one of so much importance to the district and the country at large, considering the amount of powder that has exploded and considering the neighbourhood in which the store was situated, that I felt it my bounden duty to lay the whole of the facts before the Home Office. I have arranged with them that they will send their Inspector here, and to attend the adjourned inquiry on Thursday next, I have been obliged to fix the inquiry myself for the convenience of the Home Office, and have fixed next Thursday, at a quarter past one. That is therefore the day to which I am bound to adjourn it. I am sure you will see with me the importance of the case, and that it is one that requires to be thoroughly sifted and investigated. I don’t think we shall have any difficulty in proving how the explosion occurred, but there are certain other matters connected with the case which certainly require investigation.

The inquiry was then adjourned.

The adjourned inquest was resumed on Thursday, when Mr. Waldron, of Brierley Hill, appeared for George Edward Millward, Mr. Mould’s assistant; Mr. W. Shakespeare was present on behalf of Mr. Mould, the proprietor; and Major Condill, RA, (Her Majesty’s Inspector of Explosives) represented the Home Office.

Police Inspector Walters (the inspector of explosives for the district) said the premises of Mr. Mould were registered to store 200lb of gunpowder. The store was a brick building, about 5ft square, roofed with tiles, the inside being cased with wood. The floor was composed of bricks covered with wood. He inspected the magazine on the 5th February last, when he found it in good condition, and had given Mr. Mould advice about having the powder in bags. Mr. Mould promised to see to it. Every recommendation that he had made prior to his suggestion with regard to procuring the powder in bags had been carried out by Mr. Mould.

Isaac Meacham, surveyor, of Cradley Heath, produced a plan of the premises.

George Edward Millward, apprentice in the employ of Mr. Mould, said it was part of his duty to go into the powder store. The key of the store was kept in the shop, and no one excepting his master and himself had access to the store. On Thursday afternoon, about two o’clock, he went into the store to receive a consignment of powder, which had been brought from the Dudley magazine on a trap. It consisted of a barrel containing 100lb and four quarters. The carter carried the powder from the trap to the store, and the large barrel was placed in the far corner on the left hand side. About six o’clock the same evening he again visited the store, for the purpose of supplying a man with two pounds of powder. He found the store in exactly the same condition as when he left in the afternoon. He opened the barrel containing the 100lb with a piece of wood and filled a tin can with the powder. In doing so he spilt about a tablespoonful on the floor. He then locked the magazine up and returned to the shop with the powder, and after serving the customer he went back again to the store. He did not label the parcel ‘gunpowder’ and he was not aware that he was required to do so by law. He had never read the Explosives Act, and was not provided with a copy. When he went back to the store he took a broom with him and swept the powder up that he had previously spilt, and with an iron shovel put it into the large barrel which contained 100lb. He did not know it was dangerous to do so. He knew the powder was used for blasting purposes, but he was not aware that there would be a danger of it exploding whilst being used by miners on account of the grit which was mixed with it. He returned to the shop and in about half an hour afterwards he heard the report of the explosion, and upon going into the yard discovered that the store had been blown up. He was quite clear that he did not sweep the powder from the store into the yard, and he was not able to form any idea as to how the explosion occurred. He was confident that he did not spill any of the powder out of the can whilst conveying it from the store to the shop.

Mr. E. Mould, the proprietor, said he ordered the powder from the traveller on the day previous to the accident. In reply to the

Coroner witness admitted that he had never read the Act of Parliament relating to the storage of gunpowder.

William Felton, miner, residing in Waliths Building, said he was walking up the yard to his home on the evening in question, when he saw some children playing with powder on the ground. They were gathering it in small heaps, and setting fire to it with a lighted paper. He cautioned Adam Billingham, and told him that he would have the children injured if he was not careful. The boy, who was about thirteen years of age, disregarded the caution. Shortly afterwards, whilst he was in his own house, he saw Adam Billingham with a lighted paper on the ground about a yard from the magazine. Presently he saw a flash and heard a loud report, and he was knocked down by the force of the explosion. In reply to Mr. Shakespeare, witness said he had resided in that locality eight years, and could testify that Mr. Mould had been very careful in the management of the magazine, and he had never seen loose powder lying about the yard. He attributed the accident entirely to the conduct of Billingham in firing the powder close to the magazine.

Police-sergeant Hayward, who came upon the scene immediately after the explosion, deposed to finding the children among the debris.

Major Condill said he made an examination of the premises. He did not think the magazine was a proper place in which to store 200lbs of powder. The utmost that should have been stored in a place so situated was 50lbs.

The Coroner, in summing up, remarked that if Adam Billingham had been older the matter would have assumed a serious aspect as far as he was concerned, as he would have been guilty of manslaughter. There was no doubt that it was through his act that the children lost their lives. He was astonished that a powder magazine should have been allowed to remain in the midst of a thickly populated neighbourhood; and if the store had been a proper distance away from the dwelling houses in all probability the accident would not have occurred. There had been breaches of the Act of Parliament, but that matter would no doubt be dealt with by the Government Inspector.

The jury ultimately returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and added to it an expression of opinion that the authorities ought to be strongly condemned for allowing such a place to be used as a magazine for storage of gunpowder in such close proximity to inhabited houses.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/7/1889

“An inquest was held at the BULLS HEAD INN, Cradley Heath, yesterday, by Mr. F. W. Topham (deputy coroner), respecting the death of Lottie Maria Walker, whose parents reside in High Street, Cradley Heath, who died on the 23rd inst, from the effect of injuries caused by some boxes falling upon her, from a Shropshire Union Railway and Canal Company’s wagon, on the 22nd inst. John Beddard said that on the date mentioned he saw a wagon with two horses pass underneath an entry, when a bacon box, containing about 5cwt of bacon, came in contact with the brickwork. The box fell on the deceased, who was running behind the wagon. Joseph Coley, the drayman, said he did not see the child. The child was extricated from its perilous condition by Mr. Allwood. Sergeant Hayward said that on the evening in question, shortly after seven o’clock, he went to the house of the deceased’s father. Dr. Dedenne examined the deceased, and found the back of the head had been severely injured, and also the back and other parts of the body were injured. He understood there were internal injuries. Deceased was unconscious, and died on the 23rd inst. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

County Express 29/11/1890

“Mr. Edwin Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the BULLS HEAD INN, Cradley Heath, on Monday, respecting the death of Francis Parker (63), watchman and banksman, who had been found dead in an engine-house at Lord Dudley’s No.30 Saltwell’s Colliery.

Deceased had for two years complained of pains in his stomach, but he refused to have medical aid or to take medicine. On the night of the 20th inst he went to work in apparently good health. About half-past nine o’clock he went into the engine-house, and complained to the engine-driver (Edward Guest) that he had violent pains in his stomach, and could not do his work. The fireman (Edward Darby) fetched him some rum, and after drinking it he said he felt better. He afterwards asked the engine-driver to allow him to lie down for a short time. He lay down for about an hour, and was afterwards found dead.

In reply to the Coroner, Guest stated that he was not aware he was committing a breach of the law in permitting the banksman to remain in the engine-house.

The Coroner said it was a breach of the law, and it would be his duty to report the matter to the Government Inspector of Coal Mines.

Witness: I am not aware it is a breach of the law to allow a man who is ill to remain in the engine-house.

The Coroner: As you will no doubt be called upon to make an explanation elsewhere I would advise you to say no more about it. A juryman said he knew it was customary for the banksman to visit the engine-driver in the night time.

The Coroner: It is not for the Coroner’s Court to deal with the customs at collieries.

In reply to further questions from the Coroner witness said it was deceased’s duty to attend to the coke fires, which were about fifty yards from the pits. There were fourteen men at work in the pits on the night in question.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

1891 Census

121, High Street – BULLS HEAD INN

[1] *John Biggs* (47), beerhouse keeper, born Dudley;

[2] *Ann Biggs* (52), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *Sarah Biggs* (22), niece, barmaid, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *John Hingley* (8), grandson, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[5] *Pollie Perks* (12), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

John Biggs was also a brewer. [1892]

County Advertiser 14/8/1897

“William Billingham, of High Street, Cradley Heath, was charged with damaging a window to the value of 10s, the property of *Benjamin Hingley*, landlord of the BULLS HEAD INN, High Street, Cradley Heath, on the 5th inst. Police-constable Wynn stated that on the afternoon in question defendant came to him and said, ‘I am going to break that window; I want to be locked up. That man who lives there robbed me of £100.’ He then threw a brick at the window, which completely smashed it. He was fined 10s and costs, and ordered to pay 10s damage.”

County Advertiser 27/5/1899 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant, age about 20 years. Apply, Mrs. *B. Hingley*, BULLS HEAD INN, High Street, Cradley Heath.”

1901 Census

121, High Street

- [1] *Benjamin Hingley* (43), publican, born Cradley Heath;
- [2] *Hannah Hingley* (41), wife, born Cradley Heath;
- [3] *John Hingley* (18), son, teacher, board school, born Cradley Heath;
- [4] *Florence Hingley* (14), daughter, born Cradley Heath;
- [5] *Herbert Hingley* (9), son, born Cradley Heath;
- [6] *Nellie H. Russell* (21), general servant, born Cradley Heath:

County Advertiser 10/8/1901 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant, age 18 to 20. Apply Mrs. *B. Hingley*, BULLS HEAD INN, High Street, Cradley Heath.”

Benjamin Hingley, beer retailer, 121, High Street. [1904]

County Advertiser 12/11/1904 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant, age about 20. Apply, Mrs. *B. Hingley*, BULLS HEAD INN, High Street, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 15/8/1908

“At Old Hill, on Wednesday, licenses were transferred as follows. The BULLS HEAD, High Street, Cradley Heath, to *Hannah Hingley*, widow of the late licensee.”

County Express 12/9/1908

“Friendly Societies’ Parade. On Wednesday evening the committee of the above met at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Mr. W. Coley presiding over a large attendance. The following was a complete list of those boxes which contained amounts of 1s and upwards. Mrs. *B. Hingley*, BULLS HEAD, 5s 6d.”

1911 Census

121, High Street – BULLS HEAD HOTEL

- [1] *Hannah Hingley* (51), widow, innkeeper, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Florence Hingley* (24), daughter, assisting in business, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Herbert Hingley* (19), son, apprenticed electrical engineer, born Rowley Regis:

Hannah Hingley, beer retailer, 121, High Street. [1912]

Birmingham Mail 30/3/1915

“The dead body of *Thomas Brittle* (36), brewer, of Cradley, was found hanging yesterday afternoon in an outhouse at the BULLS HEAD INN, High Street, Cradley Heath, where he was formerly employed.”

Benoni Buttery, beer retailer, 121, High Street, Cradley Heath. [1916], [1921]

Benoni Buttery – see also BELL and SALUTATION.

Samuel Buttery, beer retailer, 121, High Street. [1924]

A wine license was granted on 3rd March 1937.

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/5/1937

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

BULLS HEAD, High Street, Cradley Heath.....

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

1939 Register

121, High Street – BULLS HEAD

- [1] *John T. Webb*, date of birth 24/4/1892, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] Florence Webb, dob 17/2/1893, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] Thomas E. Webb, dob 26/7/1914, clerk, costing department, single;
- [4] Ruby C. (Webb) Neath, dob 31/10/1919, shorthand typist, boiler works, single;
- [5] Kenneth B. Webb, dob 24/4/1928, at school, single;

John Thomas Webb was also a brewer. [1940]

Birmingham Daily Mail 12/7/1956

“A Cradley Heath publican, *Henry Herbert Biggins*, licensee of the BULLS HEAD INN, High Street, after denying allegations that he narrowly avoided a head-on collision with a stationary police car, was fined £20 at Old Hill yesterday for being in charge of a car while under the influence of drink, and fined £5 for dangerous driving. He was ordered to pay £15 15s costs and was disqualified from driving for a year. The prosecution alleged that shortly after midnight on June 22, *Biggins* was seen to drive erratically. He headed straight for a police car on his offside, making a late swerve to avoid it. The police car pursued and stopped *Biggins*, who, it was alleged, walked unsteadily. A doctor certified him unfit to be in charge of a car. Submitting that the accused should be given the benefit of the doubt, Mr. A. Williams, defending, said that *Biggins* was tired after a hard day’s work and became confused when confronted with being arrested and taken to a police station.”

Henry Herbert Biggins – see also [KINGS ARMS, Rowley Regis](#); [MARKSMAN, West Bromwich](#); and [BOAT, Darlaston](#).

It closed c.1963.

BULLS HEAD

1, Dudley Road, Springfield, (Tippetty Green), ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

Ferdinando Dudley Lea-Smith
Thomas Benjamin Williams and Lizzie Bate, Rowley Regis
Ansells Ltd. (acquired in 1946)
Sue Whittall and Mark Franks [1997]

LICENSEES

Joseph Bowater [1834] – [1856]
Mrs. Eliza Bowater* [1857] – [1860]
Elizabeth Bowater* [1861] – [1865]
William Henry Hingley** [1868] – [1870]
William James Hingley** [1867] – [1874]
William Williams*** [1875] – [1875]
Thomas Benjamin Williams*** [1875]
Thomas William Williams*** [1877] – **1904**;
Howard Woodhouse **(1904 – 1909)**;
Simeon Dunn **(1909 – [1912]**

Gertrude Fletcher (1913 – []
John Hughes [1916] – 1932);
Jess Smith (1932 – 1936);
Richard Hughes (1936 – 1955);
George Thomson McBride (1955 – 1959);
Richard Henry James Reeves (1959 – 1960);
Stanley Clarke Withers (1960 – 1961);
John Smith (1961 – [1965]
Violet Bent (1967 – []
Tony Brinton (1976 – []
Graham Tolley (1997 – []
Harginder Singh [2013]
Andrew McCarter [2015]

NOTES

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 12/1/1835 - Advert

“Public Acknowledgment.

Whereas Indictments were preferred and true bills found against us, the undersigned *Joseph Bowater*, of Tippetty Green, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, butcher, and Charles Haywood, of Dudley, in the county of Worcester, butcher, at the last Shrewsbury Sessions, for a misdemeanour in having in part demolished the Turnpike Gate at Oldbury, and broken off the locks, and the Prosecutor at our request has kindly promised to withdraw the Indictments on our thus publicly acknowledging our offence, and paying the sum of Ten Pounds. We hereby acknowledge ourselves guilty of the above offence, and express our thanks to the prosecutor for his lenity, and promise not to be guilty of a like offence in future.

X The mark of *Joseph Bowater*.

X The mark of Charles Haywood.

Dated the second of January, 1835.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 8/2/1841 - Advert

“Eight Freehold Dwelling Houses and Premises, at Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Newbold, at the house of Mr. *Joseph Bowater*, called the BULLS HEAD INN, at Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, on Tuesday the 16th day of February inst, at six o'clock in the evening.....”

1841 Census

Tippetty Green

[1] *Joseph Bowater* (50), butcher, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Elizabeth Bowater* (50);

[3] William Cooper (20), ms, born Staffordshire;

[4] Catherine Hargrove (25), fs;

[5] John Crosley (35), labourer;

[6] Elijah Wright (20), labourer;

[7] Thomas Hopwell (20), labourer:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/7/1845

“On Wednesday last an inquest was held at the BULLS HEAD, Tippetty Green, Rowley Regis, on the body of Joseph Slater, a boy about eleven years of age, whose death was caused the day before by an explosion of fire damp, which took place in one of the pits of Lord Ward, in which he worked. It is the practice in the mine in which the accident occurred to make a thorough examination twice a day, to detect, if possible, the existence of fire damp. This was done on the 30th of June last, by the manager of the pit, and no trace of foul air could be discovered. There were two sons of the manager of the pit working with the lad in a remote part of the mine, and it is supposed that in their operations with the pick a crevice was opened and a rush of foul air took place, followed by instant explosion, when the poor boy was dreadfully burnt, and his companions also received serious injuries. The father of the deceased usually worked in the same part of the mine with his son, but fortunately at the time of the accident was on the bank, and escaped the danger. The coroner and jury were particular in their inquiries as to the adoption of proper precautions on the part of the manager of the mine, but no blame whatever was found to attach to him, every part of the pit having been explored with the safety lamp that day. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/9/1845

“Inquests before G. Hincliffe, Esq, Coroner.....

On Wednesday, the 27th of August, at the BULLS HEAD INN, Tippetty Green, Rowley Regis, on the body of George Kyte, a miner, employed in Mr. Richard Davis's coal pit. It appeared that a quantity of coal fell on deceased while at work on the Wednesday, and killed him on the spot. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 10/1/1846

“On Friday se’night an accident happened to a poor woman, named Phoebe Darby, who was drowned by falling into the canal. We learn from the evidence which was adduced before the Jury, that she had gone from Rowley Regis to Dudley, to receive her parish pay; and when returning to Rowley at night, between six and seven o’clock, by a bye road through some of the works, she fell over one of the temporary bridges which cross the canal, and was drowned. A boatman, who was passing at the time, heard a splash in the water, and immediately gave the alarm, when the poor old woman’s basket was discovered floating upon the canal. The body of the deceased was afterwards taken out, but life was extinct. An inquest was held over the body on Saturday last, at the house of Mr. *Bowater*, BULLS HEAD, when the Jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/8/1846

“On Thursday evening an inquest was held at the BULLS HEAD, Rowley, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, on the body of Joseph Silvester. It appeared that the deceased was working in a coal pit belonging to Messrs. Spittle and Haines, and on Thursday morning, while he was at work, a quantity of coal fell upon him, and killed him on the spot. It appearing that it was quite accidental, the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 11/8/1847 - Advert

“Valuable Building Land, Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Francis Lea, on Tuesday, the 31st day of August, 1847, unless previously disposed of by Private Treaty, of which notice will be given, at the house of Mr. *Joseph Bowater*, the BULLS HEAD INN, Rowley Regis, at the hour of 5 o’clock in the afternoon, and in one or more Lots as may be agreed upon at the time of sale, and subject to such conditions as will be then and there produced.....”

Joseph Bowater was also a butcher. [1849]

1851 Census

Tippetty Green

- [1] *Joseph Bowater* (64), vittler and butcher, born Rowley;
- [2] *Elizabeth Bowater* (66), wife, born Birmingham;
- [3] Luke Lashford (21), servant, butcher, born Birmingham;
- [4] Hannah Bate (29), general servant, born Halesowen;
- [5] Sarah Morris (27), general servant, born Tipton;
- [6] John Smart (14), general servant, born Dudley;
- [7] William Bowater (40), visitor, born Rowley:

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/5/1851

“*Joseph Bowater* and C. Cliffe, licensed victuallers, of Rowley Regis, were each fined, the former 10s, the latter 5s, and costs, for having their houses open otherwise than for the accommodation of travellers, during divine service on Sunday, 27th of April.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 7/1/1852

“*Joseph Bowater*, Rowley Regis (BULLS HEAD), was fined 20s and costs, for permitting drunkenness and disorderly conduct in his house on the 30th ult.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 29/8/1855

“Wordsley Public Office, Monday, August 10. Before W. Trow, Esq.

Joseph Bowater, landlord of the BULLS HEAD, Rowley Regis, was fined 10s and costs, for having his house open at illegal hours on Sunday, 19th inst. William Humphries, of the HORE SHOE INN, for a similar offence on the same day, was fined 5s and costs. Thomas Llewellyn, a beer-house keeper, also of Rowley Regis, was fined 2s 6d and costs, for selling beer after eleven o’clock on the 22nd.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 12/9/1855

“The adjourned licensing meeting was held at the Public-office, Wordsley, on Monday last.

Four publicans, whose licenses had been suspended at the annual meeting at Stewponey on account of complaints made against them, again appeared. They were *Joseph Bowater*, BULLS HEAD, Rowley Regis.....

After a strong caution from the bench, their licenses were renewed.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 10/9/1856

“At It Again. *Joseph Bowater*, a victualler, of Rowley Regis, was charged with having his house open during service on Sunday, the 31st ult. Defendant, who has often been convicted before, was fined 15s and costs.”

County Advertiser 8/11/1856

“*Joseph Bowater*, of Rowley Regis, was fined 15s and costs for having his house open on Sunday morning the 26th ult.”

Joseph Bowater died on 16th January 1857.

*probably the same person

County Advertiser 26/9/1857

“The license of Mrs. *Bowater*, innkeeper, at Rowley Regis, was, after a caution to the effect that she must keep her house more respectable than heretofore, granted.....

These cases were suspended at the last general licensing day.”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/4/1859

“On Wednesday an inquest was held at Mrs. *Bowater*'s, the BULLS HEAD INN, before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, on the body of John Porter, a miner, thirty years of age. It appeared that on the preceding Monday deceased, working in Lord Ward's pit, was taking a knock or support from under some coals which were required to be taken down. This support was about six feet square, and deceased had got about half-way through it, when at least a boat-load of coals came down from the roof. The mass fell upon the poor man, and breaking his back and both his legs, killed him on the spot. There was a tree under the coals and the witnesses stated that it was usual to cut partly through the support with a pike and then to remove the remainder with a pick-axe. They attributed the fall of the coal to what is called a ‘slip thing’ behind. This coming down broke the support which deceased had cut half through. It did not appear that criminal blame attached to any person. The doggy stated that they knew of the slip, and that he was at the place just before the coals fell. The Coroner, in the course of his remarks to the Jury, addressing the doggy, told him that he thought it was his duty to have staid and seen them taken down. A verdict of Accidental Death was then returned.”

1861 Census

Tippetty Green – Public House

[1] *Elizabeth Bowater* (77), publican, born Birmingham;

[2] Ruth Parish (23), house servant, born Dudley;

[3] John Clark (20), boarder, stone dresser, born Dudley:

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 15/10/1870 - Deaths

“On the 7th inst, at her granddaughter's, Oldbury, in her 86th year, *Elizabeth*, wife of *Joseph Bowater*, formerly of the BULLS HEAD, Rowley; deeply regretted.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/11/1865

“On Wednesday an inquest was held before Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, at the BULLS HEAD, Rowley, on the body of Henry Parkes, who was killed at the Gawn Colliery (Mr. W. Mills's) at seven o'clock on the previous Saturday night. Mr. Homfray appeared for Mr. Mills, and Mr. Addison for the friends of the deceased. On Saturday night last the deceased, after having his share of ‘reckoning drink’ on the pit bank, went to the office and received his wages. On coming from the office he is supposed to have mistaken his direction, in consequence of his being unable to see well in the dark after leaving the light in the office, and he walked right into the mouth of the pit, and of course fell to the bottom, a depth of 200 yards. Several of the men about saw him fall, but he had taken the fatal step before they could warn him of his danger. His body was a shapeless mass at the bottom of the pit, and had to be taken home in a bag. The inquest was adjourned for a week.”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/11/1865

“An adjourned inquest was held at the BULLS HEAD, Perry's Lake, yesterday, before Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, touching the death of Henry Parkes (44), collier, who met with his death through falling down a coal pit on the 21st ultimo. On that day, the deceased and several others who all worked for Mr. Mills, of Gornal, went to the office to receive their wages. Deceased left the office first, and walked towards the pit, to pay his club money. One of the men heard a sound, and immediately missing deceased, some tackle was procured, and a miner named Edwards and another man descended and brought deceased from the bottom of the shaft. He was quite dead. The pit according to the witnesses' statements, was fenced all round, and was not at work. A man and a boy have both lost their lives previously by falling down the same pit. After the first inquest, the Coroner and Jury went to view the pit. At the adjourned inquest, yesterday, Mr. Baker, Government Inspector of Mines, was present, and also Mr. Homfray, solicitor, with Mr. Mills, on behalf of the proprietors of the colliery.

Some further evidence was taken of the state of the fencing round the pit, and William Morgan, the banksman of the pit, was called by Mr. Homfray. He stated that the pit was in the same state when the Jury saw it as at the time of the accident.

Mr. Mills was also sworn, and deposed to the same circumstance, and promised that new iron railing should be placed round it.

The Coroner summed up, impressing upon the Jury the fact that there was no evidence as to how the deceased got into the pit. If they were of opinion that the pit was properly fenced, the death, of course, would be accidental; but if they thought that the pit was not properly fenced, they would leave the matter in the hands of the Government Inspector.

The Jury retired for ten minutes, and then returned a verdict of Accidental Death, accompanied with the opinion that the pit was not properly fenced at the time.”

**possibly the same person

Stourbridge Observer 28/9/1867

“*William James Hingley*, landlord of the BULLS HEAD, Tippetty Green, was charged by Superintendent Mills with unlawfully and knowingly permitting drunkenness in his house on the 9th instant.

Police-sergeant Powner said that he visited the defendant's house after eleven o'clock. He found about forty men in the house, several of whom were quite drunk. Two of the men were playing at dominoes, and four others at cards. About one o'clock in the

morning he heard great screaming at the defendant's house, and some person shouting 'Murder'. He visited the house again just before two o'clock, and there was fighting going on, the defendant taking no notice. Defendant admitted that there were a number of persons 'fresh,' but he did what he could to get them out. Fined 5s and costs."

Dudley Herald 9/1/1869

"At the Rowley Hall Colliery, belonging to Messrs. Wright and North, the management, a short time ago, introduced a system of working by which the employees were to be paid by the ton, and by 'gate road'. This alteration has not met with the approval of the miners, and the consequence was that, on Saturday last, a 'turn out' took place. Yesterday morning a meeting of the men recently employed at the colliery took place at the BULLS HEAD INN, Tippetty Green. Mr. Breakwell (miners agent) was in attendance, and in addressing the meeting, stated that by the new system the men were unable to carry anything like a sufficient amount to maintain themselves. Several other speakers followed, and the general tenor of the speeches was in favour of a resistance. A resolution was passed pledging the men to oppose to the utmost the terms imposed, and another to the effect that the men had no particular objection to work on the tonnage system, providing a good and reasonable price was given. Several votes of thanks were passed, and the meeting soon after dispersed."

Stourbridge Observer 28/8/1869

"*William James Hingley* was charged by Edward Thomas, Supervisor, with neglecting to enter on his brewing paper, the time he was going to brew, whereby he had incurred a penalty of £200. Mr. Stokes defended.

Mr. Thomas said the defendant was charged with not entering his brewing on the brewing paper 24 hours previous to brewing, whereby he had made himself liable to a penalty of £200. The Supervisor of Solihull had visited the defendant's house, and found the entry had not been made, and the defendant had brewed.

Mr. Stokes said defendant pleaded guilty, and there was no fraud contemplated against the revenue; but defendant had made himself liable to the penalty through negligence. He might say that defendant's wife had been ill, and the defendant had been sitting up with her all night, and in consequence lay down to rest himself for a short time. Previous to so doing, he had told his man to go on with the brewing, which was done while he was asleep.

Mr. Thomas said he could not say it was done to defraud, but believed it was, and that was the reason why he was summoned. The Bench fined defendant to the mitigated penalty of £50, and intimated that they would further memorialize the Board of Inland Revenue to reduce it to 20s."

The Sportsman 23/10/1869

"J. Howles, of Rowley, and W. Baker, of Blackheath, run 100 yards, for £5 a side, on Monday next. They have to make good their final deposit to the stakeholder, Mr. *Hingley*, BULLS HEAD, Rowley, this (Saturday) evening. On the mark at three o'clock."

1871 Census

Tippetty Green – BULLS HEAD

- [1] *William J. Hingley* (32), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Ann Maria Hingley (25), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Caroline M. Hingley (7), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] William H. Hingley (4), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Mary Hingley (2), daughter, born Rowley Regis:

Stourbridge Observer 27/5/1871

"An inquest was held at the BULLS HEAD INN, Rowley, on Tuesday, before Mr. Hooper, Coroner, on the body of William Hipton, a sinker, who came to his death in the following manner. It appears that on Saturday he was employed at No.2 Pit, the property of Mr. Samuel Minton, at Turners Hill, and whilst picking up a scaffold he fell through a distance of 20 yards, and was instantaneously killed. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Stourbridge Observer 21/2/1874

"*William James Hingley*, landlord of the BULLS HEAD INN, Rowley, was charged with a similar offence [being open during prohibited hours] on the 8th inst.

Police-constable Cooper said he visited defendant's house on the above date at 5.40pm and found a man and a woman there. The landlady was warming some ale. The man gave the name of Joseph Whitehouse of Dudley. Defendant's wife said the two people said they were travellers, and she was getting them something to eat and drink, when the officer came in. Joseph Whitehouse also gave evidence. The case was dismissed."

Dudley Herald 7/3/1874

"Unreserved Sale at the BULLS HEAD, Tippetty Green near Rowley Regis the whole of the excellent brewing plant, well seasoned hogshead and half-hogshead ale casks, 350 gallon store cask, 2 and a half pockets fine Farnham and Worcester hops, malt, whiskey, stock of old and fresh ale, crossleg and oblong tables, rail back benches and forms, quantity of chairs, 4-pull beer machine, tap tables, malt crusher, iron boilers, vats, coolers, fowls, stock of hay &c, together with the neat and clean household furniture....."

Stourbridge Observer 27/6/1874

"*William James Hingley*, landlord of the BULLS HEAD, Tippetty Green, Rowley, was charged by Police-sergeant Walters with

selling ale during prohibited hours on the night of the 13th inst, to wit, at 20 minutes to twelve.

Defendant's wife pleaded not guilty.

Police-constable Jackson said that he visited the defendant's house at twenty minutes to twelve o'clock, when he heard some persons laughing and talking. Witness pushed the door, but it was fastened. He got over the wall and found several men sitting in the bar, and some women. Cole had a glass of liquors, as also had a man named Joseph Baker. A woman named Priest had a stone bottle full of ale. He went to the front door, and met the woman coming out. Witness told Mrs. *Hingley* of it. She said the ale was filled before eleven o'clock. Witness saw the bottle filled.

Defendant said it was club night, and there was a dispute over a bondsman, and could not help it.

Sergeant Mills said defendant had been previously convicted; although it had been some time since.

The Bench considered it a bad case, and fined defendant 20s and costs."

County Express 4/7/1874

"Elizabeth Priest, Joseph Baker, Joseph Radfern, John Parks, and David Cole were charged with being in the BULLS HEAD INN, Blackheath, after eleven o'clock at night on the 13th of June. Police-constable Jackson found the defendants in the house at twenty minutes to twelve o'clock on the Saturday night in question. Elizabeth Priest was leaving the house with a bottle of beer in her hands. Last week, the landlord, Mr. *Hingley*, was fined 20s and costs for having his house open after eleven o'clock. Defendants were each fined 6d and costs."

Dudley Guardian 4/7/1874

"Important Meeting of Colliers at Dudley.

On Monday morning a district meeting, representing forty-five lodges belonging to the Dudley district, was held at the Central Lodge House, SHAKESPEARE INN, New Mill Street, Dudley.

Mr. Joseph Lee occupied the chair, and in opening the proceedings, he said he should have been glad to have met the delegates under more gratifying circumstances, but it appeared that they could not turn back. How long the struggle would last it was not for him to say; in fact, he did not know. It rested with the delegates who represented the men to say what was the feeling of their constituents – whether they were disposed to play on, or go to work at the reduction – (cries of 'No'). The masters, by their conduct, did not seem disposed to give way, or offer any conciliatory terms; but the men, on the other hand, wanted to have the dispute amicably and honourably settled They had carried on the fight for thirteen weeks.....

The reports from each delegate were then verbally given.....

No.2 Lodge, BULLS HEAD INN, Rowley; 90 members. Men are determined to continue the struggle until the masters pay the old rate of wages or refer the point to some arbitrator. The men at work regularly pay the levy, and are doing all they can to secure a victory for the men out on strike."

[The consensus was overwhelmingly to remain on strike.]

County Express 27/2/1875

"A week ago, the whole of the hands employed at Messrs. Dalton and Co., Rowley, Pipeworks, went out on strike, in consequence of notice being served on them that their day's labour would be extended from nine hours to ten.....

On the 17th inst, a mass meeting of pipemakers was held at the BULLS HEAD INN, Rowley Regis, when a resolution was passed, pledging them not to return to work until the extension of hours was withdrawn.

On the 22nd inst, a similar meeting was held at the same place A resolution was carried unanimously not to return to work until they could do so on the same system upon which they had been working hitherto, namely, nine hours per day."

Midland Counties Evening Express 30/3/1875

"Yesterday, a large meeting of Messrs. Dalton and Co's workmen, who are now on strike, in consequence of their employers insisting on their working the ten instead of nine hours, was held at the BULLS HEAD INN. The meeting unanimously decided to 'strike on' rather than submit."

Midland Counties Evening Express 29/5/1875

"On Monday last the men locked out at the manufactory of Messrs. Doulton and Co., sanitary drain and pipe makers, held a meeting at the BULLS HEAD, Rowley, and resolved not to return to work except upon the old scale, namely nine hours per day and the previous rate of wages."

***possibly the same person

Thomas Benjamin Williams was born on 6th August 1844, at Glasbury on Wye, Radnorshire.

He married Alice Susannah Darby on 8th September 1874 at Rowley Church.

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

15th August 1875 - Ella Mary, daughter of *Thomas Benjamin* and Alice Susannah *Williams*, publican, Tippetty Green.

Black Country Bugle 16/1/2003

'Tippetty Green - The Tromans Family - And The Rowley Quarries' by Peter Goddard

"The BULLS HEAD was a little more upmarket thanks largely to the efforts of *Thomas Benjamin Williams* and his wife

Thomas had left the quarries to take the tenancy of the BULLS HEAD and it was here that their two children were born – Lizzie

and Thomas Benjamin Jnr. The pub prospered much to the reported displeasure of the Levett family who were running the PORTWAY TAVERN One night the windows of the BULLS HEAD were mysteriously smashed. The following night, *Thomas*, always called Master by his wife, was seen leaving his pub with a poker up his sleeve, and setting out over Allsops Hill. The following day it was reported that the windows of the PORTWAY TAVERN had been broken during the hours of darkness! The BULLS HEAD suffered no further damage.

Having worked in the quarries *Thomas* knew the hardships the local families suffered and during very severe periods he would send a cart to Old Hill Bakery for a load of bread which he distributed free of charge to his customers.

.....The pub continued to improve its trade and *Thomas* eventually purchased the freehold and began to brew his own beer. The business made rapid progress and *Thomas* purchased other pubs in the area, including the WHEATSHEAF at Turners Hill and the GRANGE in Rowley Village. They had 14 pubs in all and to meet the demand they built a bigger brewery on land to the rear of 'The Turnpike' immediately opposite the BULLS HEAD. Williams' Fine Rowley Ales continued at the Rowley Brewery until 1st November 1927 when they began to purchase beers from the Holt Brewery of Birmingham. *Thomas* (Jnr) had taken over the business when his father died in 1908. Anells Brewery bought out the Holt Brewery and being keen to expand further, made a bid for young *Thomas*' business. After protracted negotiations an 'attractive' offer was finally made and accepted and the enterprising business of T. W. Williams and their Fine Rowley Ales finally came to an end....."

T. W. Williams – Rowley Brewery was situated here.

It ceased brewing on 1st November 1927.

County Advertiser 23/10/1875

"Mr. *William Williams*, the landlord of the BULLS HEAD, Rowley Regis, was yesterday charged at the Dudley Police Court, before Messrs. Fisher and Tilley, with 'having in his possession certain moneys amounting to £16 15s 6d of a certain friendly society called, 'The Miners' Association of the Dudley District,' held at the SHAKESPEARE INN, New Mill Street, and the sick and accident friendly society of the said association, duly established according to law, unlawfully did withhold the same from the said society and had not paid the same or any part of it thereof to the treasurer of the said society.' Mr. Waldron prosecuted on behalf of the association, and Mr. Underhill (instructed by Mr. Sheldon) defended.

Mr. Waldron opened the case, and said the money was made up of subscriptions from the members of the lodge at the BULLS HEAD.

Reuben Lovell said he was general secretary of the association.

Mr. Underhill, interrupting, said he wanted to see any rule which compelled Mr. *Williams* to pay over the money.

Mr. Waldron and Mr. Barradale said the defendant was charged with unlawfully withholding the money.

The witness then put in the rules which had been duly enrolled. No.2 lodge was held at Rowley, and William Hollies was the secretary, but he did not know who was the treasurer. He had received money from No.2 lodge, but it was for all sorts of delegates appointed by the lodge to bring the money.

Mr. Underhill said he would admit that, but he held that the defendant was not bound to account to the particular society. The prosecution had only proved at present that No.1 lodge paid money, and not the defendant.

Witness, continuing, put in the book showing that the No.2 lodge was an offshoot of the general association. At the time the charge related to there were 46 lodges. William Guest was the trustee of the general association, and with him were William Thomas and Henry Higgins.

Mr. Underhill then produced, according to the demand of Mr. Waldron, a subscription book of No.2. Mr. Underhill said his client had a receipt. He should prove in a few minutes that the defendant had only to pay over to his own trustees. Mr. Underhill here offered some rules but Mr. Waldron objected unless the original rules were put in.

The rules being admitted, Mr. Underhill said each lodge was independent as to the conduct of the business, and his client had paid over to Mr. Davis, Mr. Tibbetts, and Mr. Hill; and if the association had any charge, it was against the trustees. But there had been a dispute, into which they need not go. Mr. Barradale said it appeared to him that there was only one society in law, and that was the one at the SHAKESPEARE.

Mr. Underhill said he was not arguing that altogether. He was arguing that each lodge had the right to conduct its own business, and that Mr. *Williams* was only responsible to his own trustees.

The Bench said that according to Mr. Underhill there should be 46 lots of trustees.

Mr. Underhill said that all connection the No.2 lodge had with the SHAKESPEARE was in subscribing to the burial fund. They did not subscribe to the sick and accident fund, having the same under their own control.

Mr. Waldron: The witness said that was not so, and the latter added that No.2 lodge had received benefit for the sick and accidents.

Witness, cross-examined, said No.2 lodge paid their own sick, but in March, 1875, the income for No.2 lodge was £3, and the outcome was £4 1s.

Mr. Underhill said that related to burials.

Witness, continuing, said he had never received a penny from the defendant. The money always came by delegates.

David Parkes, miner, Kates Hill, a member of No.2 lodge, said the defendant was treasurer of the lodge, and the money was handed over to him. That was for death and sick.

Mr. Underhill said the only question was, had the defendant the money in hand? If he had not, there could be no order made on him, whether he had given it over to the trustees legally or not. The question should have been tried at the County Court.

Mr. Waldron said the defendant had paid over the money to someone after the summons was issued, but there could be no trustees except those at the SHAKESPEARE.

William Collis, secretary, said they paid their sick at No.2 lodge, and what balance there was was sent on to the SHAKESPEARE.

Defendant had nothing in hand now, but before the summons was taken out he had in hand £19 3s 10d. Then the trustees of the No.2 lodge gave him orders to pay it over to them. Then they paid the money over to witness, who was to keep it until there was another treasurer.

Mr. Barradale said it was plain that defendant was no proper legal officer, and only received the money gratuitously. He had, in accordance with a notice from the trustees, paid it over to them, thereby giving a reasonable account of the money. Still the magistrates ought not to be played with, and some arrangement should be made as to the prompt settlement of the money.

Mr. Waldron submitted that the treasurer had not paid the money over in the usual way, but given it to so-called trustees, and not the delegates.

Mr. Barradale thought there was an answer to the case, that the defendant had not the money, but it would be well if there was no further passing over of the money.

Mr. Waldron said he would take out a summons against Hollier.

Mr. Underhill asked that the three men, Tibbetts, Hill, and another, should hold the money.

Mr. Waldron objected, and after a long discussion, Joseph Tibbetts demanded the money from the secretary, and it was given up to him, on the understanding that Tibbetts would be summoned. The case was then dismissed, it being understood that it would be re-heard."

County Advertiser 25/12/1875

"Joseph Mills, licensed victualler, Dudley, and William Davis, also a Dudley tradesman, were charged with stealing a shovel, the property of Levi Law, on the 10th inst. Mr. Stokes defended.

Nancy Darby, domestic servant, said she borrowed a shovel like the one produced by Levi Law. She used it to get some coal in, and left it inside of a palisading in the road for a few minutes. It was gone when she returned.

William Williams, landlord of the BULLS HEAD INN, Rowley, said that the defendants came to his house on the 10th inst. Davis had the shovel produced with him, and he offered to sell it to witness for 1s 6d. He accepted the offer.

Levi Law said he lent a shovel like the one produced to the witness Darby. Could not identify it by any mark but believed it to be his. Cross-examined: Had not been to defendants and asked for 10s and 1s paid to the constable to settle it.

Mr. Stokes, on behalf of Mills, contended that there was no evidence in support of the charge against him. He therefore asked the Bench to dismiss the case, which they did. He said that the defendant Davis was a very respectable tradesman of Dudley. On the day in question he was at Rowley on business, and there being snow on the ground, engaged in a game of snowballing. In the course of the game he discovered the shovel produced lying in the road, and at a long distance from where the witness Darby said she put it. As a 'lark' he did a very foolish thing, viz, took it to the witness *Williams's* house, and, stating that he had found it, sold it to him for the sum stated. He contended the shovel produced was not the one belonging to Law, or, if it was, it had been removed previous to its discovery by the defendant. He contended that the defendant acted with no felonious intent. The Bench dismissed the charge also on the ground of insufficient evidence."

County Express 22/1/1876

"William Jones for refusing to quit the BULLS HEAD INN, Rowley, on the 18th May, 1875, was fined 20s and costs."

County Advertiser 14/4/1877

"James Haywood, a stone quarry labourer, was charged with being disorderly at the BULLS HEAD INN, Rowley, on the 2nd inst, and with refusing to leave when ordered to do so by the landlady, Mrs. *Williams*. Mr. Addison defended.

Mrs. *Williams* stated that defendant became very disorderly, and refused to leave when she ordered him.

Defendant was then charged with doing wilful damage to a table and a quantity of cups and glasses, the property of *Thomas William Williams*. It was shown that while in the house he damaged the property of the landlord to the amount of 7s 6d by kicking a table, breaking five glasses, a jug, and some cups.

There was also a charge preferred against him and against William Dingley, stone quarry labourer, of assaulting William Hollis with intent to do him grievous bodily injury, at the same time and place as in the above charges.

The prosecutor said he was a brewer's agent. On the date above given he went to Mrs. *Williams's* house, and a glass of ale was supplied to him. While he was drinking it Haywood came up to him and said, 'I'll give you a punch in the eye.' Witness asked him why he would do so, and he said, 'It's your fault that my brother's out of the society.' Witness told him that if he hit him he would make him pay for it, and defendant then struck him, knocked him down, and kicked him severely. Dingley also came to his (defendant's) assistance, and assaulted him.

Cross-examined: It was not true that Dingley tried to get Haywood away from him.

A witness named Stringer gave evidence corroborating prosecutor's statement as to Haywood assaulting him, but stated that he did not see Dingley strike or kick him.

A servant of Mrs. *Williams* also gave supporting evidence.

For the defence Mr. Addison submitted that there was a general drunken row at the public house, and whatever took place was the result of it. He called no witnesses.

The Magistrates considered all the cases proved, and decided as follows: Haywood for being disorderly, fined 5s and costs, or fourteen days; for damaging the property, 7s 6d damages, 6d fine and costs, or twenty-eight days' imprisonment; Dingley, for assaulting Hollis, 2s 6d and costs, or fourteen days."

Cambrian News 22/8/1879

"List of Visitors. Aberystwyth.

Union Street. Mr. *F. W. Williams*, BULLS HEAD, Rowley Regis, near Dudley."

Dudley Herald 15/11/1879

“Charles Morris was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of *Thomas William Williams*, BULLS HEAD INN, Rowley, on the 3rd inst. Mr. Joseph Stokes defended.

PC Styles said he visited the BULLS HEAD INN, Rowley, on the evening in question, and saw the defendant there lying on a bench asleep. He was drunk. He told the landlady and landlord that the defendant was asleep. He awoke the defendant, who got up and went out cursing and swearing. Cross-examined by Mr. Stokes: Witness would not undertake to swear that he told the landlord defendant was drunk. After being cautioned by Mr. Stokes witness said he did not, neither did he say anything to anyone in the house that the defendant was drunk.

Mr. Stokes said that Styles went into the house and said to the landlord, ‘Oh, you’re up to your old games again.’ He contended that Styles should have told the landlord that the defendant was drunk. He was sure that the police officer had made a serious blunder, and after the Bench had heard the witnesses he proposed to call he asked that they would dismiss the case.

Thomas William Williams, landlord of the BULLS HEAD INN, Rowley, said when PC Styles came in he said, ‘Oh, you’re up to your old games again; you’ll have to be off to Old Hill.’ Defendant was there with his wife. He finished his ale and went home with her.

Thomas Retford said he was at the BULLS HEAD on the 13th inst, and saw Morris and his wife come in. Morris had a pint of ale. Some persons were lifting bricks, and Morris was sitting on a bench, with his arm resting on a table, looking at them. He was perfectly sober, was not asleep, and did not speak to the police officer at all.

Charles Dovey said he was at the BULLS HEAD, and saw Morris come in. He was sober. When PC Styles came in witness was picking up some bricks and Morris was watching him. Morris was perfectly sober and not asleep.

Mr. Stokes said he had five other witnesses for the defence.

The Bench said it was not necessary to call any more. Case dismissed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/11/1879 - Advert

“If the Broken Gig, left at BULLS HEAD, Rowley Regis, is not Claimed before 25th of November, it will be Sold to defray expenses.”

County Advertiser 15/5/1880

“Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the BULLS HEAD, Rowley, on Monday last, touching the death of Samuel Hadley, aged 65, blacksmith, who committed suicide on Saturday last. Deceased had been ailing for some time. He was last seen alive about twenty past six in the morning, and shortly after was found by his daughter lying in an outhouse with a piece of rope by his side. The man was dead, and there was mark round his neck as if caused by a rope. A verdict of committed Suicide whilst in a state of Temporary Insanity, was returned.”

1881 Census

Dudley Road – BULLS HEAD

[1] *Thomas W. Williams* (36), licensed victualler, born Glasbury, Radnorshire;

[2] Alice S. Williams (29), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Ella M. Williams (5), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Florence Williams (2), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Lizzie Williams (7 months), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Louisa Plant (14), general servant, born Rowley Regis;

[7] Hannah Horton (14), general servant, born Rowley Regis:

Birmingham Daily Post 1/5/1885

“An inquest was held yesterday, before Mr. E. Hooper, at the BULLS HEAD INN, Rowley Regis, relative to the death of Benjamin Atkins (16). Deceased, who was employed as a horse-driver, at the Rowley Hall Colliery, was working in the pit on the 25th inst, when, in consequence of the horse of which he was in charge slipping, he got crushed between a tree and the tub, thereby receiving fatal injuries. Mr. Scott, Government inspector of mines, said that the Act of Parliament had not been infringed, and that the boy ought to have been in his place behind the tub. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

County Express 14/7/1888

“Quarrymen’s Strike.

On Wednesday last, the stone-setmakers employed at the Rowley Hailstone and Lake Quarries struck, owing to a dispute with reference to a new system recently introduced for the performance of their work. At a meeting of the men, held at the BULLS HEAD INN, Rowley – Mr. John Price – presiding – it was explained that the new system was a disadvantage to the men. Formerly the men had to work the ‘box,’ being allowed a quarter of an inch above the ‘box;’ but they were now called upon by their employers to perform the work with an allowance only of the sixty-fourth part of an inch, which they considered insufficient. A resolution was passed pledging the men to refuse to work by the ‘box’ in future, and it was also decided to issue an appeal to the stone-quarrymen in the district for assistance during the strike.”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/10/1888

“Last night a well-attended meeting of miners employed at the Rowley Hall Colliery was held at the BULLS HEAD INN, Rowley. Mr. B. Winwood (the chairman) explained the decision at which the employers had arrived at the meeting held at Dudley.

A resolution was passed to resume work at the 5 per cent increase, providing that an extra 5 per cent be paid when conceded by employers in other districts.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/3/1889

“Nomination of Guardians. Mr. Thomas Allen, the clerk to Dudley union, received the following nominations There are others nominated who are almost unknown beyond their own particular street. . . . Rowley Mr. *Thomas William Williams*, Dudley Road.”

1891 Census

1, Dudley Road

- [1] *Thomas W. Williams* (46), licensed victualler, born Glasbury, Radnorshire;
- [2] Alice S. Williams (39), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Lizzie Williams (10), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Thomas B. Williams (8), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Ellen Hill (22), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 9/4/1898

“The polling for the election of eight Guardians for the parish of Rowley Regis took place on Monday last. . . . *Thomas William Williams* 1,456 votes.”

[He was elected.]

1901 Census

1, Dudley Road – BULLS HEAD INN

- [1] *Thomas W. Williams* (56), brewer, born Glasbury, Radnorshire;
- [2] Alice S. Williams (49), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Lizzie Williams (20), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Thomas B. Williams (18), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Maria Parsons (19), general servant, born Rowley Regis:

Tipton Herald 16/5/1903

“Mr. H. A. Pearson (South Staffordshire Coroner) conducted an inquiry on Monday afternoon at the BULLS HEAD, Rowley, into the circumstances of the death of John and Elizabeth Tibbetts, who formerly resided at Dudley Road, Rowley. It will be remembered that on Friday last the husband murdered his wife by inflicting a deep wound in the throat, and afterwards he committed suicide by gashing his own. Many villagers and people from adjoining localities gathered round the public house where the inquiry was held, notwithstanding that rain fell heavily during the holding of the inquest. The Coroner deemed it unnecessary to have the bodies of the dead young couple removed, and they were locked in the residence in which the fatal deed was done.

Mr. Joseph Williams was elected foreman of the jury.

The first witness called was Edward Tibbetts, who stated that he was a miner, and resided at 73, Springfield Lane, Rowley. The deceased was his eldest son and was 22 years of age. He was a labourer, but occasionally did some butchering. He married the deceased woman about seven months ago, but their married life had been anything but happy. He had a violent temper, and had often threatened to do witness bodily harm. About 18 months ago he held a knife over witness whilst the latter was in bed and threatened to cut his head off. Deceased afterwards attacked him with a chair, and about 15 months ago he had to summons him for assault. Deceased was then fined 20s and costs. He also assaulted his sister, and he was then fined and bound over to keep the peace. He had never known him assault his wife before, neither had he heard his wife complain about his conduct. Mrs. Tibbetts had been an industrious woman, and had worked very hard. His son had got a job at a stonemason’s yard, and could earn £1 per week as well as being able to obtain remuneration by means of killing pigs. Deceased was a sober man.

The Foreman: I suppose there is no insanity in your family, is there?

Witness: No sir, there is not.

The Foreman: Was he in debt at all before this unfortunate occurrence?

Witness: When he left my home about seven months ago he had £50, but I believe he was in debt at the time this happened.

The Foreman: Had any judgement summons been issued against him?

Witness: I could not say, sir.

The Foreman: He was out of a situation?

Witness: Yes, but he had a job to go to on Friday morning at Messrs. Doulton and Co’s.

James Parkes, a miner, residing at the Knowle, Rowley, said he was the father of the deceased woman. She was 30 years of age. She was married to John Tibbetts seven months ago. Previous to her marriage she was employed by a Mrs. Setton, of London Road, Edgbaston. He had never heard her say she was afraid of her husband, who was idle. His daughter had worked very hard and was very industrious. When she married she had over £50 which she had saved, but her husband had spent this. He had often heard his daughter say that her husband would not get up to go to work when he had work to do. He had done little or no work since their marriage.

A Juror: About a month ago did your daughter leave him?

Witness: Yes. She left him because he would not work, and she told him that unless he found employment she should not live with him. She was away from him about five days.

A Juror: Did he send word to her that if she did not return to him he should do something at her, and that he should commit sui-

cide?

Witness: He came to my house, and when my daughter told him she would not return he commenced to cry, and pulled a pocket-knife out and drew it across his throat, and the same time saying that if she did not come home he would commit suicide. Isabella Dunn, a neighbour, the wife of Simon Dunn, said she saw both of the deceased persons on Thursday night before the tragedy took place. During their married life they had frequently quarrelled. The deceased woman bore an excellent character. She was hard working and industrious. She did not know much about the man, but knew him to be of lazy habits, for he had not done much work since they had been married. In fact, he was too idle to work, and that caused the trouble. She had constantly seen him the worse for beer. On the Friday morning in question she saw Mrs. Tibbetts go to the brewhouse door and unlock it. She afterwards went into the house by the back door, which banged somewhat violently, but witness could not say who shut it. About a minute after that she heard a scream. Witness ran to the back door and opened it a few inches, as it was not locked. A ghastly sight then presented itself. She saw blood running all over the floor towards the door. She gave the alarm after shutting the door, and called out to her mother and husband.

Her husband went into the house, and saw them both bleeding profusely from wounds in the throat. He told witness that the murderer had cut his wife's head off. Her husband then went for the police. She did not see the bodies. On Thursday night she saw Mrs. Tibbetts at half-past ten, and a quarter of an hour previous to that she encountered the murderer.

The Foreman: Have you ever heard Mr. Tibbetts threaten his wife?

Witness: No sir.

Hannah Dovey, a widow and mother of the last witness, said she had known the man Tibbetts for a long while and always knew him to be a lazy fellow. This had constantly caused unhappiness between him and his wife, who was a hard working person. There had been no children. On Friday morning, at about quarter to seven, her daughter (the last witness) came to her and said, 'Oh mother, Jack has murdered Lizzie.' She went to Tibbetts' house and looked through the window. She saw the deceased man kneeling on the hearthrug before the fire. He had a butcher's knife (produced) in his hand and she saw him digging his throat with the weapon. She then ran away.

PC Reynolds stated that about 10 minutes to seven on Friday morning from information received he proceeded immediately to Tibbetts' in Dudley Road. With much difficulty he forced the unlocked door open, and behind it he found the body of Mrs. Tibbetts in a pool of blood. Her head was almost severed from her body and she lay at the bottom of the staircase. She was quite dead. He then found the deceased, John Tibbetts, lying huddled about the table legs in another pool of blood. His throat was badly gashed, and he was groaning and foaming at the mouth. He at once fetched Dr. Beasley, who arrived at 30 minutes past seven, and stayed until the deceased man died at about a quarter past eight. Tibbetts made no statement, but kept muttering. He found the butcher's knife on the side of the hearthrug at the side of Tibbetts, which was covered with blood. The cleaver was on the table, but there were no bloodstains on it. The supper things were on the table. On Saturday morning he took his wife and another woman to lay the bodies out. He went upstairs to fetch some pillows, when he discovered a butcher's knife (produced) underneath the pillow on which the man would sleep. He found a purse containing 14s 5³/₄d in the woman's pocket, also a threepenny piece and some keys. In the deceased man's pocket he found a pocket knife. The man had been idle, whilst his wife had been a hard-working woman.

Dr. J. G. Beasley deposed that on the day in question he was called by PC Reynolds to the house. He found the woman lying on her back in a pool of blood, close to the door. Death had recently taken place. There was a large quantity of blood on the floor. There was an extensive gash in the woman's throat. The man was lying on the hearthrug and although attempts were made to save his life all was in vain. It was a hopeless case with him. When he arrived he was only partly conscious, and died in about half an hour. Before his death he was cursing incoherently. He had since made an external examination of the bodies. The gash inflicted on the woman would cause instantaneous death. Both bodies were drained of blood, and the cause of death was hemorrhage, caused by the wound in both cases. It was impossible for the wound in the woman's throat to be self-inflicted.

The Coroner, in summing up, explained that the facts were grim, yet simple. It was clear from the evidence that the wound in the woman's throat was not self-inflicted and that the man committed suicide. The woman was hardworking and industrious, but the least said about the husband the better. He was a lazy man of dissolute habits. The discovery of the knife underneath the pillow clearly showed that the murder had been premeditated, so that dispensed with the question as to whether the man was or was not insane when he committed the ghastly crime. A verdict of Wilful Murder should be returned.

The jury returned a verdict of Wilful Murder against the deceased man, John Tibbetts, and after retiring in the second case returned a verdict of Felo de se. [suicide – literally felon of himself]

The Coroner explained that he had received a communication from the former employers of the deceased woman, which stated that she was held in high esteem during the time she was a domestic servant. She bore a good character and was very clean in her work. They requested that the presents they had given her from time to time should be returned."

AND

"The final stage of the ghastly tragedy at Rowley was reached on Wednesday, when the interment of the bodies of John Tibbetts and his wife, Elizabeth Tibbetts, took place in the Parish Churchyard at Rowley Regis. On Tuesday a rumour had been circulated to the effect that the mortal remains of Tibbetts would be buried at midnight, in accordance with the ancient custom of dealing with the dead bodies of persons against whom a verdict of felo de se had been returned. Consequently soon after dusk on Tuesday night a large concourse of people wended their way to Rowley from all the surrounding districts, and when the police arrived on the scene shortly after nine o'clock they found a great crowd of people assembled in the vicinity of the house which was the scene of last Friday's tragedy. A cart was drawn up in front of the house shortly afterwards and in this the coffin containing the remains of the murderer was placed. As soon as it became known that the police were removing the body of Tibbetts there was a hostile demonstration, the people hissing, using offensive epithets, and otherwise expressing their abhorrence of the awful crime. Hundreds of people had gathered to hurl stones at the coffin, but the hurried departure of the cart that contained it prevented any damage. The mob, however, followed the vehicle to the churchyard, but they were not allowed to enter the gates. Inside the

churchyard, the coffin was placed in the tool-house at one end of the burial ground where it remained all night. On Wednesday morning, at ten o'clock, the coffin was placed upon a barrow, and with this serving as a bier, it was conveyed to the other end of the burial ground and was interred in a grave where the deceased man's mother was laid to rest some years ago. Police-constable Reynolds was the only bearer. The corpse was not taken into church, and it was lowered into the grave without any ceremony whatever. The only persons who witnessed the singular interment were Police-sergeant Bently, Police-constable Reynolds, the grave-digger, the deceased man's father, and the Rev. David Turner (Vicar). The murderer was thus laid to rest, the proceeding only being watched by two or three persons from an eminence in the locality."

AND

"The funeral of the murdered woman, Elizabeth Tibbetts, took place on Wednesday afternoon, amid general manifestations of sympathy, esteem and sorrow. Her relatives had selected a spot for her grave in a secluded portion of the churchyard, directly on the opposite side to the place where her husband was interred earlier in the day. An extensive crowd again assembled, sympathisers coming from all parts of the Black Country. As the funeral cortege filed up near the deceased woman's late home many expressions of sympathy were given vent to. The cortege proceeded the short distance to the church, and her remains were followed to their last resting place by her parents and many other relatives, and the usual service of the Church of England was performed. The Vicar (the Rev. David Turner) conducted the service both inside the church and at the grave-side. Several wreaths were placed upon the coffin, these including tributes of respect from the deceased woman's former employers in Birmingham, and other parts of the district, by whom she had been engaged as a domestic servant. The event will long remain in the minds of those persons who witnessed the performing of the last rites to the poor woman, who had been the victim of her husband's ghastly and mad act."

County Advertiser 12/3/1904

"District Council Nominations Rowley Regis Rowley Ward.....

**Thomas William Williams*, licensed victualler, Dudley Road, Rowley.....

Those marked with an asterisk are the retiring members seeking re-election."

[He was elected.]

County Advertiser 29/9/1906

"Philip Hill, of Tippet Green, Rowley, was charged with being disorderly and refusing to quit the licensed premises of the BULLS HEAD INN, Dudley Road, Rowley, on the 14th inst. *Howard Woodhouse*, the landlord, stated that defendant visited his house in a drunken condition. Witness refused to serve him, and requested him to leave. Defendant produced a hammer from his pocket and said he would knock witness's head in with it.

Mr. Bassano said the publican's business was a very difficult one, and the Bench must assist them as much as possible. Defendant was fined 20s, including costs."

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

15th September 1909 - Wilfred, son of *Simeon* and *Isabella Dunn*, brewer, 1, Dudley Road, born Rowley Regis.

1911 Census

1, Dudley Road – BULLS HEAD INN

- [1] *Simeon Dunn* (45), brewer, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Isabella Dunn* (43), wife, married 23 years, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *James Dunn* (22), son, coal haulier, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *William Dunn* (19), son, bricklayer's apprentice, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Amy Dunn* (18), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Arthur Dunn* (15), son, blacksmith's striker, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *Lily Dunn* (12), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] *Florence Dunn* (9), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [9] *Hilda Dunn* (6), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [10] *Wilfred Dunn* (1), son, born Rowley Regis:

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

29th July 1911 - *Thomas Raymond* (b. 9/7/1911), son of *Thomas Benjamin* and *Jessie Williams*, brewer, The Croft, Rowley Regis.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/10/1934

"Old Hill Licensing Justice yesterday granted a music and dancing license in respect of the new Liberal Club, Cradley Heath. Permission was also given for structural alterations at the VINE INN, Blackheath, the OLD DUN COW, Gorsty Hill, and the BULLS HEAD, Rowley."

1939 Register

Dudley Road – BULLS HEAD

- [1] *Richard Hughes*, date of birth 7/6/1902, gas fitter, married;
- [2] *Letitia Hughes*, dob 29/10/1905, unpaid domestic duties, married:

Violet Bent was married to *George*.

They were previously licensees of the COTTAGE SPRING, Netherton for 25 years.

It was renamed CHAPLIN in July 1997.

Richard Joseph Blakeway, of Rowley, aged 19, was murdered outside the pub, during a fight, on 14th December 2007.

It was renamed BULLS HEAD. [2010]

Halesowen News 27/11/2019

“A Rowley Regis pub will transform into a soup kitchen to help the homeless in the run-up to Christmas. The BULLS HEAD, Dudley Road, will serve free soup and bread every Wednesday from today (November 27), from noon till 2.30pm until Christmas. Kylie Hemas, who runs a cafe at the pub, said kind-hearted staff wanted to give something back in the festive season. She said, ‘The weather has got really cold and we thought about all the people on the streets, you wouldn’t wish it on anybody. People are welcome to come in and enjoy a bowl of soup and a roll for free.’”

It closed in 2021.

Express & Star 23/10/2021

“Fire crews were called to fire at a derelict pub on Friday night. Nearby residents were asked to keep windows closed after fire-fighters were called to the site of the BULLS HEAD in Hawes Lane, Rowley Regis shortly after 11pm. Several small fires were found inside, one in the bar area and another out the back. Crews from Haden Cross and Oldbury fire stations attended the scene. A spokesperson for West Midlands Fire Service said, ‘There were several seats of fire within the derelict property. Two hose reels were used, and the gas and electricity were isolated.’

Tweeting during the incident shortly before 11.30pm last night, the fire service said, ‘We currently have two fire appliances from Haden Cross and Oldbury in attendance at a derelict pub fire on the Hawes Lane, in Rowley Regis. Please avoid the area, and if you are from the area please keep your windows closed.’

Nobody was found inside the building.”

BULLS HEAD

Birchfield Lane, (111, (31+32), Whiteheath), (31, (30), Whiteheath Gate), WHITEHEATH

OWNERS

Edward Morgan Harper

John Rolinson and Son Ltd. [1902], [1906]

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1947]

LICENSEES

Edward Morgan Harper [1860] – **1890**)

Louisa Harris (**1890**)

Clement Bayliss (**1890** – [1891])

Walter Bates [1898]

James Parkes [1900] – [1901]

Edward Burchell [1902] – **1905**);

Arthur Wilson (**1905 – 1906**);

Walter Bolus (**1906 – 1907**);

William Turner (**1907**);

Ezbon Toy (**1907** – []

John Rowley [1919] – **1928**);

John Oliver Newey (**1928 – 1931**);

Richard William Susted (**1931 – 1932**);

Irving Augustus Keeling (**1932 – 1934**);

Thomas Henry Bloomer (**1934**);

William ‘Billy’ Lowe (**1934 – 1949**);

William John Gallagher (**1949 – 1950**);

Frederick Henry Witts (**1950 – 1953**);

William Lowe (**1953 – 1959**);

William Wallace (**1959** – [1965])

Barry Atkinson []
Peter Tonks [1978]
Maurice Hall [1981]
Miss Nicky Howen []
John and Annette Whitehead (1999 – []

NOTES

30, Whiteheath Gate [1881]
31, Whiteheath Gate [1891]
31+32, Whiteheath [1901]
111, Whiteheath [1939]
Birchfield Lane

It was known locally as “Lowe’s Pump”.

It had an ante ‘69 beerhouse license.

Birmingham Daily Post 8/5/1860

“At the Old Hill Petty Sessions last week a case came on for hearing which showed how careless some of the London registration agents of friendly societies manage their business. At the BULLS HEAD INN, Whiteheath, Rowley, there formerly was a club held, called the Miners’ Friendly Society, and the landlord was the treasurer of the club. Lately the landlord has removed to Birmingham, and has, it was stated, left some of the papers belonging to the club at his former house. Three of the members, thinking those papers were the property of the club and would be useful to it, summoned the landlord about three weeks ago to produce them. Mr. Burbury appeared for the complainants, and Mr. Coldicott for the defendant. On that occasion the latter gentleman took a preliminary objection, to the effect that before it could be proved that the Magistrates had jurisdiction in the case, the due registration of the society, under the Friendly Societies Registration Act, must be proved. Complainants were not then in a position to prove that fact, and accordingly an adjournment took place for the production of a certified copy of the rules, or the certificate of registration. A copy of the rules of the society was produced, which contained at the end what purported to be a copy of the registrar’s certificate, but of course this fact was not sufficient proof of actual registration. When the case came on for hearing last week, Mr. Burbury informed the Bench that the rules had been supplied by a Mr. Watkins, of London, who undertook to supply printed rules and get them registered at a saving of expense to the society. The rules, as before stated, contained a copy of the certificate of registration at the end, and the members naturally thought all was right. Upon applying for the original certificate, however, it was found that the rules were not registered till the 16th of April last. The summons in the case was taken out on the 14th, and consequently, as the society was not then legally complete, the jurisdiction of the Magistrates had not commenced. Under these circumstances, Mr. Burbury wished to withdraw the case. Mr. Coldicott applied for costs, but Mr. Burbury urged that giving costs would be adjudicating, which the Bench had no power to do. Costs accordingly refused.”

Birmingham Journal 14/7/1860 - Advert

“To be Disposed Of, a Freehold Property, consisting of a new Licensed Beer House, Butcher’s Shop, and two Dwelling Houses adjoining, with out-offices, &c, situated at Whiteheath Gate, near Rowley.
Apply to Mr. *E. Harper*, on the Premises; or at 153, Hockley Hill, Birmingham.”

1861 Census

White Heath

- [1] *Edward Harper* (45), farmer of 12 acres and beerhouse keeper, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Fanny Harper* (49), wife, born Halesowen;
- [3] *Ann Peace* (19), wife’s daughter, born Harborne;
- [4] *Elizabeth Harper* (14), daughter, born Halesowen;
- [5] *Matilda Harper* (12), daughter, born Halesowen;
- [6] *Clara Harper* (10), daughter, born Halesowen:

Edward Harper, retailer of beer, White Heath. [1862]

Edward Harper, beer retailer, Whiteheath Gate. [1864], [1865], [1870], [1872]

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 10/2/1866

“*R. Bennett* (the Brewer) of Langley Green will run any of the following men level: *J. Cutler* of Oldbury Green, or *T. Lowe* of Tat Bank, or *W. Price* of Church Bridge, or *W. Baker* of White Heath; or take two yards of *T. Dugin* of Oldbury Green, for their own sum. Money ready at Mr. *E. Harper*’s, BULLS HEAD, White Heath, any night next week.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 18/8/1866

“Royal Oak Grounds, Burnt Tree, Dudley.

J. Rhodes (formerly of Wolverhampton, now of Oldbury, pedestrian, aged 51) and *W. Hill* (the Nailer) of the Lye Waste are

matched to run four miles at the above grounds, Rhodes receiving 400 yards start, for £5 a side, on Monday, the 3rd of September, at twelve o'clock. £1 a side is down, and a further deposit has to be made on Monday at Mr. *Harper's*, BULLS HEAD INN, Whiteheath Gate. Mr. N. Homer, final stakeholder."

Edward Harper, beer retailer, Whiteheath. [1868]

1871 Census

Whiteheath

- [1] *Edward Harper* (57), farmer of 10 acres of land and publican, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Fanny Harper (58), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Matilda Harper (21), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Clara Harper (19), daughter, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 13/3/1880 - Advert

"Valuable Freehold Building Land, Whiteheath Gate, Titford, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, Near to Langley Green and Rowley Railway Stations.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Oates, Perrens, and Wooldridge, at the house of Mr. *Edward Harper*, the BULLS HEAD INN, Whiteheath Gate, on Tuesday, the 16th day of March, 1880, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions, which will incorporate the common form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society.

Six parcels of Freehold Building Land, having valuable frontages to the Roads from Blackheath to Oldbury, and from Whiteheath Gate to Rowley, near to the WHITEHEATH GATE INN, and adjoining to the BULLS HEAD INN, varying from 460 to 640 square yards in each Lot.

The Mines and Minerals under all Lots belong to the Earl of Dudley or his Trustees....."

1881 Census

30, Whiteheath Gate – BULLS HEAD

- [1] *Edward Harper* (63), beerhouse keeper, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Fanny Harper (65), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Jane Jackson (28), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Robert H. Jackson (4), son, born Barrow in Furness:

Dudley and District News 26/8/1882

"*Edward Harper*, BULLS HEAD, Whiteheath, was charged with assaulting Thomas Goodwin. Complainant said he was playing round defendant's rick with his grandson, who, on seeing his grandfather coming, ran away. Defendant then came up, struck him, knocked him down, and kicked him. Jane Harris deposed to hearing the boy 'hooting,' and coming from the rick shouting 'murder.' She went up to the rick and saw the boy's eye bleeding. Defendant admitted giving the boy a smack on the head, but denied kicking him. The Bench considered that the defendant had no right to take the law into his own hand, and fined him 6d, complainant to pay costs."

AND

County Advertiser 26/8/1882

"*Edward Harper*, publican and farmer, living at Whiteheath, was charged with assaulting a boy named Thomas Goodden, residing at the same place.

It was alleged that the complainant was playing near a hay rick belonging to the defendant, along with defendant's grandson, when *Harper* came upon him, knocked him down, and kicked him, and when complainant got up again, the defendant repeated the kicking. Complainant crawled away on his hands and knees. Replying to the Bench, complainant said he could not walk because defendant kept kicking him.

Defendant pleaded that he thought lads were cutting the tarpaulin ropes, and that being night, he thought the complainant was a man. He denied kicking the lad.

The Bench fined defendant 6d; and ordered complainant to pay the costs."

Edward Morgan Harper died on 14th June 1890.

County Express 28/6/1890

"Thomas Bates, landlord of the BULLS HEAD, Whiteheath, was charged with being drunk and disorderly on the 19th inst. Mr. Jackson defended. Defendant pleaded guilty, and was fined 5s and costs.

There was a further charge against the defendant for assaulting Clara Mason. Mr. Clulow prosecuted, and Mr. Jackson defended. Mr. Jackson applied for an adjournment on the ground that defendant had not had time to summon witnesses. Mr. Clulow objected on the ground that defendant had no witnesses to call, because there was only a policeman present. The defendant was a brother-in-law to the complainant, and it was on the day of the funeral of the complainant's father that the assault was committed. Defendant struck her, and he should prove by the policeman that he used most filthy language. The Bench granted an adjournment."

AND

"Mr. H. Jackson (West Bromwich) applied for the temporary transfer of the BULLS HEAD, Whiteheath, kept by the late *Edward Harper*, who died some ten days previous, to Mrs. Elizabeth Bates. The deceased, in his will, had appointed Mrs. Bates his execu-

trix, and gave her instructions to remain in possession of the house for seven years, until a grandson attained his majority. Mr. Bassano said he had grave doubts as to whether it was competent for a married woman to hold a license, her husband living with her in the same house. She was not the head of the house, and he did not think they could properly deal with it that day. Mr. Jackson said he would now say something he did not desire to say. He was instructed that the police had been giving advice in the case, and had told Mrs. Bates that unless she applied for a license they should stop her house from selling. Superintendent Wollaston: I've not told her that. Sergeant Salt said he spoke to her about it. Mr. Jackson: It is a very bad law. Mr. Bassano: Yes. Mr. Jackson said the husband was not the occupier, and never would be. Mr. Bassano said the Bench would be glad to do everything to carry out the deceased's wish, but he had grave doubts about it. Mr. Jackson contended that the Bench had power to deal with it that day, as the husband had nothing to do with it. Mr. Bassano thought the best thing to do would be to adjourn the case for a week." [Other newspaper reports state Matilda Bates.]

Birmingham Daily Post 3/7/1890

"At the Old Hill Police Court, yesterday, Thomas Bates, of White Heath, horse dealer, was charged with assaulting his sister-in-law, Clara Mason, on 19th June. Complainant stated that a short time ago they attended the funeral of Mr. *Harper*, who formerly kept the BULLS HEAD INN, White Heath. When they returned to the public house after the funeral defendant used bad language towards her, and struck her in the face. Defendant had previously assaulted her twice on the same day. She was co-executrix with Mrs. Bates to the will and the property the deceased had left. The defendant was, she believed, dissatisfied with what was left him. The Bench fined defendant 40s and costs."

AND

"At the Old Hill Police Court, yesterday, Mr. Waldron made an application on behalf of *Louisa Harris*, of Langley, for a temporary license for the BULLS HEAD INN, White Heath. He explained that at the last court day an application was made for the license to be transferred from *Edward Harper* (deceased) to Mrs. Bates. A question arose as to whether Mrs. Bates was the executrix, and some objection was taken to the license being granted to Mrs. Bates whilst her husband lived with her. The deceased *Harper* left the house to Mrs. Bates, to be carried on for a few years, when the estate would be realised for the benefit of a relative of his. Mr. Bassano said it was within their power to grant the license to the executrix, but where the difficulty came in was in granting the license to the executrix when her husband, who had been convicted, lived with her. It was quite impossible for the Bench to grant a license to a married woman whose husband had a list of convictions against him. Mr. Waldron applied for the Bench to grant a temporary license to *Louisa Harris*. Mr. Bassano asked if there was any collusion between the parties. Mr. Waldron said there was not, and that the applicant would have entire control of the house. The application was granted."

County Express 5/7/1890 - Advert

"BULLS HEAD INN, White Heath Gate, Near Oldbury.

To Farmers, Cow Keepers, Horse Keepers, Brokers, and Others.

Mr. W. Hackett has received instructions from the Executors of the late Mr. *Edward Harper*, to Sell by Auction, on Friday, July 11th, 1890.

Household Furniture, Public House Fixtures, Farming Produce, &c, &c, as above, comprising set of Mahogany Four-post Bedsteads, with hangings; Mahogany Chests of Drawers, Mahogany Swing Glass, Dressing Table, Wash Stand, Mahogany Night Chair, Cane-seated and Windsor Chairs, Arm Chair, two Weather Glasses, Mahogany Corner Cupboard, Mahogany Centre Table, Leaf Table, Papier Mache Table, Two Oil Paintings, Horsehair-seated Sofa, Easy Arm Chair, in hair seating; Treadle Sewing Machine, by Wheeler and Wilson; Four-pull Beer Machine, with piping and taps, by Mason; Cross-leg Drinking Table, Wood Benches, Shelving and Counter, Set of Cart Tackle, Set of Chain Gears, capital Black Mare, well-known good worker; Spring Trap, Rick Sheet, with poles, blocks, and ropes; Heel Rakes, quantity of Hay Forks and Rakes, One-horse Cart, with loose gearing; Narrow-wheel Cart, Iron Plough, about 20 Acres of Excellent Mowing Grass, with Aftermath up to September 28th next, about 5 Acres of Wheat, about 30 Tons of Prime Hay, to go off before September 28th.

Sale of Furniture will commence at Twelve o'clock, the Crops will be Sold at the Field Gates, at Two o'clock.

Auctioneer's Offices, 78, High Street, Blackheath, and Oldbury Road, West Smethwick."

1891 Census

31, Whiteheath Gate

[1] *Clement Bayliss* (38), retail brewer, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Mary Bayliss* (35), wife, born Brierley Hill;

[3] *Alfred Ernest Bayliss* (11), son, scholar, born Brierley Hill;

[4] *Thomas Adams* (60), visitor, manager at ironworks, born Stourbridge;

[5] *Matilda Smith* (20), boarder, domestic servant, born Leeds:

Dudley Herald 16/7/1898

"At the Old Hill Police Court on Wednesday *Walter Bates*, butcher, and landlord of the BULLS HEAD INN, Whiteheath, was charged with having in his possession for the purpose of sale a quantity of meat which was unfit for human food The Bench considered the charge proved, and fined defendant £5 and costs."

County Advertiser 14/1/1899 - Advert

“To Brewers, Maltsters, Wine Merchants, and Freehold Property Buyers.

Notice of Important Sale by Auction of a Valuable Beer and Wine House, Butcher’s Shop, and Other Properties, at White Heath Gate, Rowley Regis.

Mr. Geo. Sidney Gough, FAI, is instructed by the Trustees of *E. M. Harper*, deceased, to Sell the following Desirable Properties by Auction, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Tuesday, January 24th, 1899, at Six for Seven o’clock in the Evening, subject to Conditions of Sale then to be read.

Lot 1. All that Highly Valuable and Important Free Beer and Wine House, known as the BULLS HEAD INN, situate on the Hale-sowen Main Road, White Heath Gate, near Oldbury. The accommodation comprises Bar, Tap Room, large Club Room, Kitchen, also a Front Room (used as a Butcher’s Shop, doing a good business), Three Bed Rooms, and good Cellaring, capital Yard with Gateway Entrance, Brewhouse, Slaughterhouse, Stabling for four horses, Two good Pigsties.

The above is well known as a house of call, and by its important position on the main road must always command a large share of the trade of the district. The Property is now in hand, and vacant possession can be had. Fixtures, Fittings, and Trade Utensils, together with the Fixtures, &c, belonging to the Butcher’s Shop, to be taken to at a sum to be named at the time of Sale, an Inventory of which will be produced.....”

County Advertiser 17/2/1900

“William Rose, labourer, Whiteheath, was charged with being drunk and disorderly in the public highway on the 6th inst. Police-constable Dale proved the offence.

Defendant was further charged with being drunk and disorderly in the public highway on the 10th inst. Police-constable Smith proved the offence.

Defendant was further charged with being drunk and disorderly on the licensed premises of the BULLS HEAD INN, kept by *James Parkes*; and with refusing to quit the same when requested by the landlord on the 29th ult; and also with damaging two cups, two glasses, and four panes of glass, the property of *James Parkes*, on the same date.

James Parkes, landlord of the BULLS HEAD INN, Rowley, said that on the date named, defendant came on his premises drunk. Witness put him outside three times, but defendant kept coming in every time, and refused to leave the premises at all. On going out the last time defendant broke two cups, two glasses and when he got outside smashed four panes of glass. The total damage amounted to 12s. The next morning defendant came again and threw a brick through the window, but witness had not summoned him for this offence. Witness said defendant was a perfect pest in the neighbourhood, and he always refused to serve him with beer.

Defendant was sent to prison for four months, one month for each case.”

1901 Census

31+32, Whiteheath

[1] *James Parkes* (39), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Annie Parkes (37), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Ginnie Parkes (11), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Katherine Sharpe (42), visitor, living on own means, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 22/6/1901

“*James Parkes*, landlord of the BULLS HEAD INN, Whiteheath, was charged with assaulting John William Berry, of Whiteheath, on the 14th inst, and Berry was charged with refusing to quit the BULLS HEAD INN when requested by the landlord on the same date. Mr. G. Williams appeared for *Parkes*.

John William Berry said that on the 14th inst he went to Blackheath to see a cricket match played for half a sovereign a side, and when he arrived there the game was just finishing. At nine o’clock he went into the BULLS HEAD, Whiteheath, when the landlord, *Parkes*, ran at him, banged him into the street, and there struck him several times with his clenched fist on the face and threatened to kill him if he came again. He went to the sergeant and reported the matter.

Thomas Croxton corroborated.

Mr. Williams said that on the night in question Berry went into the BULLS HEAD INN and commenced drinking from other people’s glasses, but bought no beer himself. The landlord remonstrated with him, and he became disorderly and was ordered out three times, but refused to go, saying that he was ‘gaffer’ there. Eventually the landlord took him by the shoulder and put him out. He did not assault him in any way, nor did he go into the street. Witness had refused to have defendant on his premises on account of his conduct, and twice he had had to eject him.

Parkes and three other witnesses gave evidence in support of this statement.

Police-sergeant Bentley said he saw Berry on the Tuesday night and found him injured.

The Bench decided to convict in each of the cases, *Parkes* and Berry having to pay 13s 6d each.”

County Advertiser 6/7/1901

“*James Parkes*, landlord of the BULLS HEAD INN, Whiteheath, was charged with permitting gaming on his licensed premises on the 14th ult. Mr. J. Walter Clulow prosecuted, and Mr. W. H. Tinsley defended.

Mr. Clulow said the gambling was done by a game called cork pitching. The game was played with corks, one being fixed at one corner of the table, and the players pitching at it with other corks from the opposite corner, each player being entitled to 21 pitches. On Friday evening, the 14th ult, the defendant had pre-arranged a pitching match between a man named Moreton, who was a professional, and a man named Harvey, and they were to play for 5s a side. The game was played in the defendant’s presence, and many of the customers were betting on the game, Harvey’s father betting 2d on Moreton against his son. In the end Moreton won,

he having hit the cork 14 times and Harvey 13. Moreton went to the defendant, who handed him the 5s he had won. Other games took place, and the betting continued. A man named Berry was put out of the house by the landlord for drinking other customers' beer, and he carried the information respecting the gaming to the police. During the game the defendant brought in the beer. William Morgan, William Berry, and Joseph Harvey, who were in the house on the night in question, bore out the above facts in evidence.

Mr. Tinsley, in his defence, said that his client had pleaded not guilty to the charge, because he had no knowledge that any gaming was taking place in his house; he knew cork pitching did take place, but this was no offence. The prosecution had to prove that the defendant had a knowledge that gaming was going on; this they had failed to do, and the real reason why they were summoned was because Berry was ejected from the house by the defendant. He denied that any match was pre-arranged between Moreton and Harvey. When defendant's wife heard some one start to bet, she immediately went in and took the corks away, and stopped the playing. Defendant did give Moreton 5s, because he asked him for it. He always gave people money when they were poor, sooner than let them have beer on the strap. Defendant was an ex-policeman, and had kept this house two years without conviction.

Defendant and several witnesses were called for the defence.

The Bench considered the case proved, and fined the defendant £5 and costs, in all £9 3s 6d, and allowed solicitor's fee."

County Express 19/4/1902

"On Wednesday, at Old Hill Police Court, an application was made on behalf of Messrs. Rolinson and Sons, Netherton, the owners of the BULLS HEAD INN, Whiteheath, near Blackheath, for sanction to make certain alterations at the premises. Mr. F. C. Lewis, architect, submitted plans, and in reply to a question from the Bench, he said it was proposed to increase the licensed area by 80 feet. The presiding magistrate (Mr. W. Bassano) said it appeared to be a tendency in the district to increase the selling area in public houses, which the justices would set their faces against. This was an application which would be granted."

Edward Burchell = Edward Birchell = Edward Birchill

County Express 22/11/1902

"*Edward Birchell*, landlord of the BULLS HEAD INN, Whiteheath, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises; and Thomas Millerchip, of Oldbury, was charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the licensed premises. Mr. Clulow prosecuted on behalf of the police, and Mr. Waldron defended.

PS Bentley stated that on the night of the 8th inst he went to the BULLS HEAD INN at about ten o'clock, and found Millerchip drunk, and the defendant admitted that he had not been on the premises for half-an-hour, but he had not been supplied with drink, and he had been most anxious for him to go. He had been fighting outside, and had evidently fallen down, his clothes being covered with mud. On the following day defendant intimated to witness he should summons Millerchip for being drunk and refusing to quit.

PC Heath gave corroborative evidence.

Mr. Waldron submitted that his client had done everything to conform with the law, and that it would be a great hardship to convict him.

Defendant gave in support of Mr. Waldron's statement.

In cross-examination he admitted he did not try to turn Millerchip out of the house, because he did not like to do so.

The Bench held that *Birchell* should have done something further than have ordered Millerchip out of the house, and fined him 20s and costs, the latter to include £2 2s solicitors' fee.

Millerchip was fined 30s for being drunk and refusing to quit."

County Advertiser 14/2/1903

"On Wednesday the annual licensing session for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held at the Court House.....

Superintendent Spendlove had given notice that he should oppose the following licenses.....

Edward Birchill, BULLS HEAD INN, Whiteheath, permitting drunkenness, and not a fit and proper person.....

License renewed."

Birmingham Mail 7/11/1906

"At Old Hill Police Court, today, *Walter Bolus*, licensee of the BULLS HEAD INN, Whiteheath, Black Heath, was summoned for permitting betting upon his licensed premises on October 20th and 23rd. Mr. J. W. Clulow prosecuted, and Mr. Norris Foster (instructed by Mr. C. H. Harper, of Birmingham) defended. Mr. Marshall watched the case on behalf of the owners of the house, Messrs. Rolinson and Co.

Mr. Clulow explained that on the morning of the 20th ult Police-constables Wilshaw and Clark visited the public house in plain clothes. The landlord was behind the bar at the time, and there were a number of men inside. The officers saw a man who tore a piece off a sporting paper, on which he wrote something, and, having put some silver in it, handed it to *Bolus*, who opened it, and placed it behind the counter. After other persons had given slips to the landlord, Police-constable Clark then made out a paper. He backed Red Mint and Brosna, running at Stockton, for a win, and handed the paper, containing a shilling, to the landlord, who opened it and put it at the back of the counter. Wilshaw next backed Red Mint and Brosna for a double, and handed the slip containing the money to the landlord, who at this time called out to the customers, 'They seem to be all gone on Red Mint, but Queen of Sheba is my favourite.' (Laughter.) *Bolus* subsequently called Wilshaw into the back premises, and asked him to take part in a rabbit coursing sweep. On the evening of the 23rd ult, Police-constable Wilshaw again visited the house, when *Bolus* went up to him and handed him the two slips of paper given to him on the 20th ult, and the 2s, remarking at the time, 'My mate does not know

you. He seems to be afraid. Your mate did not sign his name to it.' This error on the part of Clark, Mr. Clulow pointed out, had raised the landlord's suspicion, but the officer then handed him back two tickets containing 2s and the names of Sweet Katie and Polymelus. On the following day Police-sergeant Bentley informed defendant that he would be reported, when he replied, 'That is all right. I am the victim of others. I should have liked to have seen the superintendent, but to tell the truth I have been to Oldbury to back Polymelus, the winner of the big race.'

Police-constable Wilshaw corroborated this statement, and said whilst at the public house on the 20th ult, Clark and himself joined in a football sweep, which one of the customers said was the best in the district.

In reply to Mr. Norris Foster, witness said he went to the house as a dog fancier. He did not know there was a raid on the house on the day the Cambridgeshire was run.

Mr. Norris Foster denied that either officer made a bet with the landlord. *Bolus* consented to put their money on with a bookmaker at Oldbury, and when Wilshaw visited the premises he returned him the money, saying that he could not get the bets on. On the 24th ult the police made a raid upon the house, when they expected to make a big haul, but nothing was found there. He contended that defendant only acted as the agent for the policemen, and consequently had not committed an offence.

The magistrates imposed a fine of £25 and costs in each case, £56 8s 6d in all, or in default six months' imprisonment."

County Advertiser 9/2/1907

"The annual licensing session for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday at the Police Court.

Walter Bolus applied personally for the renewal of the license of the BULLS HEAD INN, Whiteheath.

This was opposed by Superintendent Johnson on the ground that applicant had been convicted of two offences under the Betting House Act.

Applicant said he had been a publican for eleven years, and that was his first conviction.

Mr. Bassano said it was a very flagrant case, and the Bench felt that they would be doing wrong if they accepted the applicant.

The application would be refused on the ground that *Bolus* had failed to produce satisfactory evidence of good character."

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 BULLS HEAD INN, Whiteheath, to *William Turner*. It was explained that the magistrates declined to renew the license to *Walter Bolus* at the annual sessions on the ground that he had been convicted for permitting gaming and had not satisfied the Bench of his good character."

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.

BULLS HEAD, Whiteheath, 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. BULLS HEAD, Whiteheath."

1939 Register

111, Whiteheath

[1] *William Lowe*, date of birth 9/4/1898, public house manager, married;

[2] *Sarah Lowe*, dob 8/4/1896, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Florence (Lowe) Billington*, dob 3/3/1924, drilling machinist, single:

"Big" *Billy Lowe* also worked at Birchley Rolling Mills.

He weighed 17 stones.

A spirit license was granted on 5th February 1947, and confirmed on 24th April 1947.

The Whiteheath Five Bird Club (pigeons) was based here. [1981]

Maurice Hall was married to *Edna*.

See also CALIFORNIA and BEECH TREE, Blackheath.

Nicky Howen – see also RAILWAY, Oldbury, and STRUGGLING MAN, Dudley.

Halesowen News 26/8/1999

"Twenty jobs have been created in Oldbury thanks to a new look at the BULLS HEAD, Birchfield Lane.

The Oldbury pub closed its doors to customers over six weeks ago for a refurbishment by Banks's Brewery. The facelift has cost £1.5m and the new management team *John* and *Annette Whitehead* are looking forward to the challenges that lie ahead. The

BULLS HEAD has a record for long running staff and the couple are looking forward to their stint behind the bar. *John* said, 'The pub will look great and we are looking forward to making lots of new friends.'
The doors of the pub will reopen at the end of the month."

Renamed RED BULL SPORTS BAR. [2018]

Halesowen News 7/12/2021

"An Oldbury pub can keep its outdoor decking and pergola which it put up before getting planning permission. The BULLS HEAD INN, on Birchfield Lane, has been granted retrospective planning permission for the outdoor seating area, which it built in April. The application from Mr. Emini Perparim was for the 'retention of raised decking and pergola forming new external seating area.'

Planners at Sandwell Council said the pub could keep the construction as long as it is closed to customers between 9pm and mid-day except for smokers complying with smoke-free legislation. They said 'no drinks shall be permitted in external areas between 9pm and noon (midday)' and that no 'amplified music could be played outdoors at the pub.' They said this was to prevent nearby residents from noise and 'general disturbance.' Notes to planners state the pub employs four part-time and four full-time employees."

[2021]

BULL TERRIER

54, (8), Surfeit Hill Road, (Codsall Road), CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

Arthur Burrows (1960 – [1965])

William 'Bill' Taylor []

Jim Beasley [1971] – [1973]

Philip Cherrington [1984]

Derek Pincher [1986]

NOTES

8, Surfeit Hill

54, Surfeit Hill [1990], [1994], [1998]

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/5/1941

"County Licensing Confirmation Committee.....

Application for the confirmation of a grant for the removal of the full licence of the ANCHOR INN, Dudley Wood Road, Cradley Heath, to premises to be erected on land and premises now numbered 8, Surfeit Hill, Cradley Heath.....

Mr. H. A. Tucker (barrister), who appeared in support of the application, said the ANCHOR INN belonged to the Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd, who also owned the proposed new site. The ANCHOR INN was a fully licensed house doing a good trade, but there were other licensed houses in that area, whereas there was no proper provision for licensed refreshments in the area to which it was proposed to move the licence. The value of the ANCHOR INN was assessed at £5,000, and the value of the CHAINMAKERS ARMS, which it was proposed to surrender if the application were granted, was assessed at £3,000.....

Evidence was also given by Albert Thomas Butler, architect, who, in reply to the Chairman, said that under normal conditions it would take about 18 months to build the new house. He agreed that it was unlikely that building would be commenced until the war had ended.....

After a retirement the Chairman announced that the committee were unable to confirm the transfer that day, but they would be willing to consider another application when there was a likelihood of the new licensed house being erected."

The building was completed in December 1960, replacing an off license of the same name.

The Final Order was granted on 7th December 1960.

The team from here won the Cradley Heath Dominoes League in 1962 and 1963.

They were runners up in 1961.

Black Country Bugle 1973 - Advert

“Now Open: The luxurious new Brindle Lounge at the BULL TERRIER, Surfeit Hill Road, Cradley Heath. After extensive alterations the new lounge is now open.”

Black Country Bugle 1973

‘New Room At The Bull Terrier’

“A pub called the BULL TERRIER can hardly go wrong, in the Black Country, and when it opens a palatial lounge called the Brindle Room and invites Joe Mallen along to the ceremony it’s a pretty fair bet that someone at the brewery knows a little bit about the terrain and its people! The BULL TERRIER, in Codsall Road, Cradley Heath, is by no means one of the oldest taverns in the town but it has succeeded in capturing the old spirit of such establishments, while dispensing with the sawdust and spittoons of half a century ago.

Licensee, *Jim Beasley*, has spent the last three years at the BULL TERRIER, which was opened about 12 years ago by another great bull terrier man, *Billy Taylor*, who has owned some great dogs in his time but reckons that his ‘Brindle Bill’ was the best bull terrier ever spawned in the Black Country, winning over 200 firsts in a great show career. There are those who would argue with this viewpoint, not least Joe Mallen, whose great Crufts champion ‘Gentleman Jim’ really put the breed on the map in 1939! But that’s the kind of argument which could go on forever; the kind that the clientele of a ‘boozer’ like the BULL TERRIER love to get involved in.

When we dropped in the other day to get the lie of the land we were privileged to talk to some real old Black Country characters and the conversation soon got round to dogs and pigeons and old time entertainment. To illustrate the latter, Fred Guy (aged 77) gave us a few choruses of ‘Burlington Bertie from Bow’ in the style he used as a pub, club and music-hall entertainer, 60 years ago. Although he concedes that his wind wasn’t what it was, he gave a very spirited performance which had the company calling for an encore and Fred for an oxygen mask!

We then had a look at the Brindle Room which Joe Mallen had opened a few nights before and saw a fine portrait of ‘Gentleman Jim’ etched in copper, a fitting reminder of a great and famous dog. There are also pictures of the most famous representatives of the breed, supplied by Mrs. Priest.....”

Arthur Burrows was married to Annie.

A team from here took part in the Cradley Heath Darts League. [1970]

Sandwell Evening Mail 26/6/1986

“Kind-hearted regulars at a Black Country pub are hoping to boost funds for a three-year-old boy with a rare skin disease by staging a week-long series of fun nights. Customers at the BULL TERRIER pub in Surfeit Hill, Cradley Heath, plan to raise £1,000 for toddler Neil Lewis to help research into the rare affliction. Neil, of Lloyds Road, Halesowen, has so far had 14 operations to remove a giant mole covering his body.

Licensee of the BULL TERRIER Mr. *Derek Pincher* said a charity darts exhibition by Tipton player Steve Parkes boosted the appeal by £200, while regulars had also been contributing during the pub’s novelty nights this week.”

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.....

BULL TERRIER, Surfeit Hill, off Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, Mon 7.00pm.”

Dudley News 7/2/2012

“The Kingfisher Club is launching its monthly disco at the BULL TERRIER, Surfeit Hill Road, on Thursday March 1 and is hoping to give local young DJs their first taste of stardom. Les Partridge, founder of the Kingfisher Club, is hoping the monthly disco will become a regular fixture in Cradley Heath. He said, ‘We are looking forward to the first disco in March and we hope it will be a success because there is not enough activities for people with learning difficulties in this area. We are hoping some local DJs who have been practicing in their bedrooms and would like an audience will get in contact and play the music at our discos. The disco is for over 16s and the music will be whatever the young people want to listen to these days but we thought it would be nice to give a DJ their first break.’

The Kingfisher Club has been providing activities for people with learning difficulties from across the Black Country for the last 14 years including organising day trips and annual holidays to Brixham.

Mr. Partridge said, ‘We are trying our best to help people of all ages with learning difficulties but we have a great time whenever we put activities or holidays on. We are self-funded and rely on donations as well as grants and are always on the look out for either financial or practical help.’”

It was converted into a shop in 2015.

BUSH

Four Ways, CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Adams [1868]

NOTES

Stourbridge Observer 11/4/1868

“At the Petty Sessions, on Wednesday last, before E. Moore and F. W. G. Barrs, Esqrs, John Billingham and Benjamin Bradbury were summoned as stewards of a Friendly Society held at Mr. *Adams*'s, the BUSH INN, Cradley Heath. Mr. Stokes defended. Complainant said he was a member of the above society, and was entitled to twenty four weeks' pay.

Defendants refused to pay because witness had sold sixty cabbage plants to a young man for 2d. Witness had received twenty weeks' pay, at 4s a week.

Cross-examined: I have been ill, and the club finds a doctor. There are two belonging to the society, Messrs. Morrow and Higgs. Have not been to the medical officer since the 28th of March, nor for a fortnight previous, as they said medical aid would do my complaint no good. I applied at the end of the week for my pay. Defendants refused to pay. I had a note of the surgeon at the time, but did not produce it. The president of the society called upon me, and told me not to get 'pottering' in the garden. He did not tell me that the members were complaining of me, working in the garden, but told me to be cautious. I employ my son in the garden. I cultivate my land for the purpose of selling the produce. Have sold plants before, but never pulled them out of the garden myself before, stood and pointed out which were to be drawn.

Mr. Stokes addressed the Bench for the defence, and said that though it appeared a trivial case in itself, it was one of importance to the society. They had had repeated complaints about complainant working in the garden. He had been cautioned and had been fined 10s for so doing, but had refused to pay it.

Samuel Billingham, president, said he visited the complainant, and remonstrated with him for working in the garden. He had done so at the request of the stewards. Witness found him at work in the garden, apparently setting beans or peas. From a communication received the case was brought before the lodge, and the result was that the complainant was fined 10s, and ordered to return the money he had received, according to the rule. Complainant's wife came to the lodge, and she was told of it.

Thomas Mason, engine driver, said that complainant had a farm near to his engine, and he (witness) saw him at work in the garden, and he sent for the president and gave information, as he was himself a member of the society.

Mr. Stokes said they did not wish to take the least advantage against the complainant. To show that, the president and other members had paid three weeks' arrears for him, so that he should be entitled to his pay.

W. Wood said that he went to the complainant's for some cabbage plants. Complainant pulled them up and tied them together, and witness paid him twopence for the plants. The secretary of the club was called and stated that no minute of the fine was made, or that the resolution of the members was upon the books.

The Bench considered that defendant had admitted being in the garden at work, and dismissed the case; but thought it was a trivial offence.”

Stourbridge Observer 8/4/1871

“Benjamin Billingham and Thomas Blunt, trustees of a Friendly Society held at the BUSH INN, Rowley Regis, were summoned for unlawfully refusing to pay Thomas Clee the sum of 14s, as a member of the society, for four weeks' allowance during his sickness, up to the 27th of March. Mr. Homfray appeared for the complainant, and Mr. Shakespeare for the defence.

Complainant said he lived at Rowley, and was a chainmaker. He was 67 years old. He was a member of the Friendly Society in question, and had been a member for 47 years. It was held at the BUSH INN, Four Ways. The rules produced are the rules of the society. He had been on the box about two years and three quarters. Mr. Higgs is the doctor of the society. Witness went to him, and after the examination he received 5s 6d per week. They paid him up to five weeks ago. He applied for it, and they refused to pay because Joseph Brandon, one of the members, thought he was getting in coal. He had a fork in his hand. He attended a committee meeting a fortnight afterwards. They decided to stop his pay, and he had not had it since. He had applied for it three times, and had been refused. He was always tottering, and was unable to work. He was in the same state now as when the surgeon examined him.

Cross-examined: Have been receiving pay for about two years and three quarters. He had the stomach ache for six months before he went on the box. He had had it since then. He went on the box on account of having the stomach ache. It caused him pain in the back, and he could not stoop to work. He tried to work before he went on the box. He had four houses, which brought him 3s 6d per week each. Had always had his pay up to the time he had the load of slack. He only had 14cwt of slack, the load, and his daughter got it in. He did not get any of it in. He was forking little pieces of coal out of some ashes. He was not at it five

minutes. He was not picking it up and throwing it into the shop. He knew Joseph Brandon, who told him that the society did not allow that. The President of the society went to him on the following Tuesday, and asked him to attend a committee meeting. He did attend a meeting, and heard some of the members say that he was picking up coal and throwing it into the shop. He said if he did wrong he would try to do right. He had seen Mr. Higgs, and he told him he was not able to do any laborious work.

Hannah Mansell, daughter of complainant, said she recollected the 18th of February last, when they were having some fine slack got in. Witness got it in herself. It was for the use of the house. She got it in baskets. Complainant did not carry any coal in. He got a potato fork and rooted out some of the pieces, and she carried them in. Brandon went by at the time, and said they did not allow complainant to work, and she told him he was not carrying it in. He had been on the box for some time.

Cross-examined: Would swear her father did not carry any coal in. There were some lumps about 4lbs, but he did not carry them in.

Mr. Shakespeare, in defence, called James Homer, who said on the 18th of February he was passing complainant's house, when he saw him pick lumps of coal weighing five or six pounds, and throw them into the shop. He informed the officers of the society what he had seen.

Cross-examined: Did not see his daughter there.

Joseph Brandon, chainmaker, said he remembered the 18th of February. He was passing complainant's house. He saw defendant, who had a fork in his hand. He was rooting coal up, and pushing in towards his daughter. Witness told him that the society did not allow him to work. He informed the stewards of the society.

Samuel Billingham, President of the Society, said from information received he went to see complainant on the Tuesday, and told him of the charge. Complainant said he had a fork in his hand, getting out the large pieces of coal from the slack. They had a committee meeting, and it was decided to fine the complainant 10s, and for him to refund the money he had received from the society. Everything was done in a proper manner.

The Bench did not consider there had been any breach of the rules, and made the order."

Check HOLLY BUSH.

CABLE AND ANCHOR

CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

LICENSEES

C Homes [1865]

NOTES

Hope and Anchor Lodge of A.O.F. met here. [1865]

CALIFORNIA

1, Halesowen Street, BLACKHEATH

OWNERS

City Brewery (Lichfield) Co. Ltd.

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1941]

LICENSEES

Benjamin Gadd []

Adam Hickman [1857]

Ann White [1861]

Joseph Downing [1866] – [1881]

Josiah Downing [1891] – [1902]

Henry Foxall [] – 1905);
James Winfield (1905 – 1906);
George Willetts (1906 – 1930);
Frank Tromans (1930 – 1940);
Thomas William Nock (1940 – 1944);
George Ivan Wood (1944 – 1959);
George Henry Breakwell (1959 – 1960);
Albert Clifford Hawkins (1960 – 1963);
Arthur James Goulds (1963 – 1965);
Mrs. Dorcas May Comley (1965 – []
Maurice Hall [1970s]
David J Woodhall-Lawrence [2002]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

Black Country Bugle - Pub of the Month

“Its construction was financed by *Benjamin Gadd*, a Rowley man who emigrated to America in the 1830s, struck it rich in the 1849 Gold Rush and returned to his native acres a wealthy man. He named the tavern, the CALIFORNIA to commemorate his own lucky strike in the American goldfields. He was a reckless gambler and is said to have lost the tavern in a card game to a Lichfield brewer at Stourbridge racecourse ‘almost before its windows were glazed.’

No expense was spared in its construction and the lower frontage of the building was clad in the glazed brick which still remains in prime condition. The pub became a virtual goldmine in those Blackheath pioneering days. It was a favourite haunt of local colliers, many of whom were new to the town, having poured in from all points of the compass when our own Black Gold Rush was in full swing. Many of those early settlers found a home and put down roots in Blackheath’s teeming tenements. In those days the CALIFORNIA was a regular venue for blood sports. Cock-fights and contests between bull terriers (then called the miners’ dog) took place in its backyard with Sergeant Salt, the Blackheath lawman, turning a blind eye to such activities. He was a dog man and was to organize such events himself, when he took over the license of the DRAGON.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 24/8/1857 - Advert

“Valuable Freeholds, at Black Heath, on the main road from Oldbury to Hales Owen and Rowley, and at Cradley Heath, near the Corngreaves Works, both in the county of Stafford.

Most Substantially-Built Inn and Dwelling Houses, in Excellent Letting Situations.

To be Sold by Auction by Joseph Parkes, on Tuesday the 8th of September next, at seven o’clock in the evening, at the house of Mr. Joses Nicklin, the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, subject to conditions then to be produced, either in two or more lots, as may be agreed upon at the time of sale – a very desirable, commodious and well-built Inn, and two Dwelling Houses and Shops adjoining, situate at Black Heath aforesaid.

Also an excellent-built Dwelling House and Workshops at Cradley Heath.

The Inn at Black Heath is well known by the sign of the CALIFORNIA INN, in the occupation of *Adam Hickman*, and consists of commodious front parlours and tap-room, cooking kitchen, bar, large club-room, two large bed rooms, and attic; Malt-room, and Cellaring under the whole; two-stall Stable, Piggery, spacious Yard, Chainmaker’s Shop, and other Out-offices, with a good supply of hard and soft Water.

The two Houses adjoining comprise a Dwelling House, in the occupation of Charles Yardley; consisting of front and back sitting-room, four bed-rooms, large Brewhouse, with Garden, Piggery, and Yard; and also a Dwelling House, in the occupation of Mr. Baker, consisting of front shop, back sitting-room, two bed-rooms, cellaring, and Outbuildings.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/7/1858 - Advert

“Public House Fixtures, Furniture, &c.

By Mr. Hawkins, This Day (Monday), July 5, at the CALIFORNIA INN, Black Heath, near Rowley.

The whole of the Public House Fixtures, Brewing Utensils, part of the Household Furniture, &c.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/12/1860

“Staffordshire Winter Assizes.

James Slim, 27, wheelwright, was indicted for having feloniously cut and wounded William Laister, with intent to murder him, at Rowley Regis, on the 15th of September, 1859. Mr. Motteram was engaged to conduct the prosecution, and Mr. Kenealy defended the prisoner.

Mr. Motteram, in stating the case to the jury, said the prosecutor was a maltster residing at Rowley Regis, and on the evening of the 15th of September, 1859, he went into the CALIFORNIA INN, in that place, accompanied by Mr. Crump. When they got there they found the prisoner’s brother, Benjamin Slim, quarrelling with a man named Brooks, and treating him in the most violent manner. The prosecutor desired Benjamin Slim to discontinue his ill-usage of Brooks, and he and Mr. Crump, not liking to see what was going on, left the house. The prosecutor either went to fetch a policeman or sent for one, and that was the cause of what afterwards occurred. The prisoner became angry, and uttered threats with respect to the prosecutor. The prosecutor became

alarmed and went home, and remained till ten or eleven o'clock, when he unfortunately left his house to see if all was right. Although the prosecutor had left the CALIFORNIA at seven or eight o'clock the prisoner seemed to have waited for him, for he no sooner got out of his house than the prisoner struck him with some sharp instrument – a dagger or a knife – causing him to fall on the ground. Not satisfied with that, it appeared that when the prosecutor was on the ground the prisoner jumped on him, kicked him, and otherwise ill-treated him. But even that did not satisfy the prisoner, for when the prosecutor was helped up, and on his way to his house, he (the prisoner) took something out of his pocket, which he threw at him and knocked him down. The prosecutor was then led into the house of Mr. Crump dangerously wounded; and the prisoner afterwards went up to the house and made violent exclamations as to what he would do and what he would not be satisfied without doing. The learned counsel then called the following witnesses.

William Laister, the prosecutor, deposed that he resided at Black Heath, Rowley Regis, about 100 or 150 yards from the CALIFORNIA INN, where he went between seven and eight o'clock on the evening of the 15th September, 1859, with Mr. Crump, whose residence was about half-way between his own house and the inn. While at the inn he made an observation as to what the prisoner's brother Benjamin was doing, requesting him in a friendly way not to strike Brooks, with whom he was quarrelling, whilst he was down. In consequence of the quarrelling he left the house with Mr. Crump, and as he was going out he observed the prisoner in the kitchen. On his way home William Robinson gave him information which induced him to fetch a policeman. Between ten and eleven o'clock he went out of his house to ascertain whether the place was quiet and whether he might venture to go to bed.

The Judge: You say you left the house to see if all was quiet so that you might venture to go to bed – did you receive intimation that anything was happening which might render it unsafe for you to go to bed?

Prosecutor replied that he did. On his way from his house to Mr. Crump's the prisoner came up to him, and after uttering an uncouth expression, said, 'You've been to fetch the bobbies, haven't you?' and struck him on the left temple with a sharp instrument. He fell down, and when was on the ground the prisoner kicked him several times on his head, jumped on his breast, and said that he would 'jump his heart out.' He (prosecutor) believed he was helped up, and when moving in the direction of Mr. Crump's house he received a tremendous blow on the back of his head from some missile that had been hurled at him. He bled profusely, and was taken into Mr. Crump's house. A surgeon was sent for and his wounds were afterwards dressed at his own house. He was put to bed, and confined there from the effects of the wounds for several days. A short time afterwards erysipelas ensued, when Mr. Duncalf, surgeon, attended him and his life was endangered.

Cross-examined: He (prosecutor) had not been drinking before the attack. He only remonstrated with Benjamin Slim, who was beating Brooks in a brutal manner. He fetched the police on his own account soon after he reached home, because he received information from William Robinson, railway pin maker, which alarmed him. He knew James Slim, the prisoner, before, but had never quarrelled with him.

William Robinson, who was present at the CALIFORNIA when the quarrel took place between Benjamin Slim and Brooks, said he heard the prosecutor ask Benjamin Slim not to ill-treat Brooks. After the prosecutor was gone, Benjamin Slim threatened that he would kill him. Benjamin remained in the house and the prisoner went out, and on returning said, 'Hold your noise, I have been after the —,' meaning the prosecutor, 'and if I catch him I will murder him this night.' They both used threats whilst in the CALIFORNIA INN, and it was after those threats that he (witness) communicated to the prosecutor what he had heard. Whilst the prisoner was in the CALIFORNIA he took out of his pocket a large knife, the blade of which was six inches in length, and cut Brooks's jacket.

William Grove, nailmaker, residing near the prosecutor's house, deposed that between ten and eleven o'clock on the night in question he saw the prosecutor go out of his house in the direction of Mr. Crump's. He saw the prisoner and his brother Benjamin meet the prosecutor. The prisoner said, 'You've been to fetch the bobbies; I'll pay you; I'll kill you;' and he then struck him on the forehead, and he fell from the blow. The prisoner repeated his threat to kill him. The prosecutor then called out, and he (witness) called out also. Before the prosecutor got up from the ground the prisoner kicked him over his body and his head. Benjamin Slim then pulled the prisoner away, and witness lifted the prosecutor up. Whilst the prosecutor was crossing to Mr. Crump's house, the prisoner took something out of his pocket, which he threw at the prosecutor, striking him on his head, and knocking him down. Witness said, 'Good God, James, you have killed him.' He found the prosecutor was bleeding, and he lifted him up, and assisted him into Mr. Crump's house.

Cross-examined: No one was present but the prosecutor, the prisoner, Benjamin Slim, and himself (witness). He did not interfere because he was frightened.

Aaron Moyle, watchman at Black Heath, deposed that about nine o'clock on the night in question he saw the prisoner at the CALIFORNIA INN with a bright sharp instrument – a dagger or a knife – about six inches in length.

Thomas Smith, innkeeper, stated that he saw the prisoner and his brother Benjamin near Mr. Crump's house, at about half-past ten o'clock on the night of the 15th of September, in last year. He heard a cry of 'murder' after he had seen them. He ran out and saw the prosecutor taken into Mr. Crump's house. He saw the prisoner shake the door, and declare he would murder the prosecutor. He said that if he could not have his end of the prosecutor he would blow his house up.

In cross-examination the witness said he was not examined before the magistrates, because he was never called. He did not mention that he was there until after the examination before the justices. There were a 'good few' people about at the time the attack was made on the prosecutor.

Police-constable Joseph Powell, of Rowley Regis, deposed that about half-past eight o'clock on the evening of the 15th of September, in last year, he went into the CALIFORNIA to apprehend the prisoner. He saw Benjamin Slim there, and told him that he had a warrant against him for stealing powder. The prisoner came in, and with an oath said, 'What's the game now?' He took a knife out of his pocket, which was six or seven inches long, and said to witness, 'If you put a hand on me, I'll put this into you.'

Mr. Kenealy submitted that this was not evidence against the prisoner.

His Lordship said this was only a little time before the occurrence with the prosecutor, and he thought that everything the prison-

er did with the knife ought to be related. They ought not to shut out from the jury what the intention of the prisoner was shortly before the alleged attack was made by him.

Witness continued. When the prisoner got out on the road he struck at the watchman (Moyle) with the knife. The watchman, to defend himself, pulled out a revolver. Witness said, 'Don't shoot him,' and they separated from each other. The prisoner then said if he could see the prosecutor he would stick the knife into his heart, and if he thought he was in his arm-chair he would fetch him out and murder him. He afterwards saw the prosecutor when blood was gushing from the back of his head. The warrant was taken out three or four days after the occurrence; but it was only executed a short time ago, because the prisoner could not be found. Mr. S. Crump proved that the prosecutor was taken to his home after he had been attacked, and that he was bleeding.

Mr. Henry Duncalf, surgeon, Westbromwich, said that he was called in to attend the prosecutor when he was suffering from erysipelas, which had resulted from a severe lacerated wound on the back of his head. That wound had been produced by a blunt instrument; and there was another wound, partly healed when he saw it, on the left temple. That had been caused by a sharp instrument. The prosecutor's life was in danger three or four days.

Cross-examined: It was the erysipelas, and not the wound, that endangered the prosecutor's life. Erysipelas was sometimes produced by a wound, and sometimes by a cold. It was not a necessary result of a cold.

Mr. Kenealy, for the defence, argued that there was no evidence against the prisoner except that of two witnesses, and even their testimony was not to be implicitly relied on. In reference to the evidence of Moyle, he said it was clear that he was, on the evening in question, in a state of great excitement, and would probably have shot the prisoner had not the policeman been there. They would not find the prisoner guilty because he had made a threat, for any one might make a threat to burn the Houses of Parliament, although he had no intention whatever to carry the threat into execution. Men were in the habit of using intemperate language; but what was there to show that the prisoner intended to carry out his threat? The statement of Smith was fished up three weeks ago, and was introduced to prejudice the case. It was no evidence that a man intended to do wrong if he pulled out a knife and threatened to stick any one who might lay hands on him especially when he was excited by another man threatening to shoot him with a revolver; nor was it any evidence that he had committed a crime if he left the neighbourhood and was not found for a year, for he might have left to escape being apprehended on the charge of stealing powder. Then, what motive had the prisoner for attempting to murder the prosecutor? The prosecutor had never done anything to the prisoner. He had not spoken to him or done anything to excite his animosity; and it was absurd to suppose that he would make such a murderous attack because the prosecutor had simply remonstrated with Benjamin Slim when brutally treating Brooks. Mr. Kenealy then contended that as it was Benjamin Slim who received the provocation from the prosecutor it must have been Benjamin who made the attack, and that the prosecutor and Grove were mistaken in the identity of the man who attacked and the other took him away when kicking the prosecutor while he lay on the ground. He maintained the prosecutor's mind was in such a perturbed state that he was not able to judge whether Benjamin Slim or the prisoner attacked him, and that Grove, the only other witness present at the time, was mistaken.

His Lordship, in summing up, pointed out there had been no question put to the witnesses by the prisoner's counsel to show that there was any resemblance between the prisoner and his brother by which they were liable to be mistaken for each other, and one might have been a little man and the other a tall man. He reminded them that the wound on the temple was inflicted by a sharp instrument, and the prisoner had been seen flourishing a sharp instrument, and threatening what he would do to the prosecutor; that he was not altogether without motive for using the knife, inasmuch as the prosecutor had fetched the policeman, who went to the CALIFORNIA for the purpose of apprehending him on the charge of stealing powder; and in considering whether the prisoner – if they were satisfied that it was the prisoner who struck the blows – had attempted to kill the prosecutor, or only to do him grievous bodily harm. They must judge of the intention partly by the act itself, partly by the language which accompanied it, and partly by the language that preceded it.

The jury almost immediately returned a verdict of guilty of the attempt to murder, and sentence of death was recorded.

His Lordship, addressing the prisoner, said, 'A very few years ago your life would have been forfeited for this ferocious attack; but the law is now more merciful, and although sentence of death is recorded against you, it is my duty to tell you that it will not be carried into effect. A more ferocious attack, a more violent assault, without adequate provocation – committed as far we know while you were perfectly sober, and coupled with the most violent threats – never was proved in a court of justice. It is almost impossible to conceive that you were conducting yourself in a civilised community, when you acted so ferociously with such a weapon, and without the least provocation. I should not be doing my duty, although that sentence will not be carried out, if I did not recommend to her Majesty's Government, that the whole of it, short of death, be carried out, and that you will be kept in penal servitude for the term of your natural life.'

It is understood that the prisoner is the brother of that William Slim who on the 12th inst, was convicted of a similar crime at Worcester, having, without any provocation, nearly killed an old man who had given him a shilling in a public house, and then poured his blood into the poor man's mouth."

1861 Census

Black Heath

[1] *Ann White* (60), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Hunnington;

[2] *Dorothy White* (24), daughter, born Dudley;

[3] *Hannah Baker* (13) general servant, born Oldbury:

County Advertiser 22/12/1866

"John Rollason, alias Stringer, and Samuel Foster were charged with cruelly ill-treating two dogs, by causing them to fight; and John Ward was charged with aiding and abetting in the same. From the evidence of Police-constables Hulme and Taylor it seemed that at a quarter to eleven o'clock on the night of Saturday, the 8th inst, they were sent for by the landlord of the CALIFORNIA INN, Blackheath, to quell a disturbance in the house. In the kitchen the officer found two dogs, belonging to Rollason and Foster,

fighting. The exhausted and bleeding condition of the dogs showed that the fight had been going on some time. Ward had the handling of one of the dogs; and an uproarious company were standing on the benches looking at the fight. The appearance of the officers caused a general panic, and the defendants only could be recognised. Rollason and Foster were each fined 10s and costs, or twenty-one days; and Ward was fined 5s and costs, or twenty-one days.”

County Advertiser 22/12/1866

“At the Police Court, on Wednesday, Thomas Darby was charged with assaulting Emmanuel Perry, a parish constable, on the 12th inst. The complainant was seated in the CALIFORNIA public house, Blackheath, and the defendant came in, and commenced to abuse him. This went on for some time, and defendant having ‘waxed warm,’ assaulted complainant, and tore his coat. Fined 1s and costs, or seven days.”

County Advertiser 25/8/1866

“Rowley annual licensing meeting was held yesterday.....
The following are the new applications and their results.....
Joseph Downing, Blackheath, refused.”

Joseph Downing, beer retailer, Blackheath. [1868]

Stourbridge Observer 4/6/1870

“William Stevenson, alias ‘Sugar,’ a well-known character, was charged with assaulting the police whilst in the execution of their duty, on the 30th ultimo, at Blackheath. Mr. Addison appeared for the defendant.

Joseph Downing, landlord of the CALIFORNIA INN, Blackheath, said: On the 30th ult there was a disturbance at my house about eight pm. Defendant was present. He was creating a disturbance among the company. I told him to leave several times, and he refused to do so. I sent for the police, and Police-constables Taylor and Hume came. Taylor ordered him out, and he refused to go, and they were compelled to put him out by force. He resisted, and struck, kicked and fought the officers. He struck Taylor in the face. Defendant threw himself on the floor, and they were obliged to pull him out.

Cross-examined: Saw Dick Parkes, Jack Cliff, ‘Father’ Robinson, Samuel Roberts, James Fisher, and ‘Monster’ in the room.

There were several there I did not know. Do not know Mr. White. Did not see him there. Defendant came into the house about half past eight. I was sober. Do not recollect any of the men staking to fight. Heard something said about 5s having been spent. James Fisher and Dick Parkes did not fight in my house before defendant came in. The quarrelling was over. Defendant tried to set Mounter on to fight. Did not see Police-constable Taylor strike defendant, or put his foot on his arm.

Police-constable Taylor said: I am stationed at Blackheath. Was fetched by last witness’s daughter on the 30th ult, with Police-constable Hume. When we went into the house defendant was there making a disturbance. The landlord and his son frequently requested him to leave. Hume and I told him to leave and not kick up a disturbance like that. He said, ‘I shall not leave for a b— like you,’ and struck me on the face. We then closed with him, and tried to put the handcuffs on him. He instantly began kicking, biting, and fighting. We got the handcuffs on one hand, and managed to get him outside into the street. In the house he kicked me on the side of my head. Slynn came up and put the handcuff on the other hand. He struck me twice on the nose and made it bleed and seized hold of Hume’s hand with his teeth, and bit him. At last we had to get a cart to bring him to the station. When we went in he was cursing and swearing, with another man named Mounter.

Cross-examined: Saw Ambrose Damper in the passage. Defendant said to him, ‘Will you see me taken like this?’ and Damper said, ‘I dare not.’ I did not stand upon him. We held him down with our hands. He did not complain of his arm being hurt. Did not use our staves. Hume hit him on the eye in order to make him loose his hold on his (Hume’s) hand.

Police-constable Hume corroborated Taylor.

Mr. Addison admitted the assault, and asked the Bench to be as merciful as they could, as defendant has a wife, and five children to support. He called Henry White, nailmaster, Blackheath, who said he went into the CALIFORNIA INN with defendant, on the above date, about half past seven. He was quite sober then. There was a row going on, and he went away and left defendant there.

The Bench considered the case was clearly proved against defendant, and fined him 50s and costs; in default three months’ imprisonment.”

Stourbridge Observer 18/6/1870

“Thomas Knight, butcher, Blackheath, was charged with unlawfully refusing to assist the police when called upon to do so on the 30th of May, at Blackheath.

Police-constable Slynn said: I am stationed at Blackheath. On the 30th of May last I was called into the CALIFORNIA INN, Blackheath, to assist in turning a man named Shenstone out. We got him outside, when he began kicking and fighting. There was a great crowd in the road. Defendant was there, and I called on him to assist us. He turned round on his heel and said, ‘Not me,’ and walked away laughing. He was about five yards away from me, and I was in uniform. We obtained a horse and cart, and took the prisoner (Steventon) to the station.

Police-constable Taylor corroborated Slynn.

Defendant said he was not aware that he was bound to assist the police when called upon. Committed to take his trial at the next Stafford Sessions, bail being accepted in one surety of £40, and himself in one of £20.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/7/1870

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions Bills Ignored.....

Thomas Knight, on bail, charged with unlawfully without lawful excuse refusing when duly called upon by one Thomas Slynn to aid and assist him in quelling a disturbance on the public highway, at Rowley Regis, on the 30th of May, the said Thomas Slynn then being a police constable in the due execution of his duty.”

Stourbridge Observer 28/1/1871

“William Parsons and James Hill were charged by Jane Sturman with assaulting her on the 9th instant. Mr. Addison appeared for complainant.

Complainant said she lived at Blackheath, and on the above date she was going to *Downing's* public house about ten o'clock in the morning. As she was going in defendants threw snowballs, and hit her in the face. As she was going out of the house they again threw at her and hit her. She told Parsons she should make him pay for it, and he laughed at her.

Cross-examined by Parsons: About 20 boys followed me to *Downing's*. I struck one of them.

Hill pleaded guilty, but said Parsons did not throw.

Parsons called Samuel Parsons, who said he was with defendant on the 9th, about ten o'clock. He did not see him throw anything at the complainant.

Cross-examined: Know John Smith, but did not tell him I saw defendant throwing.

Defendants were fined 6d and costs; or 24 hours in the cell.”

1871 Census

Halesowen Street – CALIFORNIA INN

- [1] *Joseph Downing* (62), publican, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Leah Downing (52), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Mary Downing (8), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Ann Downing (14), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Josiah Downing* (32), lodger, blacksmith, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Mary Downing (9), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] James Downing (7), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] Josiah Downing (2), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [9] Thomas Kite (28), lodger, labourer, born Rowley Regis;
- [10] Susanna Kite (26), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [11] Sarah A. Kite (8), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

Leah *Downing* died in the 2nd quarter of 1871 and was buried at St. Paul's, Blackheath.

Birmingham Daily Post 6/10/1871

“Threatened Strike in the Wrought Rivet Trade.

On Wednesday night, a meeting of the rivet and stud makers was held at the CALIFORNIA INN, Blackheath, Rowley Regis, to consider the present state of affairs, and to agitate for an increase on the present prices paid by the masters. Mr. Cashmore presided, and in a long speech pointed out that the masters had for many years past paid a lower scale of wages than the men thought they were entitled to. Mr. Price also spoke, and commented strongly on the evil effects of strikes. He would rather the men sent two of their number to the masters, with a request that the old price list might be re-established on Saturday next. If the masters failed to give in their adhesion to the proposition, he should advise the men to give fourteen days' notice on Saturday. This advice was ultimately put into the proposition, and carried unanimously.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/10/1871

“The Rivet and Stud Trade.

A meeting of masters and men was held at the CALIFORNIA INN, Blackheath, Rowley Regis, on Monday evening, but in consequence of the small attendance nothing of importance was done. Another meeting was held yesterday morning. Mr. Isaac Cashmore presided, and Mr. John Price addressed the men. In opening the meeting, the Chairman read the masters' altered price list, which the men would not adhere to, and insisted upon having the price they asked for. Unless the masters would give this they were determined to continue the strike. The real difficulty is with the little masters, who will not accede to the wishes of the men, and thus keep the whole trade in a state of agitation.”

Joseph Downing, beer retailer, Blackheath. [1872]

County Advertiser 7/12/1872

“Silvanus Harris and James Hooper were charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the CALIFORNIA INN, Blackheath, on the 26th ult. Defendants were fined 5s each and costs.”

Stourbridge Observer 14/12/1872

“*Joseph Downing*, beerhouse keeper, of Blackheath, was charged with permitting drunkenness in his house, on the 26th ult. Mr. Stokes defended.

Police-constable Jackson said that on the above date he visited the defendant's house about half past six o'clock. He found some men there fighting. Visited the house again at ten o'clock and found men fighting in the house. The men were stripped. The defendant asked witness to put the men out of the house, the first time, and he did so.

Cross-examined: Defendant was trying to put the men out of the house the first time I went.

Police-constable Wade said he visited defendant's house at ten o'clock, in company with the last witness. He saw three men drunk, two of whom were stripped, fighting. One was bleeding. Defendant asked them to get the men out, and they did so. The landlord did not send for them. They heard a noise and went in.

Mr. Stokes addressed the Bench for the defence, and contended that defendant did not permit drunkenness; but, according to the evidence of Jackson, defendant was trying to get the men out when the police went in. If that was true the defendant was not liable. If the Bench considered that the defendant had transgressed he thought that the paying of costs would meet the ends of justice.

Mr. Moore said that, taking defendant's previous good character into consideration, they should order him to pay costs only."

County Express 18/4/1874

"William Taylor, Richard Taylor, and Solomon Roberts, were charged with being drunk and disorderly at the CALIFORNIA INN, Blackheath on the 30th ult. Police-constable Jackson proved the offence, and the defendants were each fined 2s 6d and costs."

Birmingham Daily Post 11/4/1877

"The Strike in the Rivet Trade.

The strike in Black Heath still continues, the men having been out for six weeks. A crowded meeting was held at the CALIFORNIA INN, on Monday, when the following resolution was carried: That this meeting pledges itself not to commence work until the list price be acceded."

County Advertiser 16/6/1877

"David Bennett, nailmaker, was charged with being drunk and disorderly on the premises of *Joseph Downing*, on the 2nd inst, and with refusing to quit when ordered to do so. Mr. Hayes prosecuted.

Mr. Superintendent Woollaston said there was a charge against the prosecutor for permitting drunkenness in his house, and Mr. Hayes apologised for his client not being present, stated that he was injured in attempting to eject the defendant, and was unable to attend.

Rosannah *Downing*, wife of prosecutor, said that on the night of the 2nd inst the defendant came into her house, the CALIFORNIA INN, Old Hill. After being in some time a man began 'chaffing' him about working while the other nailmakers were on strike. He then became disorderly, and prosecutor ordered him to leave, which he refused to do. In attempting to eject him the latter fell down, and his knee was hurt so much that he had to have medical assistance. Defendant was afterwards put out of the house by a policeman.

Police-constable McGourty said he went to the house, and found the defendant there in a very drunken state, and creating a disturbance by fighting.

In his defence, Bennett said he was enraged by the taunts of the men referred to by Mrs. *Downing*, and did not know whether he was ordered to leave or not.

Before the magistrates decided the case, the defendant and another nail-maker, named Neri Hingley, were charged with being drunk and disorderly on the 2nd inst, in Halesowen Street and High Street, Blackheath. They pleaded guilty, and Police-constables McGourty and Frost proved the offence. Hingley was fined for the drunkenness 2s 6d and costs, or seven days; and Bennett for each of the offences he was charged with, was fined 5s and costs, or fourteen days.

Joseph Downing was then charged with permitting drunkenness in his house on the 2nd inst, Mr. Woollaston being the prosecutor. Police-constable McGourty said he was near the place, and heard a great noise of cursing and swearing inside. Somebody who was standing by suggested that he should go in, and he did so, when he found the two former defendants, Bennett and Hingley, there. They were very drunk, and were fighting, but no one endeavoured to separate them.

Cross-examined: Had known Hingley for some time before the date of the occurrence.

Police-constable Frost said that on three separate occasions on the night in question he visited the public house, and found a man named Robinson inside, very drunk. Witness also noticed another man who was the worse for liquor.

Police-sergeant Hand deposed that he went to the defendant's house along with the former witness and found Robinson there, quite tipsy. On finding him there a second time he called the landlord's attention to the drunkenness which was going on, to which he replied that he was lame, and could not see to the men himself. Witness also saw other people leave the house who were the worse for drink.

Bennett was called and said he was in the house, and was so excited with the drink he could not tell what happened distinctly.

Mr. Hayes submitted for the defence that the man Bennett came into his client's house while sober, and when he became disorderly, no ale was supplied to him, but he was ordered to leave. He denied that Neri Hingley was there at all. In support of this Mrs. *Downing*, Hingley, and another witness were called. Thomas Robinson was then charged with being drunk at the CALIFORNIA INN, Police-constable Frost and Police-sergeant Hand gave evidence in proof of the offence. He was fined 5s and costs, in default fourteen days' imprisonment.

Joseph Downing, landlord of the public house, was fined £5 and costs, the magistrates remarking that on the present occasion they should not endorse his license, but hoped that the fine would act as a caution to him."

County Express 25/8/1877

"After the business of the Petty Sessions had been disposed of the Annual Licensing Sessions were held. The Black List was first called on, and it appeared that the following were the publicans who had been convicted of offences against the Licensing Laws during the past year.....

Joseph Downing, CALIFORNIA INN, Old Hill.....

Mr. Superintendent Woollaston opposed the renewal of *Downing's* license on the ground that he had since last licensing day been heavily fined by the Bench for an offence under the Licensing Act. It was also a fact that a man had been seriously injured in a brawl which took place at *Downing's* house.

The Bench thought the case rather a serious one, and suspended the license until the adjourned licensing day.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/9/1877

“Old Hill Adjourned Licensing Meeting was held on Wednesday, at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill.....

The license of *Joseph Downing*, of the CALIFORNIA beerhouse, Blackheath, which had been suspended from the annual licensing meeting, was renewed on the application of Mr. Hayes.”

County Express 2/2/1878

“Joseph Mole, Jonah Mole, Samuel Mole, William Parsons, and John Round, rivet makers, all of Blackheath, pleaded guilty to a charge of refusing to quit a licensed house kept by *Joseph Downing*, the CALIFORNIA INN, Blackheath. Complainant stated that on the 21st ult the defendants were in his house and commenced fighting. He ordered them to leave but they refused to do so. Police-constable Frost said that on the night in question, he went to complainant’s house, and saw the defendants there, but did not see any one fighting. They left at his request. Joseph Mole was fined 5s and costs or fourteen days, and the other defendants 1s and costs or seven days.”

County Advertiser 16/3/1878

“A well-attended meeting of the rivet makers of Rowley, Blackheath and Old Hill district was held on Wednesday night at the CALIFORNIA INN, Blackheath. The meeting was convened for the purpose of considering the difficulty cause by the breach of a contract entered into between the masters and workmen in November last as to the wages to be paid for the various classes of work.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/3/1878

“Yesterday afternoon a meeting of the rivet-makers of the Rowley and Blackheath districts was held at the CALIFORNIA INN, Blackheath, for the purpose of receiving the report of the delegates who attended the conference on Friday night last, and also to consider what steps should be taken with a view to a satisfactory settlement of the difficulty existing at present in the trade..... It is believed that if the masters carry out their resolution to reduce the men, a general strike will take place in the district.”

County Express 13/4/1878

“William Dingle and James Westwood, rivet makers, were charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of *Joseph Downing*, CALIFORNIA INN, Blackheath. The landlord stated that on the night of the 6th inst the defendants visited his house and created a disturbance. He ordered them to leave but they refused to do so, and ultimately a policeman was sent for and they were ejected. Police-sergeant Cooper gave confirmatory evidence. Defendants were fined 2s 6d and costs each, or fourteen days’ imprisonment.”

County Express 9/11/1878

“*Joseph Downing*, landlord of the CALIFORNIA INN, Blackheath, was charged with having permitted drunkenness in his house on the 31st ult. Mr. Stokes appeared for the defence.

Police-constable Hicklin gave evidence to the effect that at about five minutes before eleven o’clock on the night of the 31st ult, he visited defendant’s house and found there a man named Lowe who was drunk. Another man was in the act of holding him up, and was offering him liquor. On defendant’s attention being called to Lowe he said, ‘Oh, he’s all right, he’s quiet.’ Witness left the house and made a communication to Police-sergeant Cooper and they both returned to the house just as defendant was turning out his customers. Lowe was supported down the steps leading into the street by two men, and when left alone he fell against a wall. Witness and a companion assisted the man to his home which was about a mile from Blackheath. When on the way Lowe asked them to release him, but immediately they withdrew their support, he ‘pitched’ on to his head and lay upon the ground in a helpless state.

Mr. Stokes for the defence submitted that the case had not been made out, inasmuch as the prosecution had not shown that defendant was aware that any person was drunk upon his premises, or that he had wilfully permitted a drunken man to remain there. The landlord was married on the day in question, and being absent he was not aware that the man had been at his house several hours of the day. He pointed out that Lowe did not show any signs of intoxication until near closing time when the officer visited the house and drew the landlord’s attention to him. Defendant had Lowe turned out of the house, and thus prevented a violation of the law.

The officer was re-called, and stated that when he served the summons defendant admitted to him that he was in his house after ten o’clock on the night of the alleged offence.

A witness named Pearson, called for the defence, said that he had charge of defendant’s house during his absence. Lowe entered the house between nine and ten o’clock in the morning and remained during the whole of the forenoon and the afternoon. The defendant did not return home until about nine o’clock at night and he thought he did not see Lowe until the officer pointed him out. It was then nearly eleven o’clock.

William Jones said he was in company with Lowe for some hours. He left Lowe at nine o’clock and Lowe was then perfectly sober.

A third witness said that between nine and half-past nine defendant ‘just popped into’ the room in which he and Lowe were. Joseph Lowe was then charged with having been found drunk in *Downing's* house. He pleaded guilty, and said he did not know

whether he was taken home or not. Fined 2s 6d and costs, or seven days.

The Bench then decided *Downing's* case, and as he had been previously fined £5 for an offence against the Licensing Act, they now fined him £10 and costs, and ordered that his license should be endorsed."

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 licensing session.

The convictions against beerhouse keepers were.

Joseph Downing, CALIFORNIA INN, Halesowen Street, Blackheath, permitting drunkenness. Fined £10 and costs. Licensed endorsed, second offence."

County Express 27/9/1879

"Adjourned Licensing Session.

Joseph Downing, licensed victualler, CALIFORNIA INN, Blackheath, applied for a renewal of his license. The application, which was supported by Mr. Hayes, was granted."

1881 Census

1, Halesowen Street

[1] *Joseph Downing* (69), beerhouse keeper, born Blackheath;

[2] Polly Downing (58), wife, born Blackheath;

[3] Mary Downing (18), daughter, barmaid, born Blackheath;

[4] Elizabeth Homer (18), boarder, domestic servant:

1891 Census

1, Halesowen Street

[1] *Josiah Downing* (51), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Mary Downing (50), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] James Downing (27), son, master blacksmith, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Josiah Downing (23), son, assistant brewer, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Harry Downing (16), son, assistant blacksmith, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Thomas Downing (14), son, born Rowley Regis;

[7] Joseph Downing (10), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[8] Mary A. Westwood (19), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

Josiah Downing, beer retailer, 1, Halesowen Road. [1896]

County Advertiser 16/5/1896 - Notice

"Advertisement of Cancelling.

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 13th day of May, 1896, Cancelled the Registry of the Handel Friendly Society (Register No.1401), held at CALIFORNIA INN, Blackheath, Dudley, in the County of Stafford, at its request.

The Society (subject to the right of appeal given by the said Act) ceases to enjoy the privileges of a registered society, but without prejudice to any liability incurred by the society, which may be enforced against it as if such cancelling had not taken place.

E. W. Brabrook, Chief Registrar."

Josiah Downing was also an iron gate manufacturer. [1900]

1901 Census

1, Halesowen Street

[1] *Josiah Downing* (63), blacksmith, born Blackheath;

[2] Mary Downing (63), wife, born Blackheath;

[3] James Downing (41), son, blacksmith, born Blackheath;

[4] Harry Downing (25), son, blacksmith, born Blackheath;

[5] Thomas Downing (24), son, carpenter, born Blackheath;

[6] Joseph Downing (20), son, barman publican, born Blackheath;

[7] Fanny Perks (19), domestic servant, born Whiteheath:

County Express 2/8/1902 - Advert

"Monday, August 11th, 1902. CALIFORNIA INN, Halesowen Street, Blackheath, Rowley Regis, Staffs.

To Publicans, Machinery Brokers, Blacksmiths, Furniture Buyers, and Others.

Mr. W. Hackett has received instructions from Mr. *Josiah Downing*, who is leaving the Premises, to Sell by Auction, upon the

Premises as above on Monday, August 11th, 1902.

A quantity of Household Furniture, the whole of the Nearly-new Brewing Plant, large quantity of Blacksmith's Tools, Engines, Boilers, Lathes, Anvils, Dies, &c, comprising Chests of Drawers, Swing Glasses, Overmantels, Wash Stands and Dressing Tables, Sewing Machine, Clocks, Cane-seated and other Chairs, Sets of Iron Bedsteads, Toilet Ware, Scales and Weights. Pianoforte in Walnut Case, by Ward, of London; Two Guns, Quantity of Dinner and Tea Ware, &c. 5 Horizontal and Vertical Steam Engines, on Iron Beds, from 2½ to 6-horse power, nearly new. Heating Apparatus for Greenhouse, One Vine, Quantity of Trees and Tree Pots. 35 Yards of New Unclimbable Fencing, large Quantity of Banding and Pulleys. Drilling Machines, with Band and Pulleys, by Pratt and Co. of Halifax. Treadle Screw Cutting Lathe, 6in Centre, 7ft Bed, and 23 Change Wheels, all complete, by Taylor of Birmingham, with Over-head Motion. 2 Hand Presses. 5 Vices and Benches. 2 Pairs of Blacksmith Bellows. 4 Anvils, 2 Hearth Plates. 50ft of Shafting, 4 Band Pulleys, Carriages and Coupling. 10ft 6in of Shafting, 2 Band Pulleys and Carriages, Large Quantity of Blacksmith's Tools, Lashing Chains, Sledge and other Hammers, 36 Band Pulleys, Wrought-iron Boiler. 3 Upright Steam Boilers, and Fittings, in good condition. 7 ft Treadle or Steam Power Wood Turning Lathe. Circular Saw Bench, and 2 Saws, on Iron Beds. Large Quantity of Wrought-iron Tubing. Large Quantity of Scrap Iron. Stop Valves, large Quantity of Brasses. Lead Piping, Stocks and Dies. Large Quantity of odd Timber, and Pump Trees, Blocks, Pulleys, Chains and Ropes. Quantity of Leather Belting. Swage Blocks, on Iron Plates; Iron Boshes. Quantity of Corrugated Roofing, 3 Wood Sheds. 320-gallon nearly-new Copper Boiler, and large Brass Tap, Doors, Bars, and Seating. 200-gallon Wrought-iron Boiler, Doors, Bars, and Seating. 60-gallon Cast-iron Boiler, Doors, Bars, and Seating. Wood Platform, with Iron Hand-rail. 12-bushel nearly-new Oval Mash Tub, Wort Cooler, Copper Refrigerator, Copper-bottom Sieve, Hop Press on Iron Stand, Two Wort Spouts, Mash Rule, Ladle, Copper Wort Pump, Set of Steps. Strong Two-wheel Spring Cart, in good condition. Brown Pony, 13 hands high, 8 years old, work in chains or harness, quiet, and passes all kind of steam. 20-bushel Oval Mash Tub, 2 Round Collecting Tubs, 9 120-gallon Casks, 6 Round Tubs, 3 Wood Blocks, 54 Gallon Casks, Iron Piping from Brewhouse to Cellar, Shovels, Rakes, and numerous other Effects. The whole on View Morning of Sale. Sale to commence at Twelve o'clock. Auctioneer's Offices: 13, Church Street, Oldbury, and Clent, near Stourbridge. Telephone No.63 Oldbury."

1911 Census

Halesowen Street – CALIFORNIA INN

- [1] *George Willetts* (46), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Mary Ann Willetts* (47), wife, married 25 years, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Lily Willetts* (19), daughter, born Cakemore;
- [4] *Ethel Florence Willetts* (16), daughter, general domestic, born Cakemore:

George Willetts, beer retailer, Halesowen Street. [1912]

George Willetts, beer retailer, 1, Halesowen Street. [1916], [1921], [1924]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/3/1933

"William Harris, aged 58, a galvaniser, of 41, Hackett Street, Blackheath, was at Old Hill yesterday, committed for trial at the Assizes charged with having murdered his son, Robert Campion Harris, aged 33, a labourer (of the same address), by cutting his throat with a table knife on Saturday, 25, February.

He pleaded 'Not Guilty' and reserved his defence.

Mr. R. Pashley appeared for the Director of Public Prosecutions, and Harris was represented by Mr. F. J. Bourke, instructed by W. Waldron and Son, Brierly Hill.

Mr. Pashley said that the magistrates would hear that on the Saturday evening the prisoner had been in the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, from 8.15 to about 9.15, and during that time he consumed three pints of beer. From there he straightaway proceeded to the CALIFORNIA INN, Blackheath, where he consumed two more pints of beer. He left the inn about 10.5, and then proceeded to his home, arriving about 10.30.

Mr. Pashley explained that he was not suggesting that the man was otherwise than sober. He did suggest, however, that he was in a somewhat excited condition. In one way it was more dangerous to be in an excited condition than it was to be drunk.

There was an interval during which, Mr. Pashley said, he could not say exactly what happened, but the next development was at 11 o'clock, when the prisoner walked into Blackheath Police Station, where he said to PS Perkins, 'You had better come down to

our house. I've cut my son's throat with a knife. He's lying on the floor and I think he's dead.'

The sergeant very naturally said, 'Do you know what you are talking about?' and quite properly cautioned him. The accused then said, 'Yes. I've done it. He came home drunk and threatened to kill me. I went for him and we had a struggle on the floor. I saw the knife close by and picked it up and let him have it. I hope he's dead, as I'm ready any time; I've had enough trouble.'

The sergeant went with Harris to his house. The man seemed quite rational.

Mr. Pashley next commented upon what he described as the callous way in which Harris behaved on the return to the house in Hackett Street. The man, he said, walked into the very room where, as the prosecution stated, he killed his son, and the first thing he did was to take out his pipe, light it, and then sit down in a chair by the fire as if nothing whatever had happened.

Shortly afterwards, he picked up a kettle, went outside into the yard, where he was followed by a constable, and there he said to the officer, 'You need not bother about me. I shan't run away. I've done it and I'll stand by it. It doesn't matter if it is this (drawing his finger to the left side of his neck) or stopping inside.' Harris proceeded to fill the kettle and returned to the kitchen. There was no one else in the house when the police got there, as the prisoner's wife, who in the ordinary way would have been there, had gone to her cousin's at No.4 Hackett Street. When she arrived there, one witness would say, she was speechless, and her left hand was bleeding from a cut which she had received.

Dr. Ribchester would tell the court that the dead man has no fewer than eight very severe wounds on the face, throat and neck.

The one across the neck was 4ins long, another was in the vicinity of the ear and measured 3ins, another 2½ins, and the others of 1½ins and 1in. In the doctor's opinion all of those cuts could have been caused with a table-knife which was found lying on the floor beside the dead man. The table-knife, Mr. Pashley added, was a blunt one, and it must have needed a great amount of energy to have inflicted such cuts as were found.

Dr. Hamblin Smith was asked to make a report on certain scratches or so-called injuries which were present when Harris arrived at Winson Green Prison, Birmingham. The doctor has submitted a report. The prosecution had no desire to conceal anything contained in that report, and Dr. Smith would be called to give the result of his examination. The doctor was of opinion that they were merely superficial scratches. In addition, there was a black eye, which might have been caused by a blow or by the man's eye coming into contact with some hard substance. It was suggested by the prosecution that those scratches and the black eye were received when the dead man was defending himself from being killed by the prisoner, who, at that time, had a deadly weapon in his hand.

It was not for him, Mr. Pashley added, to suggest what the defence would be, but he anticipated it might be manslaughter. 'Our law, however,' he continued, 'is that if one man had a deadly weapon in his hand, and the other man has nothing, and the other man is killed, that is murder.'....."

[The evidence of the witnesses was then heard.]

[At Stafford Assizes, William Harris was found not guilty of murder, but guilty of manslaughter under great provocation. He was sentenced to eight months' imprisonment.]

1939 Register

1, Halesowen Street

- [1] Frank Tromans, date of birth 28/5/1886, publican, married;
- [2] Maud C. Tromans, dob 28/3/1892, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] Elsie M. Tromans, dob 20/7/1906, incapacitated, epileptic, single;
- [4] Lily (Tromans) Bill, dob 21/5/1910, domestic duties assisting mother, single;
- [5] Frank Tromans, dob 16/8/1916, tube cutter, non-ferrous metal, single;
- [6] Leonard Tromans, dob 18/1/1919, motor mechanic, single;
- [7] Alice (Tromans) Pettican, dob 8/10/1921, shorthand typist, single;
- [8] Robert C. Tromans, dob 9/5/1929, at school, single;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/1/1944 - Engagements

"The Engagement is announced between Rennie, only son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Thompson, 16, Thornhill Avenue, Brambles Farm, Middlesbrough, and Nancy, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Nock, CALIFORNIA INN, Halesowen Street, Blackheath."

An application for a Publican's license was granted on 2nd February 1945.

Transferred to a full license on 27th April 1949.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/2/1952

"Draw for the quarter finals of the Dudley Town FC darts cup competition is as follows: CALIFORNIA INN B (Blackheath) v GPO (Wolverhampton) or NELSON INN A (Wednesbury), VICTORY INN A (Tipton) v BUSH INN A (Lower Gornal), Belgrave Sports A (Blackheath) v CALIFORNIA INN A (Blackheath), Vono Sports (Tipton) v Ex-Servicemen's Club (Bradley). These matches must be completed by Saturday March 8."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/3/1952

"Draw for the semi-finals of the Dudley Town Football Club's darts challenge cup is: CALIFORNIA A v CALIFORNIA B (Blackheath); VICTORY A (Tipton) or BUSH INN (Lower Gornal) v Vono Sports Club."

It was referred to the Continuation Meeting for consideration of redundancy on 5th February 1958.

The license was renewed on 5th March 1958.

It closed in 2008.

It was converted into a shop.

CASTLE

20, (30), (15), (6), Halesowen Road, OLD HILL

OWNERS

William Foley
Albert E. Sidaway
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

James Guest [1871] – [1881]
Mrs. Matilda Guest [1891]
Thomas Guest [1895]
William Basterfield [1897] – **1904**);
Joseph Woodhall (**1904** – []
William Adams (**1908**);
Joseph Woodhall (**1908** – []
William Adams [] – **1910**);
George Johnson (**1910** – **1912**);
Frederick Harbur Moyles* (**1912** – []
Frederick Miles* [] – **1914**);
James Shaw (**1914** – []
Robert Turner [1919] – **1923**);
Daniel Bill (**1923** – **1925**)
Joseph Welding (**1925** – **1929**);
Sidney Tromans (**1929** – **1931**);
John Thomas Garratt (**1931** – **1937**);
Bert Cole (**1937** – **1938**);
Arthur Harold Garratt (**1938** – **1940**);
William George Rumant (**1940** – **1944**);
Joseph Jinks (**1944** – **1947**);
Joseph Rock (**1947** – **1954**);
Kenneth William Chapman (**1954**);
Alfred John Baker (**1954** – **1956**);
John Harry Ashcroft (**1956** – [1965]
Bob Gordon [1997]

NOTES

6, Halesowen Road [1881], [1891]
15, Halesowen Road [1911], [1939], [1940]
30, Halesowen Road [1990]
20, Halesowen Road [1994], [1997]

It had an ante '69 beerhouse license.

Stourbridge Observer 17/9/1870

“John Fletcher was charged by Aaron Moyle, a parish constable, with assaulting him on the 12th inst.

Complainant said he was at the CASTLE TAVERN. Defendant was very drunk, and making a great noise. Went up to him, and the defendant struck him several times. Defendant said he was drunk, and did not recollect it.

Finced 2s 6d and costs.”

County Advertiser 27/5/1871

“On Thursday, a child named Rosannah Haywood, aged 4 years, was at the house of her grandfather, *James Guest*, innkeeper, CASTLE INN, Old Hill, when she fell into a tub of hot wort, which was running from a mash tub near at hand, and was fearfully scalded. Mr. F. H. Hodgson, surgeon, was sent for immediately, and attended the child, but it died at two o'clock the next morning, twelve hours after the accident.”

County Express 22/11/1879

“A large number of persons were summoned for selling bread otherwise than by weight.
Joseph Guest, CASTLE INN, Old Hill, paid costs on a charge of selling bread without weighing it.”

1881 Census

6, Halesowen Road

- [1] *James Guest* (65), beerhouse keeper, born Winswell, Staffordshire;
- [2] *Matilda Guest* (63), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Ann M. Guest (29), daughter, born Old Hill;
- [4] *Thomas Guest* (18), son, engine fitter, born Old Hill;
- [5] Ann Cole (5), grand-daughter, scholar, born Darby End;
- [6] Mary Hayward (33), widow, born Old Hill;
- [7] Ann E. Hayward (3), daughter, born Old Hill:

James Guest died in the 2nd quarter of 1886.

County Express 25/10/1890

“Rowley Regis Local Board Medical Officer’s Report.....

Another case of typhoid fever was reported in a van stationed at the back of the CASTLE HOTEL, Halesowen Road, Old Hill. This was in a lad of 19 years of age, and the disease was contracted at Wednesbury. The owner was ordered to stay till the patient was convalescent, and the van was ordered to be disinfected and painted. This was carried out, and he had now left the district.”

1891 Census

6, Halesowen Road

- [1] *Matilda Guest* (72), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Thomas Guest* (28), son, engine fitter, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Ann Cole (15), grand-daughter, barmaid, born Dudley;
- [4] Emma Taylor (14), domestic servant, born Dudley:

County Advertiser 6/8/1892

“Eli Chatman, of the Brook, Old Hill, was charged with stealing a sovereign, the money of *James Guest*, of Old Hill, on the 1st of June. Mr. A. G. Prichard prosecuted, and Mr. T. Homer, junr. defended.

The complainant’s case was that on the night in question he and defendant went into a public house called the CASTLE INN, where they challenged each other to see who had the most money. Complainant pulled out his purse, and a sovereign dropped on the floor. Both complainant and defendant stooped to pick it up, and the former secured it. Defendant thereupon said it was his, and complainant thinking it was, gave the money up to him. Upon counting his money, which amounted to £5 before the occurrence, he found he had only got £4. The landlady also counted the money, and complainant then asked defendant to give it up, which he refused to do. Police-constable Insley was thereupon sent for, and defendant was taken to the station, where he denied the theft.

Mr. Homer, for the defence, said an important witness named Smith was, unfortunately, unable to attend, as he was ill. His instructions were that on the day named, defendant had received £2 15s from his mother-in-law to pay some funeral expenses, and after paying some sundry expenses he had £2 5s 6d on him. The man Smith had been in Chatman’s company the whole of the afternoon, and they went together into the CASTLE INN. *Guest* came up to Smith and challenged him to produce a sovereign. The latter had not got one on him, and Chatman attempted to pass the piece of money required to Smith. The attempt, however, was not successful, and the money rolled on the ground. It was defendant’s money, and he was a most respectable man. The case was dismissed.”

County Advertiser 29/12/1894 - Deaths

“On the 27th inst, at her residence, Wellington Street, Old Hill, *Matilda*, widow of the late *James Guest*, aged 76 years. Deeply regretted by her family and a great number of friends. Her end was peace.”

County Advertiser 21/9/1895

“*Thomas Guest*, landlord of the CASTLE INN, Old Hill, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 3rd inst, and also with allowing riotous conduct to take place on his premises on the same date.

Police-constable Buckler said on the date named, about seven o'clock in the evening, he visited the defendant’s premises, and saw a man named Eli Johnson there. Johnson had a severe wound on the head, and was bleeding very badly. He seemed to be weak from loss of blood. There was blood on the floor and on the table. Witness called defendant outside, and asked him the cause of the bother. Defendant replied that there had been no bother there, and he and Johnson had only been having a bit of fun. There were four more men in the house. About a quarter-past ten he visited the house again, in company with Police-constable Wynn,

and saw defendant and a man named Hubery there, both of them being drunk. Hubery was 'haggling' with the landlord about a sixpence. Hubery said he was going to have a — pint of beer before he went away. Eli Johnson said he was in the CASTLE INN on the 3rd inst, and had four or five pints. There was a dispute between him and the defendant as to the payment for the ale, and the landlord challenged him out to fight. Defendant went out of the room, and witness followed him, being prevented by defendant's wife, however, from going out. Defendant afterwards pushed him on to the fender, and his head was badly cut. His injuries had to be attended to by a doctor. Charles Lester corroborated as to the injuries received by Johnson, and said he considered that the landlord was drunk. Police-constable Wynn deposed to visiting the house and finding Hubery and defendant drunk. Defendant denied being drunk, and defendant called him a — liar. Witness thanked him, and he and Police-constable Buckler left the house. Police-constable Plant also gave evidence. Defendant said his father, mother, and himself had held the license for thirty-nine years. He denied that he was drunk, or permitted riotous conduct. The Bench fined defendant £1 and costs for permitting drunkenness, and dismissed the other charge. Francis Hubery, Old Hill, was fined 10s, including costs for being drunk on the premises."

County Express 5/6/1897

"*William Basterfield*, landlord of the CASTLE INN, Old Hill, was charged with selling ale to a drunken man on the 12th inst. Police-constable Buckler deposed to seeing John Crewe drunk in the Halesowen Road on the afternoon named. After ordering Crewe home he saw him enter the defendant's house. When witness went in five minutes later Crewe had been served with a pint of ale by the defendant's daughter. The landlady's attention was called to Crewe, and she took the beer off the man and returned the money. Defendant said he was away from home, and his little daughter served the beer without perceiving Crewe's condition as he stood against the counter. He expressed regret. Inspector Given said the house had been very well conducted. Defendant was ordered to pay the costs."

County Advertiser 28/8/1897

"The annual licensing sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Rowley Regis were held on Wednesday, at the Police Court, Old Hill. The licenses, they had decided, would be all renewed. The following were the licensed victuallers who had been convicted. The beerhouse keeper convicted was *William Basterfield*, CASTLE INN, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, was ordered to pay costs for selling ale to a drunken person on the 2nd June."

County Express 11/1/1902

"Thomas Baker, of no fixed abode, who was charged with being drunk and disorderly on the 4th inst, and also with refusing to quit the CASTLE INN, Old Hill, when requested, told the Bench he would always be in prison as long as he remained in the district. If he ever went into a public-house, or if he was walking along the street people continually insulted him. Mr. W. Bassano: I don't wonder at it. You are such a bad lot. Baker asked the Bench to send him out of the district, to South Wales, or somewhere. PC Smith and *William Basterfield*, landlord of the CASTLE INN, proved the cases, and the prisoner was sent to prison for a month with hard labour on the first charge, and fined 10s and costs, or a further fourteen days for the second offence."

Tipton Herald 5/6/1909

"Readers will regret to hear of the serious illness of Mr. *Joseph Woodhall*, of Netherton, who for some years was the landlord of the CASTLE INN, Old Hill. Since he went to live at Netherton Mr. *Woodhall* has suffered from gangrene in the foot, and is being attended by Dr. Mitchell. In view of the circumstances in which he and his wife are placed a number of Old Hill friends have agreed to arrange a benefit concert, to be held in the clubroom at the VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill, on June 30th. A subscription list will be opened this weekend, and in the course of a few days tickets for the concert will be on sale. A committee has been appointed to carry out the arrangements."

County Express 9/7/1910

"Bowling. Friendlies. Fixtures for Today. CASTLE INN (Old Hill) v MAYPOLE INN (Cradley)."

1911 Census

15, Halesowen Road

- [1] *George Johnson* (31), licensed victualler, born Cradley Forge;
- [2] *Henzie Johnson* (33), wife, married 11 years, born Lye;
- [3] *Elsie Johnson* (11), daughter, born Lye;
- [4] *George Stanley Johnson* (10), son, born Quarry Bank;
- [5] *Reggie Johnson* (6), son, born Quarry Bank;
- [6] *Edith May Johnson* (4), daughter, born Quarry Bank:

George Johnson, beer retailer, 15, Halesowen Road. [1912]

County Express 8/6/1912

“BLUE BALL Bowling Club, Old Hill.....

Mr. Griffiths (secretary) announced that the last two matches played with the CASTLE INN had both resulted in victories, by 23 away from home and by 43 at home. This was a good start for the season.....”

Dudley Chronicle 31/8/1912

“The annual general meeting of the Cradley Heath St. Luke’s Football Club was held on Friday evening at the BLUE BALL HOTEL, Old Hill.....

Mr. A. Baggott was appointed trainer to the club after some discussion. Mr. *George Johnson*, who has had the position for many years, is now in charge of a busy licensed premises, and it was felt that his duties there would not allow him in future to be away, especially in the distant matches, as in previous years. Mr. A. Baggott has had considerable experience, and should prove a worthy successor.”

*possibly the same person

Birmingham Daily Post 2/7/1914

“At Old Hill yesterday, in connection with an application for the transfer of the license of the CASTLE INN, Hales Owen Road, Old Hill, from *Frederick Miles* to *James Shaw*, it was explained that the outgoing tenant had disappeared from the house, leaving no one in charge. The usual notice had not been given to the police, and *Shaw* asked the Bench to treat it as a matter of urgency. Inspector A. E. Myatt offered no objection, and the application was granted.”

Daniel Bill, beer retailer, 15, Halesowen Road. [1924]

Joseph Welding was a relative of Albert Eland Sidaway.

1939 Register

15, Halesowen Road

[1] *Arthur H. Garratt*, date of birth 26/8/1912, manager of public house, married;

[2] *Annie Garratt*, dob 28/2/1912, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Annie L. (Ann Loretta) Edwards*, dob 30/3/1939, under school age, single:

A Publican’s License was granted on 1st February 1950.

John Ashcroft was well-known for lifting cast iron tables with his teeth.

[1998]

Closed

It was demolished in 2001.

Houses were built on the site.

CHAINMAKERS ARMS

29, Corngreaves Road, (Four Ways), CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

Mrs. Sarah Yardley

North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd. (acquired in February 1905 for £2,000)

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1909) [1919], [1946]

LICENSEES

Joseph Yardley [1857] – **1878**);

Charles Yardley (**1878** – [1898]

Mrs. Sarah Yardley [1902] – **1905**);

Walter Harrison (**1905**);

Sarah Chatwin (**1905 – 1907**);

Frederick Marris Mason (**1907** – []

George Radcliffe [] – 1908);
Frederick Horace ‘Fred’ Mason (1908);
Philip John Sykes (1908 – 1931);
Isaac Brooks (1931 – 1936);
Fred Smith (1936);
Henry Facer Soden (1936 – 1937);
William Lewis (1937 – 1941);
Joseph Woodall (1941 – 1943);
George Henry Rose (1943 – 1949);
Derek Stanley Smith (1949 – 1959);
Jesse Levi Tromans (1959 – 1960);
William Alec Titley (1960 – [1965]

NOTES

It was known locally as “The Chainees”.

Black Country Bugle (December 1994)

“.....at one time, famous for its association with rat-killing ledgers.”

County Advertiser 7/3/1857

“*Joseph Yardley*, CHAINMAKERS ARMS INN, Rowley, for having his house open before one o’clock on the morning of the 22nd ult was fined 5s and costs.”

Brierley Hill Advertiser 27/2/1858 - Advert

“The second night of the Woman’s Club, held at Mr. *J. Yardley*’s, CHAIN MAKERS ARMS, Cradley Heath, will be held on Tuesday next, at Eight pm. Any person wishing to enter, may apply to the Landlady.”

County Advertiser 5/11/1859

“*Joseph Yardley*, landlord of the CHAINMAKERS ARMS, Cradley Heath, was summoned by Joseph Billingham, a chainmaker, for assaulting him on Monday night last. The complainant, in company with several other young men, had spent the evening convivially at a public house at Cradley Heath, and on their way home at the ‘small hours’ of the morning made a friendly call at defendant’s house, for the purpose of imbibing a final glass of rum, the more effectually to assist the inclement night air. Here they became somewhat frisky, indulged in some eccentric conduct, and finally overturned the tables and broke the glasses. The interference of the landlord was rendered necessary; and Billingham now summoned *Yardley* for knocking him down and ill-using him. A person who assisted the landlord, named Joseph Williams, a customer in the house at the time, was also summoned by Billingham for an assault, he having, according to complainant, commenced the disturbance by asking Billingham ‘What he was going to stand?’ This interrogation, not being favourably received, a row ensued, and Police-constable Farmer was ultimately sent for to quell it, after ‘murder’ had several times been shouted.

The other persons implicated was Joseph Woodhouse, summoned by Nehemiah Stafford and Joseph Foy, against the same defendant and his brother Thomas Woodhouse, who were likewise charged respectively with assaults.

The Bench said it was the duty of the landlord to keep order in his house, and they should therefore dismiss the case against him, although it was reprehensible on his part to allow persons to assemble in his house at such an unreasonable hour. The other defendants were near their own houses, and ought not to have been in the house at the time and they should, therefore, fine each of them 2s 6d and costs, or twenty-one days’ imprisonment. Mr. Homfray appeared for *Yardley*.”

County Advertiser 12/11/1859

“At the Old Hill Petty Sessions on Wednesday, two offending innkeepers were charged and dealt with as follows. *Joseph Yardley*, landlord of the CHAINMAKERS ARMS, Cradley Heath, for keeping a disorderly house on the occasion of the drunken fracas which gave rise to the proceedings against the defendant last week, was cautioned by the Bench and dismissed. Joanna Meredith, landlady of the TALBOT INN, Cradley Heath, for a similar offence, was ordered to pay costs.”

1861 Census

Corngreaves Road

- [1] *Joseph Yardley* (37), victualler, born Rowley;
- [2] Maria Yardley (42), wife, born Rowley;
- [3] James Yardley (18), son, chain maker, born Rowley;
- [4] Mary Ann Yardley (16), daughter, chain maker, born Rowley;
- [5] Joseph Yardley (14), son, chain maker, born Rowley;
- [6] Charles Yardley (12), son, chain maker, born Rowley;
- [7] Henry Yardley (9), son, scholar, born Rowley;
- [8] Emma Yardley (5), daughter, scholar, born Rowley;
- [9] Emma Roberts (23), domestic servant, born Tallington, Lincolnshire:

County Advertiser 27/5/1865

“On Wednesday, at the Public Office before Messrs. F. W. G. Barrs and H. O. Firmstone, *Joseph Yardley*, landlord of the CHAINMAKERS ARMS, Cradley Heath, was summoned for allowing drunken and disorderly conduct in his house on the 15th inst. Mr. Lowe appeared for the defence. Police-constable Fox deposed that he was sent for to the defendant’s house. In the yard he found four men named Shaw, Hampton, Davis, and Westwood, fighting, and the landlord standing against the wall looking at them. This was about half-past five o’clock in the morning. He had called twice in the course of the night and cautioned the defendant. Davis was called for the defence, but he stated that he could not say what took place, as they were all drunk together. The defendant was fined 10s and costs.”

Stourbridge Observer 2/11/1867

“On Thursday last, an inquest was held at the CHAINMAKERS ARMS, before E. Hooper, Esq, District Coroner, on the body of the illegitimate infant son of Ellen Westwood, who died under rather suspicious circumstances. The inquest was opened on the 16th ult, and was duly adjourned till Thursday, for the purpose of having a post mortem examination of the body made. It appeared from the evidence that the mother of the child is 29 years old. On the 13th ultimo she left her father’s house in the afternoon, and went to the house of a woman named Mrs. Wood, of Corngreaves Road. There she was delivered of a child in about two hours; and the woman Wood said that it only lived two hours, apparently having died from fits. The mother of the young woman was examined, and she said that she had seen her daughter during her confinement, and she seemed to have everything that was wanted. She denied that her daughter had a child two years ago, who died shortly after birth; but admitted she had one alive about four years of age. Wood deposed that the mother had not seen her daughter during her confinement; and she (witness) also denied that any one had had a child in her house for twenty years. The woman Wood attempted to get the death of the child registered, but the Registrar refused to register the death until an inquest had been held. Police-constable Powner deposed there was a report about eighteen months ago that Westwood was in the family way, and he had great reason to believe that the child on which the inquest was being held had not died from natural causes. Mr. Morrow, surgeon, gave evidence to the effect that he had made a post mortem examination of the body, and from appearance he found his opinion was the child died from the fact that the funis having been tied too soon. It was such an act as would be done by an inexperienced person; and but for that he thought the child would have been alive. The jury found that the child died from exhaustion caused by improper treatment at the time of its birth; and with this verdict they coupled a recommendation to the Coroner to censure Mrs. Wood, and the grandmother of the child. The Coroner accordingly cautioned Mrs. Wood how she acted as a midwife in future; and he informed Mrs. Westwood that he should probably recommend the Secretary of State to institute proceedings against her for wilful and corrupt perjury.”

County Advertiser 22/1/1870

“*Joseph Yardley*, of the CHAINMAKERS ARMS, Cradley Heath, was charged with selling liquor, on the previous Sunday morning, during hours prohibited by law. Police-constable Craddock said he visited the house about twelve o’clock, and in an out-house in the yard he found two men. There were wet marks on a barrel as if a jug had lately been on it, and in some grains close by witness found a jug concealed. The Bench said they did not think there was sufficient evidence to prove the charge, and it was accordingly dismissed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/11/1870 - Advert

“To be Shot For, at *Joseph Yardley*’s, CHAINMAKERS ARMS, Cradley Heath, on Monday, the 12th December, 1870, a fat Pig, by 20 Subscribers at 10s 6d each. Shooting to commence at Twelve o’clock. Three Birds each. Pigeon Shooting Rules.”

1871 Census

Corngreaves Road – CHAIN MAKERS ARMS

- [1] *Joseph Yardley* (48), licensed brewer, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Ann M. Yardley (53), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Mary A. Yardley (26), daughter, bonnet cleaner, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Matthew H. Yardley (18), son, chain maker, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Emma Yardley (15), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Lotty Yardley (9), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Alice Yardley (8), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] Sarah J. Yardley (5), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

County Advertiser 24/6/1871 - Advert

“The Ancient Order Of Free Gardeners intend holding a Pic-Nic in Cradley Park, on the 26th of June Next, 1871. The members will start from Mr. Samuel Bennett’s, the NEW TWO GATES INN, at Ten o’clock in the morning, and proceed to Mr. William Morgan’s, the PEAR TREE INN, where they will join their united brotherhood, and form a Grand Procession, which will parade the principal streets of the Lye Waste, Lye, Quarry Bank, Cradley Heath, and Cradley, and will then proceed to the beautiful enclosed grounds kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. Edwin Oliver. The Procession will be headed by Two Splendid Brass Bands, viz: The East Worcestershire Brass Band, Mr. Jeremiah Whitehouse, Bandmaster; The South Staffordshire Brass Band, Mr. William Wakelum, Bandmaster.

The Metropolitan Minstrels! Note the Names: Mr. R. Lemont, the littlest and the greatest Negro delineator in the world.

Yevert, Silver-toned Tenor.

Tomes, the side-splitting lively Pompey.

Mr. Tomes, Violinist.

Mr. Ted Gant, Piccolo and Jig Dancer.

Mr. H. Beaumont, Harp and Baritone, Jig and Eccentric Dancer, &c.

A Singing Contest for Amateurs. The First Prize, 10s; Second, 5s; Third, 2s 6d. Entrance, 1s each.

A Jingle Race. The First Prize 10s. Entrance, 6d each.

The Celebrated Fitzgerald is engaged for the occasion, who will perform some of his wonderful Rope Feats.

Balloon Ascents at Intervals. Old Aunt Sally, &c.

The Bands will play, at intervals, some selections of music, from the most eminent composers; likewise will play, for Dancing, Polkas, Waltzes, Galops, Varsovianas, Schottisches, Quadrilles, Country Dances, &c.

Refreshments of all kind will be supplied on the Grounds.

Tickets, 6d each, may be had of the following persons:

Messrs. S. Bennett, the TWO GATES INN, Two Gates; W. Morgan, PEAR TREE INN, Lye Waste; W. Oliver, VINE INN, Colley Gate; Thomas Cox, ROUND OF BEEF INN, Windmill Hill; W. Pearshouse, Netherend; G. Lickert, Lye; John Owen, Cherry Orchard, Old Hill; Thomas Woodhouse, Netherton; William Wakelum, Gornal Wood; *J. Yardley*, CHAINMAKERS ARMS, Cradley Heath; R. S. Timmins, DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, Brierley Hill."

County Express 20/6/1874

"*Joseph Yardley*, landlord of the CHAINMAKERS ARMS INN, Cradley Heath, was charged with allowing drunkenness in his house, on the 9th inst. Police-constable Cooper found a drunken man in the house on Tuesday night week. The defendant's wife said she was not aware that the man was in the house and she did not draw him any ale. The man lived in the house and worked for her husband. The Bench dismissed the case, but said the police were quite right in bringing it before them."

County Advertiser 28/11/1874

"*Joseph Yardley*, landlord of the CHAINMAKERS ARMS, Cradley Heath, was charged with having on the 16th inst permitted gaming in his house.

James Mansell said that on the afternoon of the above date he visited the defendant's house. There were between twenty and thirty persons in a room, and the defendant was also present. Two men named Ward and Davies were gambling for a quart of ale, and he saw the ale supplied. There were also other men playing at cards in the house.

Police-constable Cooper said that he visited the defendant's house on the afternoon in question, and found the yard doors locked. He entered with Police-constable Collier through the front door. Passing through the bar, he saw the landlady, who tried to get into the kitchen, but he prevented her. On going into the kitchen he found about thirty men, and several of them were engaged playing at cards. The company, on seeing them, made a rush for the door. He called the attention of the landlady to the state of the house, and on leaving, a number of men rushed downstairs.

Police-constable Collier gave confirmative evidence.

Defendant said he had been out all day, and was not aware that anyone was gambling in his house.

The Bench inflicted a fine of 50s and costs."

County Advertiser 5/12/1874

"Joseph Davis, William Stringer, William Hampton, James Hurley, and Benjamin Hurley, were charged with having played a certain game of chance with cards on the 16th ult, at the CHAINMAKERS ARMS, Cradley Heath. Defendants pleaded guilty, and were fined 5s each and costs.

The landlord was summoned and fined last week."

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.....

Joseph Yardley, CHAINMAKERS ARMS, Cradley Heath."

County Advertiser 23/3/1878 - Advert

"Wanted, a good General Servant, one used to Public Business, no other need apply.

Apply, *Charles Yardley*, CHAIN MAKERS ARMS, Four Ways, Cradley Heath."

County Express 2/11/1878

"A well attended meeting of the members of the Conservative Association was held on Tuesday evening last, at the house of Mr. B. Billingham, BELL HOTEL, Cradley Heath. A gentleman well known for his zeal in the cause of Conservatism occupied the chair, and delivered a lengthy speech upon the position of affairs with Afghanistan.....

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Mr. *C. Yardley's*, CHAINMAKERS ARMS, on Tuesday evening, November 26th at 7 o'clock."

1881 Census

29, Corngreaves Road – CHAINMAKERS ARMS

- [1] *Charles Yardley* (58), licensed victualler, born Cradley Heath;
[2] *Sarah Yardley* (39), wife, born Cradley Heath;
[3] *Anne Bedall* (24), domestic servant, born Cradley:

Dudley and District News 8/10/1881 - Advert

“Reddal Hill, Cradley Heath. Highly Important and Valuable Freehold Building Land.

Mr. Herbert Humphries had been favoured with instructions from Felix Coley, Esq, to Sell by Auction, at the House of Mr. *Charles Yardley*, the CHAINMAKERS ARMS INN, Four Ways, Cradley Heath, on Tuesday, October 11th, at Seven for Eight o'clock in the Evening, and subject to conditions to be then read.....”

County Advertiser 15/10/1881

“*Charles Yardley*, landlord of the CHAINMAKERS ARMS, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, was charged with keeping open his house during prohibited hours for the sale of intoxicating liquors. At seventeen minutes past eleven o'clock, on the 6th inst, Police-constable Twiggs went to the defendant's house and found there two men standing near the counter with two glasses of beer before them. He called the landlady's attention to the time, and she said it wanted five minutes to eleven. She went outside to satisfy herself that the other public houses were closed, and when she returned said that the clock must have stopped. Defendant now urged the same plea. The Bench thought defendant had committed the offence through inadvertence, and only fined him 2s 6d and costs.”

County Advertiser 22/10/1881

“Stephen Golden, carpenter, and Richard Davies, were charged with being on licensed premises during prohibited hours. Police-constable Twiggs found the defendants at the CHAINMAKERS ARMS, Cradley Heath, on the night of the 6th inst, at seventeen minutes past eleven. When he called their attention to the time they drank their ale and left immediately. The defence was that the clock was slow. Defendant were only ordered to pay the 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.....

Charles Yardley, CHAINMAKERS ARMS, Corngreaves Road, open after hours, fined 2s 6d 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.”

County Advertiser 14/10/1882 - Advert

“A Bicycle and Tricycle Club will commence on Saturday, the 14th October, 1882.

For particulars, apply to Mr. *C. Yardley*, CHAINMAKERS ARMS, Cradley Heath.”

Dudley and District News 2/2/1884 - Advert

“In the County Court of Worcestershire holden at Dudley.

Birmingham, Dudley, and District Banking Company Limited v William Woodhouse.

Freehold Land at Fox Oats, Cradley Heath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction (by order of the Judge of the Dudley County Court) by Mr. Thomas Pateshall, on Monday, the 11th of February, 1884, at the house of Mr. *Charles Yardley*, the CHAINMAKERS ARMS, Cradley Heath, at Six for Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions to be then produced.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/3/1886

“Yesterday afternoon, Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the CHAINMAKERS ARMS, Cradley Heath, touching the death of Albert Southwick, aged three years, whose parents reside at No.10, Corngreaves Street, who died on the 10th inst from the effects of burns received the same day. During the absence of his mother the child was playing near the fire, when his clothes became ignited, and he was burnt in a shocking manner. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/11/1886

“Yesterday afternoon Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the CHAINMAKERS ARMS INN, Graingers Lane, respecting the death of Benjamin Plant (25), miner, of 144, Corngreaves Road.

Mary Ann Plant, wife of the deceased, said her husband was employed at the Saltwells Colliery, belonging to the Earl of Dudley. On Wednesday he was brought home injured in a cart.

Thomas Spinner, underground manager, stated that on the 17th inst deceased was engaged in the workings, when a quantity of coal

fell upon him, causing severe injuries to his body, from which he died on the 19th inst.

Mr. Pickering, assistant Government inspector, stated that there had been no breach of the Mines Act; and the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1891 Census

29, Corngreaves Road – CHAIN MAKERS ARMS

[1] *Charles Yardley* (68), chain manufacturer and licensed victualler, born Cradley Heath;

[2] *Sarah Yardley* (49), wife, born Cradley Heath;

[3] Sarah A. Smith (14), domestic servant, born Great Bridge:

County Advertiser 23/3/1895 - Advert

“Servant Wanted, about 24 years of age; must be thoroughly experienced.

Apply, CHAINMAKERS ARMS INN, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath.”

Dudley Herald 23/4/1898 - Advert

“Highly Important Announcement of Sale by Auction of Valuable Freehold Properties at Cradley Heath, formerly of the late Henry Cole.

Alfred W. Dando has received instructions to Sell by Auction at the house of Mr. *Charles Yardley*, the CHAINMAKERS ARMS, Cradley Heath, on Monday, May 2, 1898, at Seven o’clock in the Evening precisely.....”

County Advertiser 29/4/1899

“Benjamin Willetts, Providence Street, Cradley Heath, was charged with being drunk on licensed premises, on the 22nd inst. Police-constable Massey said that about ten o’clock on Saturday, he visited the CHAINMAKERS ARMS, Cradley Heath, and found defendant drunk in the tap room. Defendant was fined 10s and costs.”

Charles Yardley died in the 1st quarter of 1900.

1901 Census

29, Corngreaves Road

[1] *Sarah Yardley* (59), widow, licensed victualler, born Cradley Heath;

[2] Ellen White (24), domestic servant, born Dudley:

Sarah Yardley was also a brewer. [1902]

County Advertiser 11/2/1905 - Advert

“Important Sale of the Valuable and Well-known Freehold, Fully-Licensed Property, the CHAINMAKERS ARMS, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath.

E. O. Nightingale is favoured with instructions from Mrs. *Yardley* to Sell by Auction, at the house of Mr. James Rowland, the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on Tuesday, the 21st day of February, 1905, at Seven o’clock in the Evening, subject to Conditions of Sale then to be produced.

All that Highly-valuable Freehold Fully-Licensed House known as the CHAINMAKERS ARMS, and situate in Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, and now in the occupation of the Owner.

The Premises, which are most conveniently arranged, comprise Spacious Entrance Hall, with Vestibule; Bar Parlour, with Bay Window; Large Tap Room, with Bay Window; Smoke Rom, Siting Room, Long Verandah, Large Kitchen, Pantry, Three Good Cellars, with Rolling Way from Yard; Two Large Bed Rooms, fitted with Wardrobes and w.c.; Attic, Spirit Room, Spacious Club Room, with separate Entrance; Roomy Landing, with Cupboard; together with the Large Brewhouse, Wash-house, Large Coalhouse or Store Room, Large Yard, Gateway Entrance, and usual Appurtenances, together with the Business Premises at the rear, now used as a Chain Factory, which comprises large Chain Warehouse, Chainshop, large Store Room with Loft over, Stabling for Four Horses with Loft over, Large Coach-house, and usual appurtenances thereto, and producing at a low rental £20 a year.

The premises are most substantially built, in excellent repair, and very commodious and well adapted for carrying on a large trade. The House has been occupied by the present family for upwards of Half a Century, and the opportunity thus offered is almost unprecedented for securing such a valuable Licensed Property.

The House is without doubt one of the best Licensed Premises in the district, as it is situate in the midst of one of the most thickly populated parts of Cradley Heath and within a few yards of the High Street, and is one of the few remaining Licensed Houses in Cradley Heath which is free from any Trade ties.

The particular attention of Brewers and others concerned in Licensed Properties is invited to this important Sale, as with the Freehold the Purchaser will be given possession on completion, thus including the valuable Goodwill.

For further particulars, apply to George Williams, Esq, Solicitor, Bank Buildings, Cradley Heath, or the Auctioneer, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 24/8/1907

“Applications for the temporary transfer of licenses were made for the CHAINMAKERS ARMS, Cradley Heath, from *Sarah Chatwin* to *Frederick Marris Mason*; and the CROWN INN, Old Hill, from Walter Willetts to *Sarah Chatwin*.

Inspector Gibbs: Are you the licensee of the CHAINMAKERS ARMS? – Mrs. *Chatwin*: Yes.

How long is it since you left? – Twelve weeks.

Not more? – Not more.

It is more than twelve weeks, is it not? – No.

You have not had charge of the house although it has been in your name? You left the business entirely in the hands of *Mason*? – I have attended there when I could. My health failed.

Are you going to be the tenant of the CROWN INN? – Yes.

Are you going to reside there? – Yes.

And look after the business yourself? – Yes, with my father.

The applications were granted.”

County Express 10/10/1908

“On Wednesday, at Old Hill, Mr. G. T. Plant applied for the transfer of the license of the CHAINMAKERS ARMS, Cradley Heath from *Frederick Horace Mason* to *Philip John Sykes*.

A man named *Ratcliffe* appeared before the Court, and complained that after being in the house as a manager for seven or eight weeks he was to be turned out into the streets. It had cost him £20 to go into the house, and now he was told by the owners, the North Worcestershire Breweries Company, that he and his wife were not the class of people they desired to carry on the business of the house. He was in possession of the premises up till nine o’clock that morning, and his furniture was still there.

In reply to Mr. T. Cooksey (magistrates’ clerk) *Ratcliffe* stated that the company induced him to come to the house, and now had practically turned him out. He wanted his character cleared.

Mr. Cooksey said if there was any breach of contract he could bring an action against the company.

Ratcliffe said he did not think it right for brewers to treat people in that manner. It meant ruination for them.

Inspector Needham remarked that since *Ratcliffe* had been in the house he had kept it in a most respectable manner, and could not for the life of him understand why the company were anxious to get him out of it.

Mr. Cooksey said this statement would clear the man’s character.

Mr. A. H. Bassano said the Bench had no option but to grant the application. *Ratcliffe* had a legal remedy for his grievance.”

Indenture 28/10/1909

“All that piece or parcel of land situate at Cradley Heath aforesaid with the messuage or tenement standing thereon now occupied as an inn and called the CHAINMAKERS ARMS and the stabling chainmakers’ shop and outbuildings thereto belonging heretofore used as a brass foundry and which said piece or parcel of land contains in the whole 567 square yards or thereabouts.....”

The Stage 5/5/1910 - Advert

“Wanted Known. If Scenery left at CHAINMAKERS ARMS, Cradley Heath, belonging to Messrs. Chabot and Ballard, is not Claimed in 14 days, the same will be Sold to Defray Expenses.

Signed, *Philip J. Sykes*.”

County Express 23/7/1910

“Much interest was taken in the wedding celebrated at St. Luke’s Church on Saturday between Miss Edith Adelaide Levaine and Mr. Will Glenn. The parties are members of Mr. Gus Levaine’s pierrot troupe, now performing at the local theatre a reception was afterwards held at the CHAINMAKERS ARMS.”

1911 Census

29, Corngreaves Road – CHAINMAKERS ARMS

[1] *Philip John Sykes* (36), swivel maker and licensed victualler, born Cradley Heath;

[2] *Isabella Sykes* (35), wife, married 14 years, assisting in business, born Cradley Heath;

[3] *Clarie Sykes* (11), daughter, school, born Cradley Heath;

[4] *Richard Edwin Sykes* (2), son, born Cradley Heath;

[5] *Rose Nock* (23), domestic servant, born Cradley:

Philip Sykes was also a fried fish dealer of 27, Corngreaves Road. [1924]

Isaac Brooks = *Isaac Brookes*

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/11/1931

“At Old Hill yesterday an application for the transfer of the license of the CHAINMAKERS ARMS, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, from *Phillip John Sykes* to *Isaac Brookes* was granted.

Answering questions by his solicitor, *Brookes* said there were no previous convictions against him of any sort, but he agreed that his son was convicted for having upon him a betting slip which he (witness) had given him when he made a casual bet upon the Grand National.

Supt. Elliot: Doesn’t the fact that your son was carrying a betting slip of yours rather suggest that you are implicated with betting men?

Brookes: I don’t think so. I did no betting before that, and I have done none since.

Supt. J. R. Elliot said he opposed the application on the ground that *Brookes* was not a fit and proper person to hold a license.

The chairman (Mr. C. A. Lloyd) said the magistrates considered the police had done quite right in drawing their attention to certain facts, but they had decided to grant the application, and the police would keep the house under close observation and would report if anything illegal took place.”

1939 Register

29, Corngreaves Road – CHAINMAKERS ARMS

- [1] *William Lewis*, date of birth 17/10/1886, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] Sarah Lewis, dob 22/7/1896, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] Harry Wright, dob 11/9/1919, fitting tube striker, single;
- [5] Joseph Wright, dob 19/10/1925, at school, single;
- [6] Sarah J. Wright, dob 20/4/1928, at school, single:

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/5/1941

“County Licensing Confirmation Committee.....

Application for the confirmation of a grant for the removal of the full licence of the ANCHOR INN, Dudley Wood Road, Cradley Heath, to premises to be erected on land and premises now numbered 8, Surfeit Hill, Cradley Heath.....

Mr. H. A. Tucker (barrister), who appeared in support of the application, said the ANCHOR INN belonged to the Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd, who also owned the proposed new site. The ANCHOR INN was a fully licensed house doing a good trade, but there were other licensed houses in that area, whereas there was no proper provision for licensed refreshments in the area to which it was proposed to move the licence. The value of the ANCHOR INN was assessed at £5,000, and the value of the CHAINMAKERS ARMS, which it was proposed to surrender if the application were granted, was assessed at £3,000.....

Evidence was also given by Albert Thomas Butler, architect, who, in reply to the Chairman, said that under normal conditions it would take about 18 months to build the new house. He agreed that it was unlikely that building would be commenced until the war had ended.....

After a retirement the Chairman announced that the committee were unable to confirm the transfer that day, but they would be willing to consider another application when there was a likelihood of the new licensed house being erected.”

Bilston and Willenhall Times 9/3/1946

“An application made by Mr. M. Higgs on behalf of the Dudley and Wolverhampton Breweries Ltd, for the transfer of the license of the CHAINMAKERS ARMS, Cradley Heath, to proposed new premises at the junction of City Road and Birmingham Road, Tividale, was refused by Rowley Regis Licensing Justices on Wednesday.”

It was referred to the Compensation Authority on 3rd March 1948.

The license was renewed.

Closed

It was demolished in the 1970s.

The site was occupied by a garden centre.

CHERRY ORCHARD

54, (9), (13), Wrights Lane, Totnall, OLD HILL

OWNERS

John Perry

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

Joseph Henry Davis

Grigg and Brettell Ltd. (acquired on 4th December 1936)

Ansells Ltd.

LICENSEES

Thomas Hendley [1855]

John Perry [1860] – [1870]

John Perry [1881] – [1908]

Bertha Perry [1910]

William Henry Taffley [] – 1911);

Samuel Lester (1911 – 1933);

Clifford Harris Pearson (1933 – 1934);

John Alfred Tipton (1934 – 1938);
Thomas William Johnson (1938 – 1949);
Ralph Windsor (1949 – 1955);
Ernest Arthur Attwood (1955 – 1957);
Jim Billingham (1957 – 1958);
Harry Lowe (1958);
Katherine Elizabeth Checketts (1958 – 1962);
James Patrick Cunningham (1962 – 1963);
Daisy Loughran (1963 – 1965);
David Holland (1965 – []

NOTES

13, Wrights Lane [1881], [1891]
9, Wrights Lane [1896], [1901]
54, Wrights Lane [1911], [1912], [1924], [1932], [1939], [1940]

Worcestershire Chronicle 19/9/1855

“*Thomas Hendley*, landlord of the CHERRY ORCHARD, Rowley Regis, was fined 2s 6d and costs, for selling beer before one o’clock on Sunday, the 9th instant.”

Birmingham Journal 26/6/1858 - Advert

“Freehold Dwelling Houses, at Dudley Wood.

To be Sold by Auction, by John G. Wright, on Monday Next, the 28th day of June, at the CHERRY ORCHARD INN, Old Hill, at Six o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then read.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/11/1862

“At the Old Hill Petty Sessions, yesterday, James Turner was charged with having stolen a can of mustard from the CHERRY ORCHARD INN. As the landlord of the inn did not wish to press the charge, the defendant was discharged on payment of costs.”

Birmingham Journal 12/1/1866 - Advert

“Freehold Property, Cherry Orchard, Old Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by John G. Wright, on Wednesday Next, January 17th, at the house of Mr. *John Perry*, CHERRY ORCHARD INN, Old Hill, at Six o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then read.....”

Stourbridge Observer 30/3/1867

“On Saturday last, an inquest was held at the CHERRY ORCHARD INN, before Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, respecting the death of James Guest, aged 24, a miner. Mr. Baker, the Government Inspector, attended.

The particulars respecting deceased’s death were reported in our last week’s issue.

Mr. Jeffries, the agent of the colliery, Mr. M. Fletcher, mine agent, appeared on behalf of Earl Dudley, the proprietor of the colliery.

Richard Scriven stated that he was the doggy of the pit No.19 Salt Wells. On the previous Tuesday morning he examined the pit, in company with his son and the deceased, who was under-doggy. About four o’clock, whilst the deceased was engaged in loading a skip, a fall of coal occurred, and he was killed. The place where the deceased was at work was about 10ft high and 24ft wide. Near the place was a ‘thing.’ A ‘thing’ is, in the language of miners, a strata of rock running through the coal measures. From its peculiar formation, it is liable to ‘slip’, and bring away a portion of the coal attached to it. They are of two kinds, black and white, the former being scarcely distinguished from the strata of coal.

By Mr. Baker: The piece was about five tons weight. It fell from the solid. Thought there was scarcely room for timbering. Was perfectly acquainted with the new rule relative to the timbering of the pit. There was no timber in the opening.

Samuel Weaver, miner, stated that he knew the deceased, with whom he was working when the accident happened. He was injured by the same fall of coal, but not seriously.

By Mr. Baker: Knew of the ‘thing’, but did not think there was any necessity for timbering. The pit looked safe.

By Mr. Jeffries: The ‘thing’ was a black one.

By a Juror: Had no fear of giving his evidence.

Mr. Hughes was then examined as to the plan of the pit produced.

Mr. Baker recommended the plentiful use of timber, and thought there was sufficient room for a tree in the place where the deceased was at work.

The Coroner hoped that the Inspector’s remarks would be attended to.

The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Stourbridge Observer 14/11/1868

“On Saturday morning last a little boy, named George Wakeman, met with his death under the following circumstances. Deceased was playing in the brewhouse with other boys, when his clothes caught fire, and he was so severely burnt that he died on the fol-

lowing Sunday morning.

Mr. Maling, surgeon, was called in, and rendered all the assistance he could.

An inquest was held on Monday last, at *John Perry's*, the CHERRY ORCHARD, before E. Hooper, Esq, Coroner, and a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.

The Coroner recommended that a fire guard should be placed before the fire.”

County Advertiser 27/8/1870

“On Tuesday an inquest was held before Mr. E. Hooper, at the CHERRY ORCHARD INN, on the body of James Priest (18), who was found dead in No.18 Pit, Saltwells Colliery, on Saturday night. The evidence taken showed that deceased went down the pit on Saturday morning for the purpose of working, and was told by the doggy that he would not be required that day. It was supposed that he had ascended the pit, but on his being missed at night a search was instituted, and his dead body was found in a gate-road that had not recently been used. The doggy admitted that the road was not fenced off, and that he had not made an examination of the place since the previous Wednesday. In order that the Government Inspector might attend, the inquest was adjourned until Monday next. Mr. Matthew Fletcher, mine agent, and Mr. Hughes, mine surveyor, were present.”

Stourbridge Observer 17/9/1870

“At the CHERRY ORCHARD INN, Old Hill, on Monday last, before Mr. Hooper, the inquest was resumed upon the body of Thomas Priest (18), who was found dead in No.18 Pit, Saltwells Colliery, on the 20th ult. Mr. Stokes appeared on behalf of the deputy manager, James Montgomery.

During the inquiry Mr. Matthew Fletcher, mine agent, Mr. Hughes, mine surveyor, and Mr. Baker, Government Inspector were present.

After the evidence had been read over, which was given at the opening of the inquest, and which we have already recorded, Mr. Baker put several questions to Montgomery, the deputy manager, as to the ventilation of the pit.

After a few moments' deliberation the jury returned their verdict, which was made known by the Coroner, who observed that it had been determined to return a verdict of Accidental Death, but the jury were of opinion that the deputy was guilty of neglect to a certain extent. It was his duty to have obtained the air pipes at once, and if he could not do so, to have ceased the working in that particular place till they were provided.”

1881 Census

13, Wrights Lane

[1] *John Perry* (34), unmarried, licensed victualler, born in the British Colonies;

[2] Elizabeth Hendley (64), mother, widow, born in the British Colonies:

1891 Census

13, Wrights Lane

[1] Elizabeth Hendley (82), widow, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *John Perry* (54), son, unmarried, licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis:

1901 Census

9, Wrights Lane

[1] *John Perry* (64), brother, unmarried, publican, born Rowley Regis;

[2] William Perry (54), head, general dealer, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Bertha Perry (46), wife, born Brierley Hill;

[4] Joseph Perry (20), son, shop, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Gertrude A. Perry (19), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Horace Perry (18), son, shop, born Rowley Regis;

[7] Sarah E. D. Perry (15), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[8] John Perry (8), son, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 3/7/1909

“On Saturday evening a gas explosion, fortunately unattended with serious results, occurred in the highway at Wrights Lane, Old Hill. The residents were startled by a loud report, and upon going into the street found that a portion of the roadway had been blown up, whilst damage had also been caused to an entry close to the PRINCE OF WALES INN. The shock was felt in many houses, and at the CHERRY ORCHARD INN the tea table was upset by the explosion. Mr. Walter Cutler informed the police, and PCs Davies, Heathcote, and Pass visited the place. Upon examination it was found that large volumes of gas were escaping from one of the mains. How the gas was ignited is a mystery. At one time it was feared that an old woman residing in Wrights Lane had been suffocated, as she could not be seen, but when PC Pass effected an entrance to her house she was found safe and sound.”

1911 Census

54, Wrights Lane

[1] *William Henry Taffley* (40), publican and iron tool fitter, born Wednesfield;

[2] Clara Jane Taffley (40), wife, married 12 years, born Willenhall;

[3] Minnie Pattie Taffley (10), daughter, born Old Hill;

- [4] Elsie Taffley (8), daughter, born Brierley Hill;
[5] Cora Taffley (3), daughter, born Brierley Hill;
[6] Elizabeth Duggan (20), domestic servant, born Fleckwood Lane:

William Taffley – see also OLD BUSH, Brierley Hill.

Samuel Lester was a coachman to brewer Daniel Rollinson.

Clifford Harris Pearson – see also HEATH TAVERN.

1939 Register

54, Wrights Lane

- [1] *Thomas William Johnson*, date of birth 3/2/1871, licensed victualler, married;
[2] *Lucina Johnson*, dob 6/6/1888, unpaid domestic duties, married;
[3] *Harry Albert Johnson*, dob 28/8/1909, ships navigation lamp maker, single;
[4] *Winifred Johnson*, dob 2/2/1918, tailoress, single;
[5] *Thomas William Johnson*, dob 3/3/1925, office boy, single;

Ralph Windsor – see also BELL, Cradley Heath.

Closed

It was demolished c.1970.

CHERRYWOOD SMOKEHOUSE BAR & GRILL

5, Graingers Lane, CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

LICENSEES

NOTES

Formerly Cradley Heath Labour Club.

It opened in November 2019.

Halesowen News 10/2/2020

“A van driver rammed into a police car in an attempt to escape a pursuit after being seen leaving a burglary in Cradley Heath. A 47-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of burglary after the CHERRYWOOD SMOKEHOUSE BAR AND GRILL was targeted in the early hours. The van was spotted leaving the scene of a burglary at the restaurant, which is based at the former Cradley Heath Labour Club building, in Graingers Lane, just before 5am today (Monday). Police pursued it to Lye, where the driver smashed into the patrol car in a bid to escape.

A 47-year-old man, who was the passenger, was arrested on suspicion of burglary after a foot chase but the driver escaped after driving through Stevens Park in Wollescote, where the vehicle ended up in a ditch.

Police constable Jamie Follows said on the force’s neighbourhood alert, ‘On arrival at the scene in Cradley Heath, we saw this van driving away and we began to pursue it. The van was driven dangerously and reversed into our police vehicle repeatedly in an attempt to escape. The passenger alighted the van and was arrested. The driver of the van continued at speed to Stevens Park, Wollescote. He drove through the park and abandoned the van in a ditch. He was chased on foot however despite our best efforts and a track by our police dog he managed to escape.’

A spokesman for West Midlands Police told Black Country Live, ‘A 47-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of burglary after officers were called to the Cradley Heath Labour Club on Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath, shortly before 5am today.’

Stolen items in the van were recovered.”

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.....
CHERRYWOOD SMOKEHOUSE, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath.”

[2020]

CHURCH TAVERN

Rowley Village, ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Zachariah Partridge [1836] – [1858]

NOTES

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 31/10/1836 - Advert

“Taken up on the 4th of October, a Bay Mare Pony, about 13 hands high, with switch tail, and has got the Blacksmith's name on the shoes. Whoever has lost her may have her again by giving sufficient proof, and paying all reasonable expenses, on application at *Zachariah Partridge's*, near the Church, Rowley Regis, Staffordshire.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 5/12/1836 - Advert

“Notice. Taken up on the 4th of October, a Bay Pony, about 13 hands, with switch tail. If not owned in a fortnight it will be sold to defray expenses.

Zachariah Partridge, Rowley Regis, Staffordshire.”

1841 Census

Village

- [1] *Zachariah Partridge* (35), maltster, born Staffordshire;
- [2] Mary Partridge (30);
- [3] Thomas Partridge (2), born Staffordshire;
- [4] William Partridge (1), born Staffordshire;
- [5] John Partridge (1), born Staffordshire:

1851 Census

Village

- [1] *Zachariah Partridge* (47), married, licensed victualler, born Halesowen;
- [2] Mary Ann Partridge (45), wife, born Harborne;
- [3] Thomas Partridge (12), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] William Partridge (10), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] John Partridge (10), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Sarah Ann Partridge (9), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Hannah Partridge (4), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] Jane Roberts (19), general servant, born Oldbury:

Birmingham Daily Post 28/5/1858 - Advert

“Sale at the CHURCH TAVERN Rowley Regis, by Mr. Hawkins, on Monday Next, the 31st day of May. The whole of the Public House Fixtures, part of the Household Furniture and Effects.”

County Advertiser 29/5/1858 - Advert

“Rowley, near Oldbury. Sale at the CHURCH TAVERN.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. W. Hawkins, on Monday, May 31st, 1858, the whole of the Public House Fixtures, Part of the Household Furniture, Screens, Drinking Tables, Beer Machine, well-seasoned Casks, Mashing Tub, Vats, Copper Furnaces, Sign Boards, and other effects, belonging to Mr. *Zachariah Partridge*, who is giving up the Public Business. Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.”

COCK

75, (20), (16), Dudley Road, Springfield, (Spring Hill), (Knowle), (Cock Green), ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

Exors. of S. Bate, Rowley Regis [1919]
Thomas Benjamin Williams and Lizzie Bate
Ansells Ltd. (acquired on 15th June 1946)
Holt, Plant and Deakin [1988], [1989]
Allied Domecq
Punch Taverns
Mr. and Mrs. Johnson [2021], [2022]

LICENSEES

Richard Bate [1814]
Mrs. Hannah Bate [1834] – [1865]
John Bate [1864] – [1873]
Darby [1876]
Henry Heath [] – **1881**;
John Bate (**1881** – [1883])
Henry Heath [1887]
Mrs. Sarah Sophia (Pearson) Mason [1891] – [1912]
Meshack Hackett (**1913** – [])
James Hackett [1916] – **1925**;
Thomas Bray (**1925** – **1927**);
Samuel Lewin Rose (**1927** – **1935**);
Clarence Edgar Newnham (**1935** – **1937**);
Harry Hipkiss (**1937** – **1949**);
Garibaldi Tapper (**1949** – **1950**);
Albert Evans (**1950** – **1966**);
Wilfred Horace Nicholls (**1966** – **1972**);
Michael Turella Dalwood (**1972** – **1973**);
David John Lewis (**1973** – **1974**);
Robert Howard Sullivan (**1974** – **1979**);
Michael Burton (**1979** – **1983**);
Caroline Janette Meddings (**1983** – **1985**);
Edwin Eric Heal (**1985** – **1987**);
Anthony McMahan (**1987** – **1988**);
Terence ‘Terry’ Bucknall (**1988** – **1992**);
Terence Christopher MacMaster (**1992**);
Stephen Martin Smith (**1992**);
Robin William Hancock (**1992** – **1997**);
Graham Martin Tuck (**1997** – **1999**);
Angus Gilchrist McMeeking (**1999**);
Kevin Smith (**1999** – **2000**);
Jennifer Hutchinson (**2000** – [])
Lys Hughes and Angus McMeeking [2002]

NOTES

16, Dudley Road [1881], [1891], [1901]
20, Dudley Road [1911]
75, Dudley Road

It was reputedly built in 1693.

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

20th November 1814 - John, son of *Richard* and *Hannah Bate*, victualler, Cock Green.

Hannah Bate = Hannah Bates

1841 Census

Cock Green

[1] *Hannah Bate* (47), publican, born Staffordshire;

[2] Ann Caddicke (15), born Staffordshire:

Birmingham Journal 8/6/1850

“On Monday last, an accident of a distressing nature occurred at Mr. Thomas Darby’s coalpit at Birch Tree Colliery, in the parish of Hales Owen, resulting in the death of one man and the serious injury of another, with the very narrow escape of other two from similar consequences. It would appear that on the above morning Thomas Lowe, the regular engineer belonging to the colliery, had left a boy named John Stockley, aged fifteen years, in charge of the engine, whilst he was at a public house drinking, and that this boy had drawn up two skips full of men. A third had to be drawn up, occupied by four miners, Thomas Tibbets, two brothers named Bird, and another of the name of Mellard. They gave the usual signal for ascending, but on reaching the mouth of the pit, instead of the engine being stopped for the purpose of pushing the waggon over the shaft, in order that the men might be landed safely, it went on working, and the skip was drawn over the pulley. The two Birds had the presence of mind to leap out upon the bank, but Tibbets fell down the shaft, and though Mellard escaped instant death, yet he was dreadfully injured by being thrown with great violence on the ground within a few inches of the pit mouth. At this time Stockley was in the engine house, while Lowe was seen staggering towards the colliery in a state of intoxication; and on being remonstrated with by one of the Birds, he showed his callous insensibility in regard to the catastrophe of which he had been the cause, by taking off his jacket on purpose to fight. The shaft is 170 yards deep, and as might be expected Tibbets was found a mangled corpse at the bottom. He was twenty-one years of age, and has left a widow and one child. Lowe and the boy were taken into custody by the police, and were present at the inquest on the body of the deceased, which was held at the COCK INN, Cock Green, in the parish of Rowley Regis, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, on Wednesday. After evidence had been taken at some length as to the facts of the case, the inquiry was adjourned until Thursday evening, in order that the engine might be inspected by Mr. Northall, the engineer. We have not heard the result, but it was expected that a verdict of manslaughter would be returned against Lowe.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 24/7/1850

“Summer Assizes.....

Lowe, Samuel, 47, engineer, was then placed at the bar charged with the manslaughter of Thomas Tibbets on the 7th of June last.....

The jury returned a verdict of guilty, and his Lordship, in passing sentence, observed that it would be a disgrace to the law of England were he not to make a severe example of the prisoner, for the gross neglect of which he had been clearly convicted. Sentence, one year’s imprisonment.”

County Advertiser 8/11/1856

“*Hannah Bate*, licensed victualler, Rowley, for having her house open at illegal hours on Sunday morning, the 26th ult, was fined 5s and costs.”

Birmingham Journal 16/9/1857

“In last Saturday’s *Journal* we gave account of an explosion which occurred on Thursday morning, at the colliery of Messrs. W. Mills and Son, at Windmill End, two miles from Dudley, and by which seven lives were sacrificed. Since then another man, John Dainty, who, it may be remembered, was partially buried in the pit for upwards of sixteen hours, has succumbed to the injuries he then sustained. The poor fellow underwent much suffering while under ground, in consequence of being well nigh suffocated. When recovered he complained of cold, and gradually sinking expired on Friday afternoon. The man Daniel Chink, whose body had not been recovered at the time our last report was written, was found about seven o’clock on Friday evening, not far from the bottom of the shaft, where he had been buried from the Thursday morning under an immense heap of earth brought from the roof by the force of the explosion. Life was, of course, quite extinct, and the body, which was dreadfully crushed, was fast decomposing. Of the other five or six persons injured the case of the young man Samuel Siveter, who lived with his mother in a hut not far from the scene of the occurrence, seems to be the most serious. He was not burnt by the explosion itself, but being one of the four or five men who were about to ascend the shaft, was buried beneath the earth and coals at the bottom, which forced him against a number of hot bricks that had previously formed the ventilating furnace. Here he endured the most intense suffering, and a deep hole was burnt into his side. He has been attended by Messrs. Fereday and Timmins, of Dudley, and his recovery is hardly probable. He was somewhat better on Saturday, and he then told a gentleman who visited the house, that just prior to the explosion he saw Abraham Sherwood and William Timmins go into the ‘crop’ side of the mine, where, as we have before stated, the explosion took place, with a lighted candle; the doggy of the pit, George French, being at that time nearer still to the crop. If this be true, and so far as we can ascertain there is no reason to doubt it, the cause of the dire event is explained. Still, it must be remembered that the butty, Francis Griffiths, had only a few minutes previously cautioned the men against going unguardedly into that part of the work, and that it is to be presumed, from a safety lamp having been found near French, that the latter had taken it with him to avoid the possibility of an explosion. Under such circumstances, it can scarcely be credited that Sherwood and Timmins would have the hardihood to take a lighted candle into the most dangerous part of the mine, as alleged. These three – French, Sherwood, and Timmins – were the only persons burnt by the explosion; the other five deceased being at the time at a distance of about two hundred yards from them at the bottom of the upcast shaft. They were buried beneath a mass of coals.

On Friday and Saturday last the Government Inspector of Mines, Lionel Brough, Esq, was at the spot, and descended the pit in company with one or two officials. The force of the explosion was of such a nature as to render the workings a complete wreck. Mr. Brough made an examination, and although he attended one of the inquests on Saturday afternoon, he will not present his official report until Monday next, the 21st instant, to which day one of the inquests, viz, that on the doggy, George French, which is to be made the principal enquiry, has been adjourned.

As we said on Saturday, the bodies of the deceased lie in three different parishes, and come under the jurisdiction of three Coroners – G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, R. Docker, Esq, and W. Robinson, Esq.

The Coroner afterwards held an inquest at the house of Mrs. *H. Bates*, the COCK INN, Cock Green, Rowley, about two miles from the SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, on the body of Joseph Darby, aged fourteen. Lionel Brough Esq, was present at this inquest.

The same witness, William Walker, was examined and gave similar testimony. He added that he never heard anything said as to sulphur being in the pit, and that it was not long since Mr. Aston, the bailiff, was down. In answer to Mr. Brough, he said he did not see any flame come out of either pit. This inquest was adjourned till Tuesday, the 22nd inst, at three.

By this unhappy event six wives have been made widows and twenty-three children orphans.”

[Other inquests were held at the CROSS GUNS, West Bromwich, the SHOULDER OF MUTTON, Blackheath, the FOX HUNT, Old Hill, the GATE HANGS WELL, Darby Hand and the CROSS GUNS, Oldbury.]

[At the adjourned inquest on Joseph Darby the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death and they censured the proprietors of the pit for not carrying out Mr. Brough's suggestion for improved ventilation.]

Birmingham Daily Post 8/7/1859 - Advert

“To Coal Masters, Butty Colliers, Horse Dealers, and Others.

Sale, at the COCK, Cock Green, Rowley Regis.

To Be Sold By Auction, by Mr. Hawkins, on Tuesday Next, July 12th.

The whole of the powerful well-known working Pit Horses, with their Gearing; thick Coal Wheel Skips, Tackling Chains, Skip Rings, Chaff Engine, two spring Carts, Drink Cart, Blacksmiths' Tools, Bellows, two Anvils, Screwing Tackle, Vice and Bench, Hand and Sledge Hammers, Tongs, Punches, Seats and Swages, and other useful Tools and Effects, removed as above for convenience of sale, belonging to Messrs. Francis Griffiths and James Williams, who have finished their contract under Mr. William Mills.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.”

1861 Census

COCK HOUSE – Publick

[1] *Hannah Bate* (68), widow, innkeeper, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Sarah Griffiths (16), servant, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Benjamin Plant (60), boarder, gardener, born West Bromwich:

Birmingham Journal 3/12/1864 - Advert

“Lost, on Tuesday, a Black Greyhound Dog, with white breast, hair off between eyes and nose. Answers to ‘Locust.’

Any one returning the same to *John Bate*, COCK, Cock Green, Rowley, will be Rewarded. Any one detaining him after this notice will be Prosecuted.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/9/1865 - Advert

“Lost, on Thursday night, September 21, a Red Milking Cow, with one bow horn, and a brass knob on the other. Any one returning the same to Mr. *John Bate*, Cock Green, near Rowley, will be Rewarded.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/3/1866

“Staffordshire Lent Assizes. *Bate v Griffiths*.

Mr. Huddleston, QC, and Mr. Matthews were for the plaintiff, and Mr. Henry James for the defendant.

The action was brought by the plaintiff, *John Bate*, as executor and trustee of his deceased mother, *Hannah Bate*, who kept a public house at Rowley Regis, to recover possession of two deeds from the defendant, Francis Griffiths, son-in-law of *Hannah Bate*, having married her daughter Sarah. *Hannah Bate*, the testatrix, died in June, 1864, having made a will in August, 1862, under which *John Bate*, the plaintiff, and the brother of *Hannah Bate*, Josiah Parkes, were executors and trustees. The will left some cottages to the defendant, which were subject to a mortgage for £200 advanced by Mr. Parkes. The testatrix had herself advanced £200 on mortgage to a person named Lowe on a piece of land, and she received as security for the advance the conveyance of the land to Lowe and a mortgage deed executed by Lowe to Mrs. *Bate*, and these were the two deeds the possession of which was sought to be recovered, Mr. *Bate* requiring them in order to call in the one mortgage so as to pay off that on the houses left to the defendant. The daughter of the defendant, a young woman, it appeared, used to assist her grandmother, and nursed her in her illness. This daughter in some way, probably by taking them from the house of the deceased, got possession of the deeds in question, and in the first instance gave them into the possession of a person named Plant, who had formerly lodged with the testatrix. She afterwards got them from Plant, and defendant was asked for them in order that the £200 lent to Lowe upon them might be called in, and the mortgage to Parkes on the cottages left to defendant paid. He refused to give them up, saying that he should not part with them until he got the mortgage from Parkes on the cottages left to him. At last he and his wife saw Mr. Boddington, solicitor for the executors, who explained to him that he had no right to the deeds, and that the mortgage could not be paid off his cottage without the deeds, and he at last consented to give them up the next morning to the plaintiff, but on the latter going for

them he again refused to give them up, and did so on several occasions, but never denied that he had the deeds. At last a writ was served on him, and he then said he would throw the matter into Chancery, and a bill was a few days afterwards filed in Chancery. In subsequent letters by defendant's attorney, Mr. Warmington, it was asserted that the defendant had never had possession of the deeds, and at last it was stated that his daughter Hannah had them.

After several witnesses had been called, and it being evident that there was no defence, a verdict was taken for the plaintiff by consent for the amount of the mortgage with interest due, and 1s for detention, and the Judge observed that the defendant was the most stupid man in the county of Stafford. He wanted the mortgage on his property to be paid off, and he knew that the only mode of doing it was by giving up these deeds, which he refused to do. He wanted his own little property made safe, and free of charge, and was determined it should not be by involving it in legal expenses. If that was not an exemplification of a stupid man, he did not know what was."

1871 Census

Cock Green

- [1] *John Bate* (56), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Sarah Bate (54), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Sarah Mancill (15), general servant, born Rowley Regis:

John Bate was also a farmer. [1873]

He was the father of Samuel (FOX HUNT, Old Hill).

County Advertiser 15/4/1876

"John Carter was charged with stealing a horsewhip and rug, the property of John Duce, wine and spirit merchant, on the 1st inst. William James Symonds said he was a traveller for Mr. Duce, and on the day named was delivering some goods for him at Mr. *Darby's*, the COCK INN, Rowley. He had the whip produced with him, and also a rug, which he left in the trap whilst he was in Mr. *Darby's* house. When he came back to the trap he missed the whip and the rug. The value of each of the articles was 5s. Police-constable Wickstead said he received the whip from Mr. *Darby*, but had heard nothing about the rug. He apprehended the prisoner on the 3rd inst, and charged him in the usual manner, to which prisoner replied that he did take the whip, but knew nothing of the rug. Prisoner pleaded guilty to stealing the whip, and said that as he was passing the trap the whip caught him, and he then took it out. He knew nothing at all of the rug.

The Bench committed him to prison for twenty-one days, with hard labour."

1881 Census

16, Dudley Road – COCK INN

- [1] *Henry Heath* (40), licensed victualler, born Churchill, Worcestershire;
- [2] Ruth Heath (40), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Mary Jane Heath (14), daughter, barmaid, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Alfred Heath (11), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Edwin Heath (9), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Edith Ruth Heath (3), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Roland Henry Heath (1), son, born Rowley Regis:

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/7/1883

"Staffordshire Summer Assizes. Archer and Others v *Bate*.

The hearing of this case, which was commenced on Thursday, was resumed by the calling of Timothy Hollis, miner, who gave evidence of remembering the sinking of the pit on Brickhouse Farm and the subsequent making of a roadway from Treacle Lane in the direction of the pit.

Mr. W. Davis, tenant of the Brickhouse Farm from 1869 to the present time, said the road leading from Treacle Lane to the coal pit was closed by a gate, which was kept locked for five years after he became tenant. Then Mr. *Bate* built a house, and two years after that time the gate was forced open. He renewed the lock three or four times, then put up a wood fence, also hurdles, but they were all pulled down. For the first seven years nobody went along the road.

In cross-examination, witness said that within the last seven years Jas. Parkes had gone along the road in question. Witness ordered Parkes away and told him he should summon him if he went that way again, to which Parkes replied, 'You can do so if you like; *Bate* has ordered me to come and says he will find the money if I am summoned.'

Re-examined: A second time he saw Parkes on the road and made him turn back and go up Perry Lane.

Samuel Davis, son of the last witness, confirmed his evidence and testified to the destruction of the fence by James Parkes under the direction of the defendant and his son in 1880. Witness had seen several persons go along the road the last seven years and he had turned them back.

Mr. Archer, surgeon, Birmingham, said he had been one of the trustees of St. John's, Deritend, nearly 40 years. He had instructed the tenants not to allow the road in question to be used as a public road and the first complaint he had was, when the defendant was building his house seven or eight years ago, the lock was broken off the gate. He (witness) gave instructions for the notice board 'No Road' to be put up to caution persons not to go along the road. The minute book of the trustees, the private Act of Parliament relating to the mines, and other documents showing the powers of the trustees were put in by Mr. Matthews.

Mr. Bickerton Williams, surveyor, Birmingham, was called to produce a plan of the Brickhouse Farm, prepared by a former surveyor to the trustees in 1821; but Mr. Anstie objected to his evidence, and the objection was allowed by the Judge.

Mr. Anstie then addressed the jury for the defence. He observed that the defendant's claim was a claim of public right of way..... Mr. *John Bate*, the defendant, said he was 70 years of age, and was born at the COCK INN, Rowley, where he now lived. It was about 140 yards from the fold-yard of the Brickhouse Farm. When he went to school he passed through the fold-yard twice a-day. When he was 21 years of age he went to live at Old Hill, and subsequently he returned to the COCK INN, and continued to use the fold-yard road, which he used more than the new road the first five years after the latter was made. Mr. Levett, the tenant at the time, then asked him to use the new road.

Mr. Mathews objected to the evidence contending that permission by the tenants would not have any affect as against the landlord, and the objection was allowed.

The defendant, in continuation of his evidence, said he was never turned back from the road through the fold-yard. He had seen the new road used by other people ever since it had been made, and he had used it himself. He was never told that he was a trespasser when on the new road till about three years ago. He had never known the gate to be locked till Mr. Davis became tenant of the farm. He had seen people constantly using the new road since he had been ordered to use it. He had used it frequently the last ten years.....”

[The case was subsequently adjourned again.]

Dudley and District News 28/7/1883

“Archer and Others v *John Bate*.

At the Staffordshire Summer Assizes, on Saturday, before Mr. Justice Matthews, the hearing of this case was resumed.....

Plaintiffs are the trustees of St. John's Church, Deritend, Birmingham, and owners of the Brick House Farm, Rowley Regis.

Defendant is the owner and occupier of a narrow piece of land lying between plaintiff's land and Treacle Lane, Rowley Regis. A colliery had been constructed by the plaintiffs on the farm, and for the better approach to these collieries plaintiffs many years ago constructed a road down to the Treacle Lane, along the end of defendant's property. Over this road defendant now claimed a public right of way, which the plaintiffs denied.....”

[The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiffs.]

County Advertiser 29/8/1885

“Yesterday (Friday) morning Mr. E. Hooper (district coroner) held an inquest at the COCK INN, Cock Green, Rowley, on the body of Joseph Kirkham (27), miner, of Cock Green, who was killed at the Rowley Hall Colliery, on Tuesday.

Police-constable Lafford informed the coroner that he summoned a man named Ode Fellows as a juryman, and when the summons was served Mr. Fellows told him he would not attend as he was not a married man.

The Coroner said if he always had to rely on married men he would come very poorly off. He would fine Fellows 10s.

Subsequently Mr. Fellows turned up, and on his offering an apology the fine was remitted.

Mary Garfield, mother-in-law of the deceased, identified the body, and said the deceased was 27 years of age two days before he was killed. Deceased had worked at Rowley Hall Colliery for some time, and witness never heard him make any complaints as to the manner in which the work at the colliery was carried on. Deceased had left a wife and four children.

Abraham Sherwood, deputy manager at the colliery, said that at a quarter to five o'clock on Tuesday morning he made the usual examination of the colliery and found everything to be safe. At seven o'clock deceased and the other men went down the pit, and witness put deceased to work at the corner of No.6 stall, where it was intended to make an air way. Witness marked the timber which deceased was to use and went away. He returned about twenty minutes afterwards, and found the deceased at work with the timber. About half-past nine he went to the place again and then found that the roof had fallen in and the deceased was buried. Men were at once set to work to clear away the debris, but the dead body was not recovered till half-past four in the afternoon. About 20 or 30 tons fell on the deceased. The coal at the colliery was being got in two seams and the deceased was at work in the bottom seam. The road was 'barred and treed,' and when the fall occurred it brought down the timber. The road was about six feet wide and five feet high, and the bars and trees were about three feet apart. There was coal on either side of the road, and the roof was also coal. Before the accident occurred the road appeared to be quite safe, and witness would have had no objection to do the same work as the deceased was set to do. The owners of the colliery provided the timber, and deceased could have had as much as he liked. Witness thought the accident was caused by the deceased hammering the timber too much, and so causing the bars to fall out of position. When taken out the deceased had his pipe in his mouth.

The Coroner: Then is it usual for the men to smoke in the pit? – Witness: I don't smoke myself, but I see no objection to the men smoking, as we use candles. This is the first accident I have had since I have been at the colliery.

The Coroner said the inspector of mines and his deputy were unable to attend the inquiry, but Mr. Pickering, the deputy inspector, inspected the pit on Thursday. If the jury thought the inspector should be present he would adjourn the inquest to enable them to attend, but he thought that if there were anything wrong at the pit the inspector would have written him to that effect. The deputy manager seemed to be a man of experience and a good workman, and he was pleased to find there were gentlemen on the jury who understood the working of a colliery.

The jury thought there was no reason for adjourning the inquest, and returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Sarah Sophia Pearson was the daughter of Samuel Bate of the FOX HUNT, Old Hill.

She married Benjamin *Pearson* in the 1st quarter of 1885.

She married, secondly, Richard *Mason* (the son of Mary Ann Mason, ROYAL OAK), in June 1896.

She died in 1913.

1891 Census

16, Dudley Road

- [1] *Sarah Pearson* (27), widow, publican, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Fanny Pearson* (3), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Elizabeth Davenport* (19), servant, born Rowley Regis:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/6/1891 - Advert

“General Servant Wanted; clean and honest; age about 20.
Mrs. *Pearson*, COCK INN, Rowley Regis, near Dudley.”

County Express 13/6/1891

“*Enoch Powell* (30), and *Samuel Clee* (27), colliers, Springfields, Rowley, were charged with stealing a horse and trap, the property of *Joseph Davies*, butcher, Oldbury, on the 4th inst.

Prosecutor said on the date named he called at the COCK INN, Knowle, between two and three o’clock, leaving his horse and trap outside, in charge of a boy. After he had been in the house about twenty minutes he came out and missed his horse. He made enquiries, and subsequently sent for the police. Witness saw the defendants in the public house. The horse and trap was worth over £40.

James Parkes (12), Dog Lane, said on the previous Thursday he was asked by Mr. *Davies* to take charge of the horse outside the COCK INN. Whilst he was minding it, the defendants came out of the public house, got into the trap and drove away. The men were not drunk. *Clee* took charge of the reins, and they went in the direction of Windmill End.

Mrs. *Sarah Pearson*, landlady of the COCK INN, said the defendants were in her house on the 4th when the prosecutor came in. During the time they were in the house, the defendants had several pints of ale, but she could not say how many.

Police-constable *Hyman* said he received information of the matter, and went in search of the men. He found them in High Street, Dudley, at about seven o’clock the same evening, driving in the direction of the parish church. He arrested the men and charged them. *Clee* said, ‘I knew — well we should get locked up,’ and *Powell* said, ‘Oh, we will get out with three months.’ *Powell* was very drunk, and *Clee* was also under the influence of drink.

Inspector *Bishop* said *Powell* was fined for being on premises for an unlawful purpose a fortnight ago, and *Clee* had been fined for larceny and drunkenness.

Defendants were committed to take their trial at the next Sessions, bail being allowed.”

County Express 4/7/1891

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Enoch Powell (30), and *Samuel Clee* (26), miners, were charged with stealing on June 4th, at Rowley Regis, a mare, a cart, a set of harness, a whip, and other things, the property of *Joseph Davies*. Mr. *Udall* prosecuted.

Prosecutor went into the COCK INN, at Knowle, on business, leaving his horse and cart outside under the care of a little boy.

Prisoners, who had been in the house, went out shortly afterwards and drove off with the cart.

Prisoners said they were drunk, and were only having a ‘spree.’ They were on the way back when arrested.

Prisoners were acquitted.”

1901 Census

16, Dudley Road – COCK INN

- [1] *Richard Mason* (36), mining engineer, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Sarah S. Mason* (37), wife, innkeeper, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Fanny Mason* (13), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Richard Mason* (4), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Minnie Green* (18), general servant, born Netherton:

County Express 31/8/1901

“*James Philip Mansell*, of Oakham, Dudley, and *Richard Mason*, of the COCK INN, Rowley, were charged with ill-treating a horse on July 11th, by causing it to be worked while in an unfit state. *Mason* alone appeared. Mr. *Ruane*, inspector under the S.P.C.A., said like summonses had been taken out against two more persons on the same charge, and were heard at the Court on July 17th, but owing to an admission made by *Mansell*, who gave evidence then, those summonses were dismissed, and further ones taken out against *Mansell* and *Mason*, as the joint owners of the horse in question, and who had sent the horse out to work. Police-constable *Dale* said on July 11th he saw the horse at the Eagle Colliery, and noticed it was very lame on the off forefoot. It was drawing coal from the pit mouth over very rough ground to a wharf. The driver of the animal told him the horse had been lame from the first, the spike of a boat-hook having run into the fetlock. This was much swollen, and matter was oozing out from it. The colliery was in an isolated position, and he had gone there on another errand, or the chances were no-one would have seen the animal.

Mr. *Dawes*, veterinary surgeon, said he examined the injured leg; the horse was, in his opinion, suffering great pain, and had been for some time totally unfit for work.

Mr. *Mason* said this occurred while he was away at Blackpool; when he saw it last, the animal was turned out in a field to recover. The Bench fined each defendant £2 and costs.

Mr. *Mansell* arrived at Court some twenty minutes after the decision had been given, and asked to be heard in defence, but the magistrates said they saw no reason for this.”

Smethwick Weekly News 10/5/1902

“At Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday – before Messrs. W. Bassano, J. H. Smith, G. Green, J. W. Tilley, and C. W. Bassano – *Sarah Sophia Mason*, landlady of the COCK INN, Rowley, was summoned for permitting gaming to take place upon her licensed premises on Easter Tuesday last. Mr. J. W. Clulow prosecuted on behalf of the Chief Constable, and explained that on the date named PC Kent and another man visited defendant’s house, and saw four men playing at a game called ‘tippit’ for beer. Mr. J. S. Sharpe, who defended, admitted the offence, but explained as soon as the landlady became aware that gambling was taking place she stopped it. The house had been owned by the family for 100 years, and defendant had kept it without any complaint from the police for 15 years. The Bench dismissed the case on payment of the costs, £4 8s.

Mr. Bassano (presiding magistrate) said one of the worst features in licensing offences was the endeavour made to bolster up a bad case with a great array of evidence which was palpably far from what it ought to be. It proved that the man who was accused of committing the licensing offence was totally unfit to hold a license. That was the view the Bench were taking more and more, for a man who would bring a lot of people to perjure themselves, as they unhappily had known it to be the case, made the second case worse than the first. He only wished it were possible for the justices to prosecute for perjury more frequently than they could.”

County Advertiser 14/2/1903

“On Wednesday the annual licensing session for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held at the Court House.....

Superintendent Spendlove had given notice that he should oppose the following licenses.....

Sarah S. Mason, COCK INN, Rowley, permitting gaming, and not a fit and proper person.....

License renewed.”

Tipton Herald 14/3/1903

“On Saturday morning last, an inquest was held at the COCK INN, the Knowle, Rowley, by Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) respecting the death of John Northall (46), miner, formerly residing at Dog Lane, Rowley, and who met with a shocking death whilst following his employment at the Warrens Hall Colliery, Rowley, belonging to the Earl of Dudley, on the 4th inst.

Mr. H. R. Makepeace, Government Inspector of Mines, was present at the inquiry, and Mr. Griffiths, certificated manager, represented the owner.

Samuel Hotchkiss, who was working with the deceased on the day of the accident, stated that Northall found it necessary to release a prop which appeared to be safe. When the prop was released about a ton of coal fell upon the deceased, who died ten minutes after he was extricated from the debris.

In reply to Mr. Makepeace witness said he examined the place at least six times on the day in question, and worked himself in getting the bottom coal. When the fall of coal occurred there was no bump and no warning at all. A piece of coal fastened the deceased’s foot to the ground, and when in this helpless condition other pieces fell upon him.

Thomas Bryant, who was also working with the deceased, said he considered the place was safe.

Daniel Gill, chartermaster, stated that the deceased had worked at the colliery about nine months. On the day of the accident he was in the workings and gave instructions for a tree to be set when the coal was being obtained.

Dr. Freer gave medical evidence and explained that deceased had sustained terrible injuries, including a fractured leg and spine.

PC Reynolds also gave evidence and the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Tipton Herald 27/3/1909

“Richard *Mason*, of the COCK INN, Rowley Regis, was summoned under the County Council regulations for failing to report to the police an outbreak of parasitic mange which had occurred at his premises on the 12th inst.

PS Bentley stated that on the date named he called at a colliery at Oakham, Rowley, belonging to the defendant, where he saw two geldings suffering from the disease. Two days later he paid another visit, and saw two other geldings suffering from the disease. Defendant pleaded ignorance of the law. He found the animals suffering from what he thought was the ‘riff’ and he called in a veterinary surgeon to them.

Superintendent Johnson said this was the second prosecution in the district under the new order.

Defendant was fined 20s and costs, Mr. J. Green (chairman) remarking that it was a serious offence.”

1911 Census

20, Dudley Road

[1] Richard Mason (46), colliery proprietor, born Kingswinford;

[2] *Sarah Sophia Mason* (47), wife, married 15 years, licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Richard Mason Jnr. (14), son, colliery clerk, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Fanny Pearson (23), stepdaughter, assisting in business, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Edith Haywood (21), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis;

County Express 10/6/1911 - Advert

“Knowle and Perrys Lake, Rowley Regis. Notice of Sale of Nine Freehold Dwelling Houses.

To Investors and Others. Alfred Hill has been instructed by the Trustees of the late Mr. Richard Griffiths to Sell By Public Auction, at the House of Mrs. Richard *Mason*, the COCK INN, Rowley Regis, on Monday, June 19th, 1911, at 7.30 in the Evening precisely, subject to Conditions of Sale to be then read.....”

Dudley Chronicle 20/7/1912

“One of the cases on the list at Old Hill Police Court on Monday was that of Frederick Bryant, of Rowley, summoned for refusing to quit the COCK INN, Rowley, kept by *Sarah Sophia Mason*. There was a further summons against Bryant for malicious dam-

age. Bryant, however, failed to appear, and a warrant for his arrest was issued.”

Dudley Chronicle 27/7/1912

“A young man named Frederick Bryant, Doulton Road, Rowley, was charged with refusing to quit the COCK INN, Rowley, and breaking a window, value £2.

Mrs. *Mason* said that on the 8th of July prisoner charged a man named Mullett with being the cause of his tap being stopped, and when put out for using bad language, he threw a stone through a window, valued at £2.

Prisoner was fined 15s for refusing to quit, and 1s and costs and the damages £2.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/9/1932

“A motor-cyclist, who was accompanied by a pillion rider, had his jugular vein cut as the result of his head being forced through the window of a saloon car with which he was involved in a collision at the corner of Halesowen Street and High Street, Blackheath, last night.

The motor-cycle was smashed badly.

The car, which was being driven by Percy *Rose*, son of the licensee of the COCK INN, Dudley Road, Rowley, was considerably damaged on one side, the force of the impact smashing the door and breaking all the glass in that side. The driver escaped injury.”

1939 Register

Dudley Road – COCK INN

[1] *Harry Hipkiss*, date of birth 3/9/1903, licensed victualler, married;

[2] *Gladys Hipkiss*, dob 14/1/1904, unpaid domestic duties, married;

A team from here took part in the Rowley Regis Darts League. [1965/66]

Edwin Eric Heal was married to Margaret.

It was damaged by fire in December 1985.

Sandwell Evening Mail 31/7/1986

“Pub landlord *Eric Heal* pulls the first pint in three months at the CLOCK [sic] pub, in Dudley Road, Rowley Regis, tonight following a severe fire which has cost £40,000 to put right.”

Terry Bucknall was a trumpeter with the Ray Ellington Orchestra.

He married June (Mandy Lee) with whom they were entertainers on cruise liners.

She played barmaid Mandy Jordan in “Crossroads”.

Sandwell Evening Mail 10/2/1988

“Crossroads actress Mandy *Bucknall* has swapped the feuds of the Kings Oak motel for the warmth of a genuine Black Country pub. The actress, who plays Mandy Jordan in the soap opera which finishes in the spring, has teamed up with her real-life husband *Terry* behind the bar of the COCK INN in Dudley Road, Rowley Regis.

The pub is the 23rd in the Holt, Plant and Deakin empire and reopened yesterday after a £30,000 refit.

Mandy is in no doubt which bar she prefers to serve behind. ‘It’s a relief to leave the dramas of the motel for the warmth and friendliness of a real Black Country pub.’ Mandy served behind the bar at Crossroads for eight years and reckons her experience will stand her in good stead as she serves real drinkers instead of actors. She will be running the pub with husband *Terry*, a former trumpeter with Ray Ellington’s Big Band.

The COCK INN was badly damaged by fire three years ago and closed for nearly a year.

A pub has stood on the same site since 1693 and Holts have exposed the brickwork and installed a welcoming fire to give the pub a traditional flavour.”

It reopened after a £100,000 refurbishment on 27th July 2000.

Jennifer Hutchinson was married to Clive.

[2019]

Halesowen News 12/4/2021

“Plans to turn a Rowley Regis pub into flats have been submitted to Sandwell Council after ‘anti-social behaviour and violence’ against the owner. The proposal is to transform the COCK INN pub on Dudley Road into nine self-contained flats. A design and access statement states, ‘The applicant runs the public house along with his small family and resides at first floor, the property has been under the same ownership for a number of years now. Over the years the applicant has seen a gradual decline to the business and has faced various incidents of antisocial behaviour and violence against him and his family, whilst running the business. In light of this he has decided to close the premises and redevelop the site to create essential affordable accommodation by way of small one and two bed flats.’ It goes on to state that the vacant land next to the pub ‘attracts antisocial behaviour, noise and disturbance especially during the evenings. The site has been a constant area of concern for the applicant who has over the years had to

pay for various clean ups and the anti-social behaviour has caused the applicant to think of closing the public house and relocate.’ The proposed flats consist of an entrance hallway, lounge/kitchen, separate bathroom and bedrooms. There are 12 parking spaces on plans as well as a garden. The pub would be converted and an extension built to the side of it, to create the one and two-bed flats. The application will be considered by Sandwell Council planners.”

Express & Star 25/5/2021

“A troubled Rowley Regis pub where the owners were driven out by violent attacks will be turned into apartments. Planning officers at Sandwell Council gave the green light to convert the COCK INN, on Dudley Road, into nine one-and-two-bedroom flats. The venue was shut after suffering from a string of problems including violence, anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping. It is hoped the proposal, put forward by the owners listed as Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, will spell the end for the trouble previously suffered there.....”

Halesowen News 30/3/2022

“A troubled Rowley Regis pub where the owners were driven out by violent attacks looks set to be turned into homes. An application to convert the COCK INN, on Dudley Road, into three houses has been submitted to Sandwell Council. The bid, which also includes plans for a two-storey extension, is from Trinity Asset Holdings of Solihull. The council gave the green light to plans to convert the building into nine one and two bedroomed flats last year, but this has not gone ahead. The venue was shut after suffering from a string of problems including violence, anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping. The previous application for flats had said, ‘Over the years the applicant has seen a gradual decline to the business and has faced various incidents of anti-social behaviour and violence against him and his family, whilst running the business. In light of this he has decided to close the premises.’ It said, ‘The vacant land adjacent can attract anti-social behaviour and young males can be found congregating there late at night, smoking, drinking, causing a nuisance. The site also attracts fly tipping and our client has on many occasions had to take rubbish to the local recycling centre, this then causes vermin infestation.’ In the new application for three three-bedroom houses the owners of the site are listed as Mr. and Mrs. Johnson. The proposal includes spaces for ten cars.”

Express & Star 11/10/2022

“A former Black Country pub at the centre of violence and anti-social behaviour problems is set to go under the hammer later this month. The COCK INN, on Dudley Road in Rowley Regis, is being offered with a guide price of more than £295,000 at Bond Wolfe’s next auction. It comes after plans to turn the site into apartments were rubber-stamped earlier this year – after the owners were forced out through violence. But now it is set to go under the hammer at the Bond Wolfe auction which starts at 9.30am on October 27, with the pub featured among 158 slots. Ian Tudor, joint managing director auctions at Bond Wolfe, said, ‘The range of commercial opportunities available in our October auction means there is something to attract all levels of investment and we are expecting strong interest and competitive bidding.’

Planning agents BSP Design – who put forward proposals to turn the pub into flats – said earlier this year there had been a ‘gradual decline’ to the business, with various incidents of anti-social behaviour and violence directed against the owner and his family. And in light of this it was decided the pub would close and the site would be redeveloped with anti-social behaviour issues – and other fly-tipping issues – being tackled through the flat plans. It has planning permission for conversion and extension to create three dwellings or alternatively to convert and extend the building to provide nine self-contained flats. The auction will be live-streamed via Bond Wolfe’s website with remote bidding by proxy, telephone or internet.”

COCK AND BULL

Graingers Lane, CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

LICENSEES

COOKSEY’S HOTEL

62, (25), (13), (8), Halesowen Road, OLD HILL

OWNERS

Thomas and Isaac Badger

Thomas Cooksey (acquired on 6th May 1850)

Ruth Cooksey (acquired on 27th September 1855)

James Holcroft [1897]
Frank Webb, Quarry Bank (acquired on 28th September 1897 for £1,910) [1919]
Smith and Williams
J. Hanson & Son (acquired on 1st August 1934)
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

Thomas Cooksey (1850 – 1855);
Mrs. Ruth Cooksey (1855 – 1874);
James Holcroft (1874 – []
Cooksey [1874]
Mrs. Cooksey [1876] – [1878]
John Edward Corser [] – 1881)
Thomas Clarke [1891] – [1893]
Mrs. Emma Clarke [1896] – [1897]
John Thompson (1898 – []
John Mansell [1900]
William Meldrum McWhirter (1900 – 1903);
Nebo Littlewood (1903 – [1912]
Edward ‘Teddy’ Burchell (1913 – [1916]
Thomas Kench [1919] – 1922);
James Henry Beaven (1922 – 1927);
Arthur John Benton Jew (1927 – 1930);
Richard Arnold Owens (1930 – 1932);
Benjamin Timmington (1932 – 1940);
Beatrice Ann Timmington (1940 – 1944);
Benjamin Bennett (1944 – 1945);
William Henry Marshall (1945 – 1948);
Jack Harris (1948 – 1954);
Raymond Arthur Weston (1954 – 1960);
Harry Horan (1960 – [1965]
Bill Bennett []
Len Peplow []
Kenneth Johnson [] – 1972);
Mrs. Shirley Johnson* (1972 – 1993)
Mrs. S D Southall* [1993]
Nicola Tinker and Wendy Hipkiss [2001]
Nicola Tinker [2002]

NOTES

8, Halesowen Road [1891]
13, Halesowen Road [1896], [1900], [1908]
25, Halesowen Road [1911], [1912], [1916], [1924], [1932], [1939], [1940]
62, Halesowen Road [1993]

The building was originally Old Hill courtrooms and police station.

Job Green sold his wife Lydia outside here.

Thomas Cooksey bought the hotel from Thomas and Isaac Badger on 6th May 1850.
He was also a farmer of 70 acres at Primrose Hill, Netherton.
He died on 27th September, 1855.
His widow was *Ruth*, who died in 1904 aged 81.
They were the parents of Thomas ‘Lawyer’ Cooksey.

Birmingham Journal 9/10/1852 - Advert

“Important Sale of Farming Stock, Implements of Husbandry, and Other Effects, at Old Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis.
To be Sold by Auction, by Thomas Pitt Stokes, on Monday next the 11th – all the Live and Dead Farming Stock; consisting of fifteen strong and powerful Waggon Horses, a capital Pony, Gearing, Carts, Waggons, and other Implements, a capital Wheat and Oak Rick, about 20 tons of well-ended Hay, 100 bags of potatoes, 35,000 good sound Bricks, Rick of Barley Straw, about 20 tons

of Bolten Straw, with other very useful Articles, the property of Mr. *Thomas Cooksey*, of the HOTEL, at Old Hill, in the parish of Rowley Regis, who is declining the Farming Business.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 20/9/1854

“Unjust Weights and Measures. No less than 52 delinquents of this description were today fined as follows.....
Rowley Regis..... *Thomas Cooksey*, one quart and one pint, 2s 6d.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/1/1856

“On Thursday, a labouring man, named James Harding, was charged with stealing a piece of roast pork, part of a loaf, part of a roast fowl, and a bottle of vinegar, the property of Mrs. *Ruth Cooksey*, an innkeeper, at Old Hill, on the night of Christmas day. It was shown that the prisoner was formerly employed by the prosecutrix, and that on Tuesday night he, in common with the rest of her servants, partook of a free supper at his old mistress’s. The articles named in the charge were placed in a larder near the kitchen, and the prisoner was seen in suspicious proximity to the same. On the property being missed he was accused of taking it, and he then tried to make his escape, and dropped a piece of the missing loaf. He now denied the charge.

Mr. Leigh: Why did you run away? – The prisoner: I thought it was my best way to get off. (Laughter.)

The prosecutrix: He told me this morning it was done and could not be undone.

Mr. Leigh (to the prisoner): Is that true? – Prisoner: Yes sir, it is.

Mr. Leigh remarked on the prisoner’s ingratitude and sentenced him to hard labour for seven days.”

County Advertiser 4/10/1856

“We beg to remind such of our readers whose names have been objected to as not being eligible to be on the list of voters, for the southern division of this county, that Thomas Anthony Lister, Esq, Barrister at Law, will hold his Court at the STAR INN, in this town, on Friday next, at ten o’clock in the morning, to revise the list of voters for the parish of Kingswinford and the hamlet of Amblecote.

The same gentleman will also hold a Court at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill, on the previous day, at two o’clock in the afternoon, for the parish of Rowley Regis.”

County Advertiser 20/6/1857

“During the night of Monday last, a cock and two hen fowls of the black Spanish breed were stolen from the back premises of COOKSEY’S HOTEL. The hens have been since found by the police secreted in the bottom of a hedge a little way from the place, but no clue to the thieves has yet been obtained.”

County Advertiser 25/7/1857

“Thomas and James Hackett, nailers, of Rowley, were charged with assaulting a parish constable, named Emanuel Perry, on the 4th inst. The defendants were creating a disturbance at Mrs. *Cooksey*’s HOTEL, at Old Hill, and the complainant having been requested to remove them, Thomas Hackett gave him two black eyes. James Hackett afterwards attempted a rescue. In the scuffle the constable’s hand was much injured. Thomas was fined £2 and costs, and James £1 and costs.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/1/1858

“For the last three weeks the horse nail makers of Old Hill, Quarry Bank, and Oldswinford, have been on strike, owing to a proposed reduction in their wages. The reduction is 2d per thousand, which amounts to about 8 or 10 per cent on the men’s wages. A small portion of the men have resumed work at the reduction, but the remainder seem determined not to do so. On Monday last, a meeting of some five or six hundred horse nail makers took place at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill. They expressed themselves determined not to submit to a reduction.”

Birmingham Journal 1/5/1858 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Property consisting of Eight Dwelling Houses and Land, with the Thick Coal, and other Mines and Minerals Thereunder, situated at Old Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis and County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Bateman, on Friday Next, 7th day of May, at Six o’clock in the evening, at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, at Old Hill aforesaid, and subject to conditions then to be produced.....”

This was, for many years, a popular venue for public auctions.

County Advertiser 1/1/1859

“On the 24th ult an inquest was held at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill, before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, (coroner) on the body of Richard Wellings, a miner, 35 years of age, who met with his death by being run over by a coal wagon on the 23rd ult. Deceased was in the employ of the New British Iron Company at Bear Moor Colliery, Rowley Regis. No person was present when the accident occurred, but a man named William Clark found deceased lying on the tramway, cut all to pieces, and it is supposed that the unfortunate man must have been overtaken by a wagon, and before he could get out of the way, knocked down, and run over, thus causing the injuries which resulted in instantaneous death. The verdict returned was Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 30/4/1859

“On Tuesday last, about 100 persons sat down to an excellent dinner at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, being the annual meeting of the delegates of the several lodges belonging to the Samaritan Order of Odd Women.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/1/1861 - Notice

“County of Stafford. Weights and Measures. District C. or South Staffordshire.

Notice is Hereby Given that William Tullett, the Inspector of Weights and Measures.....

Will attend at the undermentioned Times and Places for the purpose of Comparing and Examining all such Weights and Measures as shall be brought to him for that purpose, and Stamping such of them as shall be found correct.....

At the COOKSEY HOTEL, at Rowley Regis on Thursdays, January 17th, February 14th, and March 14th, 1861, at ten o'clock am.....

All persons residing in the said District, desirous of having their Weights and Measures Stamped, may bring or send them to any of the above places for adjustment, as shall be most convenient; or to No.29, King Street, Wolverhampton, on any other than the days above appointed.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/2/1861

“The Horse-nail Strike. This suicidal affair still continues. The condition of the men is very distressing, but they hold out in the faint hope that the masters will succumb. A meeting en masse of the men was held at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill, when the old resolutions to hold out were re-iterated.”

1861 Census

Reddall Hill – Bourn Brook

[1] *Ruth Cooksey* (37), widow, licensed victualler, born Rowley;

[2] *Sophia Cooksey* (17), daughter, born Dudley;

[3] *Joseph Cooksey* (12), son, born Dudley;

[4] *Ruth W. Cooksey* (8), daughter, born Rowley;

[5] *Thomas Cooksey* (6), son, born Rowley;

[6] *Sarah Beaumont* (20), domestic servant, born Rowley:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 11/9/1861

“New cells adjoining COOKSEY’S HOTEL, where the Petty Sessions are held, are in the course of construction, and will be soon completed. Hitherto the police have only had a single cell for the safe custody of all the offenders of Rowley – an accommodation which was sadly too limited. For the future, therefore, prisoners who are unlucky enough to be incarcerated there will not only have additional comforts, but stronger means of detention will be employed to baffle their escape. A commodious house is also being fitted up for the residence of an officer.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/1/1863

“A meeting of horse-nail makers, at present on strike, was held yesterday afternoon, at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill. The meeting was well attended, and the chair was occupied by Mr. Payton, of Quarry Bank. The Chairman, in his opening the proceedings, referred to the duration and cause of the present strike. The origin, he stated, was the fact that the tradesman at Belper, in Derbyshire, was dealing with one of the employers of labour in this district, and the manager of Messrs. Guest wished the leaders of the Union to induce the men not to work for the Belper firm, or their wages would be lowered. The horse-nail makers were reduced without notice 3d per thousand as the Union leaders would not act as wished, consequently the greater number of them came on to the funds of the Union, and the strike took place. The ‘brazil’ makers also came out for similar reasons. After some further remarks the Chairman called upon Mr. Hackett to address the meeting. In the course of his remarks Mr. Hackett said that the men were willing to return to their work at the same rate of pay as the other masters were paying, but they were determined to stand out until they were paid the amount they claimed. There was no disposition on the part of the men to raise any fabulous grievance; they were willing to work, and do their duty to their employers so long as they were properly paid (cheers). Mr. Josiah Ball condemned the course adopted by Mr. Ball (the manager of Messrs. Guest and Charlton), who he said, had attempted to tyrannise over the workmen, and dictate to them in an unconstitutional manner. Referring to the amount earned by the various workmen in the trade, he said that it was a very difficult matter for even the best workmen at the ‘brazil’ trade to earn above 4s a day, which was much below the average pay of ordinary labouring men.....”

County Advertiser 14/2/1863

“On Monday evening last, a concert took place at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill. The large room was completely filled with a most respectable audience. The performers were Madam Poyzer, Miss E. P. Selman, Mr. J. O. Davis, Mr. Fellowes, Mr. G. Mainwaring, and Mr. Troman, who presided at the pianoforte. All the performances were given in a superior manner, and there were frequent encores.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/12/1864 - Advert

“Foreman Carpenters Wanted, immediately, for Railway Construction.

Apply, with references from last employer, to W. H., COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill, near Dudley.”

The Royal Marlborough Lodge of A.O.F. met here. [1865]

Stourbridge Observer 25/2/1865

“On Thursday evening a grand ball was held at COOKSEY’S HOTEL. Upwards of 60 lovers of the dance assembled, and moved

on the 'light fantastic toe' to the melodious strains of Collier's String Band, of Brierley Hill, till the clock struck the wee hours, and then they parted, well pleased with the evening's pleasure."

County Advertiser 4/3/1865

"On the evening of Thursday week a ball, in connection with the Cradley Heath Cricket Club, took place at COOKSEY'S HOTEL, Old Hill. There were about sixty ladies and gentlemen present; and the music was provided by a string band, under the direction of Mr. Collier, Brierley Hill. All the arrangements were excellent, and the party kept up the dance till an early hour next morning."

Stourbridge Observer 22/7/1865

"On Friday evening the 14th inst, the members of the Working Committee, on whom a great amount of labour has happened to fall, and who had all the trouble in getting up and successfully carrying out the late great demonstration in connection with the Ancient Order of Foresters, met together at COOKSEY'S HOTEL, to partake of a supper as a kind of reward for their late services, and also to hear the auditors read the report they had prepared. About 40 sat down to supper. Ample justice was done to the good things provided, which were of first-class quality.

After the withdrawal of the cloth, Brother Timothy Parkes was appointed unanimously to take the chair, and also Brother Lowe the vice chair. After Brother Talbot, the District Chief Ranger, had opened the meeting in the usual manner, the Chairman called upon the auditors to read their report. From this it appeared that the money taken at the gates at Hagley Park amounted to £145 0s 8d, whilst the expenses amounted to £88 13s 11½d, leaving £55 7s 10½d, which was the amount they had realized by the demonstration....."

County Advertiser 26/8/1865

"The annual licensing meeting was held yesterday, at COOKSEY'S HOTEL, Old Hill. The magistrates present were Messrs. Barrs, Moore, and Cochrane. There were eight applications for new licenses, not one of which was granted. The renewals amounted to eighty-three."

County Advertiser 7/10/1865

"The cricket season of the Cradley Heath Cricket Club was closed on Tuesday night by a convivial meeting. About thirty of the members and their friends sat down to an excellent supper, at COOKSEY'S HOTEL, Old Hill. The chair was occupied by Mr. Phillips, surgeon, Rowley, and Mr. Wright occupied the vice-chair. The toasts usual on such occasions were given and responded to. A number of excellent songs were sung, and altogether a very enjoyable evening was spent."

Birmingham Daily Post 23/11/1865

"On Tuesday evening, Mr. Tinkham, agent and manager to Sir Moreton Peto, the contractor for the Stourbridge Extension Railway Company, was entertained at dinner, at COOKSEY'S HOTEL, Old Hill, by a number of friends and gentlemen who had had business relations with him. The occasion was the presentation to Mr. Tinkham of a handsome silver tea and coffee service, cups, salver, &c, valued at upwards of £100 The dinner was creditably put upon the table by Mrs. *Cooksey*, the hostess....."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/10/1866

"Mr. Granville Somerset, the Revising Barrister, held a court for the revision of the county list for the parish of Rowley Regis, at COOKSEY'S HOTEL, Old Hill, on Saturday afternoon. Mr. Green, of Wolverhampton, represented the Conservative interest, and two objections were sustained in consequence of the representations of this gentleman. The Liberal party were not represented at the court."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/10/1866

"Mr. Hooper, yesterday, held an inquest at COOKSEY'S HOTEL, on the body of Charles Richards, aged 45, wagoner for Messrs. Pickford. The deceased had for some time complained of pains in his side and head, and had taken medicine to alleviate them. On Monday last whilst with his wagon, he fell to the ground insensible near the Old Hill toll-bar, and upon Mr. Moore, surgeon, being called in he found that life was extinct. The jury upon the evidence adduced returned a verdict to the effect that deceased had died from Disease of the Heart."

County Advertiser 20/4/1867 - Advert

"COOKSEY'S HOTEL, Old Hill.

An Amateur Concert will take place at the above Hotel, on Tuesday, April 30th, 1867, in aid of the Cradley Heath Cricket Club. Conductor: Mr. Troman.

Tickets may be had at Mrs. *Cooksey*'s, Old Hill; Messrs. Townsend, Drapers, Cradley Heath; Mr. Rainbow, Cradley Heath; and the Members of the Club.

Doors open at Half-past Seven; to commence at Eight o'clock."

County Express 27/4/1867 - Advert

"Wanted, a good General Servant.

Apply to Mrs. *Cooksey*, COOKSEY'S HOTEL, Old Hill."

County Advertiser 4/5/1867

“On Tuesday last, an amateur concert was given at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill, in aid of the funds of the Cradley Heath Cricket Club. Mr. Troman officiated as conductor. There was a good attendance, the reserved seats being filled; and the various pieces were very creditably performed.”

Stourbridge Observer 11/1/1868

“The annual tea party and ball took place at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, on Monday evening last.

Upwards of ninety sat down to an excellent tea provided by Mrs. *Cooksey*, after which they adjourned to the ball room, where dancing was kept up with great spirit to the strains of W. Field’s (of Dudley) Quadrille Band, until four o’clock, and everything passed off well.”

County Express 19/9/1868 - Advert

“Under Distinguished Patronage. Dancing and Exercises for Deportment.

Mr. Gifforde Reynolds, Violinist, and Teacher of Dancing, from Bath and Clifton, respectfully announces to the Gentry and Inhabitants of Brierly Hill, and its vicinity, that his classes are opened at Mr. Skidmore’s, BELL HOTEL Assembly Rooms, which have undergone improvements, and decorated for the season.

Juvenile Class every Wednesday afternoon at Two o’clock. Class for Ladies and Gentlemen same evening at Eight o’clock.

Mr. R. attends at Old Hill, at Mrs. *Cooksey*’s Hotel.

Juvenile Class every Thursday at Two o’clock. Ladies and Gentlemen’s Class at Eight o’clock same evening.

Pupils will be received at the following Schools: Mrs. Rowley’s Boarding School, Byfield House, Oldswinford, near Stourbridge; Miss Jarvis’s Ladies’ School, Lozells, Birmingham; and Mrs. Richardson Cooke, Clifton Road School, Aston.

Schools and Families attended.

Letters addressed to Mr. Skidmore’s, BELL HOTEL, Brierly Hill, where terms may be known, will be immediately attended to.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/10/1868

“West Staffordshire Election. The Conservative Candidates at Old Hill.

Messrs. Smith Child and Meynall-Ingram, the two conservative candidates for the western division of the county of Staffordshire, addressed an influential meeting yesterday of their supporters at COOKSEY’S HOTEL. The meeting was held at one o’clock in the magistrates’ room, which was crowded.....”

County Advertiser 24/12/1868 - Advert

“COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill.

The Annual Tea Party and Ball will be held on Monday, January 4th, 1869.

Tickets, 1s each. Tea on the Tables at Five o’clock. An efficient Band is engaged.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/1/1869

“The Police held their annual dinner on Wednesday, at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/11/1869

“Water in The Mines in the Old Hill District.

Our issue of the 28th ult contained some reference to this subject from a correspondent. From inquiries in the locality we find that what our correspondent recommended had been already anticipated, for on the 3rd of September we learn that a meeting was held at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill, by the leading firms affected, and action was agreed upon. Only a day or two since another meeting of the principal parties has been held, and a mining engineer (Mr. Henry Johnson) has been appointed to prepare a report of the state of the water in several collieries, to be presented at the future meeting. Meanwhile we hear that a large pumping engine in the pond, and which has been lying idle for many years, is to be set to work with all possible speed, and no doubt another will soon follow, and so prevent the loss of a very valuable tract of mines in the district referred to. We hail with satisfaction such combinations for getting rid of that common enemy in the mines – water. This object is to be accomplished at Old Hill at the joint expense of the coal-owners in the neighbourhood.”

County Express 9/7/1870

“On Monday, the 3rd inst, the members of the Court Loyal Marlborough, Ancient Order of Foresters, held their anniversary at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill, where they partook of an admirable feast served with the usual good catering of the hostess. The meeting afterwards was made the occasion of a presentation of a handsome silver medal to their secretary.....”

County Advertiser 27/8/1870 - Advert

“Lost, from a field at Darby Hand, on the night of Wednesday, the 24th inst, a Milch Cow, colour red, with long horns, aged.

Any person restoring the same to Mr. *Cooksey*, COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill, will be Rewarded.”

Stourbridge Observer 24/9/1870

“The annual Wake was held on Monday last. There were a large number of shows, swing-boats, velocipede, circular railways &c, &c, in a field at the back of COOKSEY’S HOTEL. The Wake extended to Blackheath, Rowley Regis, and Cradley Heath.

A large number of persons were at the various places during the day.

There were some pony races at Rowley on Monday and Tuesday, which were witnessed by a large concourse of people.”

County Advertiser 4/3/1871 - Advert

“Wanted, a strong Servant Girl, about 18 or 20. Character indispensable. Apply, Mrs. *Cooksey*, THE HOTEL, Old Hill.”

1871 Census

Halesowen Road – COOKSEY HOTEL

- [1] *Ruth Cooksey* (48), widow, maltster and publican, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Joseph Cooksey (22), son, railway clerk, born Dudley;
- [3] Thomas Cooksey (16), son, solicitor’s clerk, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Ruth Wright Cooksey (18), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Ann Maria Perkins (21), general servant, born Dudley;

Birmingham Daily Post 12/8/1871 - Advert

“Staffordshire. Freehold Steam Flour Mill and Dwelling Houses, Rowley Regis, Rowley.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. John Bent, at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill, on Tuesday, August 29, 1871, at Six o’clock in the evening.....”

Stourbridge Observer 19/8/1871

“Early on Monday morning Cradley Heath was all astir and hundreds of persons could be seen wending their way towards the Five Ways to witness the procession of Foresters, which was announced to take place that day. The weather being fine thousands of persons were present to witness the procession through the various streets. Ten o’clock was the appointed time for starting, but it was nearly half-past eleven before they got away, owing to their having to wait for some of the Courts from a distance.

The various Courts assembled at the Five Ways, and then formed themselves into order of procession. The following Courts were represented: No.3068, Hope and Anchor, QUEENS HEAD, Corngreaves Street, Cradley Heath; No.3595, Cable and Anchor, BIRD IN HAND, Cradley Heath; 4127, Good Samaritan, BEEHIVE, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath; 4196, Foresters’ Home, VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath; 4233, Loyal Shenstone; 4340, Loyal Marlborough, COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill; 4398, Moss Rose, ROYAL OAK INN, New Town; 4546, Robin Hood’s Merry Rangers, CROWN INN, Five Ways; 4970, Lye Reformed, WINDMILL INN, Lye. Although the district of Cradley Heath and Halesowen comprises 36 Courts, only nine took part in getting up the Fete.

The procession started from the Five Ways, headed by the Cradley Heath Brass Band. The Pensnett Victoria Brass and Reed Band and the Halesowen Drum and Fife Band also took part in the procession. Each band played lively quick steps passing through Lomey Town, Five Ways, Four Ways, Reddal Hill, Old Hill, and Haden Hill, en route for Halesowen, passing through the principal streets and then to the Leasowes. The procession was three-quarters of a mile in length, and was accompanied with three magnificent banners bearing suitable mottoes of the Order, and a large number of flags, the members wearing the various badges of the Order, and accompanied by Robin Hood, Little John, Will Scarlet, Friar Tuck, Shepherds, &c, &c.

On arriving at the beautiful and classic grounds, famed as having been the seat of the poet Shenstone, the procession passed round the house of B. Gibbons, Esq, who had kindly placed the whole of the grounds at the disposal of the Committee.....

There was a number of shooting galleries, Aunt Sallys, and other things to amuse all classes. During the day a number of balloon ascents took place.....

It is estimated that between six and seven thousand persons were present, upwards of £100 being taken at the gates, and it is expected there will be a good surplus in aid of the funds of the Order and General Hospital.

We must not close without a word of praise to the Committee, who were indefatigable in carrying out the arrangements according to the programme. The refreshments were provided by Mrs. S. Cartwright of Cradley Heath, and the tea and confectionery by Mr. J. Corns of Wolverhampton.”

County Advertiser 26/8/1871

“The annual licensing session for Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division was held yesterday at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill. The Magistrates present were Messrs. E. Moore, F. W. G. Barrs, and N. Hingley. During the year three licensed victuallers and three beerhouse keepers have been convicted. They were each reprimanded by the Bench, and their licenses were renewed. The applications for the renewal of old licenses numbered 86, and those for beerhouse licenses 55. The applications were all granted. All the applications for new licenses were refused.”

Stourbridge Observer 27/1/1872

“Meeting of Engine Winders at Old Hill. A meeting of the colliery engineers of the above district was held on Saturday last, at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill, to consider the advisability of asking for a reduction in the hours of employment and an increase of wages, when the following different classes of workmen were present, viz, colliery winders, mill and forge enginemen, blast enginemen, brick-kiln enginemen and others.

The Chairman, in opening the meeting, showed the men the necessity of combining together, and urged them to form a branch society, the same as that of the Amalgamated Engineers, when all who were present enrolled their names. The pits of the above district were very large, and a great quantity of coal was sent to the surface, in comparison with the quality drawn where the mines ran shallow, and required much more vigilance to be exercised by the engineer. It was proposed to send a memorial to the masters for the reduction in the hours of labour, and an increase in wages. The meeting was then adjourned until Saturday evening next.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/3/1872 - Notice

“County of Stafford. Weights and Measures, District C, or South Staffordshire.

Notice is hereby given, that I shall attend at the undermentioned times and places for the purpose of Comparing and Examining all such Weights and Measures as shall be brought to me for that purpose, and Stamping such of them as shall be found correct....

At COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill, on Thursday, May 2nd, 1872, at ten o’clock am....

All persons residing in the said District desirous of having their Weights and Measures stamped should bring or send them to any of the above places for adjustment, as shall be most convenient, upon the days and at the hours mentioned.

Persons within any local jurisdiction for which a separate Inspector is appointed cannot have their Weights and Measures Examined or Stamped by the County Inspector.

J. George Horder. Inspector of Weights and Measures for District C, or South Staffordshire.

Goldthorn Hill, Wolverhampton, March 16th, 1872.”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/6/1873 - Advert

“Found, on June 11, near Langley, silver Geneva Watch. Owner can have same on paying expenses.

Apply, J. *Cooksey*, HOTEL, Old Hill, Dudley.”

County Advertiser 18/10/1873

“It is very gratifying to find that the friendly societies in the Black County cheerfully respond to the appeal lately made to them on behalf of the Guest Hospital, Dudley. At Dudley, Tipton, Gornal, and other places, the Foresters, Free Gardeners, and Oddfellows, have recently had an hospital Sunday, and on Sunday the Foresters of Rowley Regis parish, 800 in number, had theirs. Fortunately, the weather was fine. At two o’clock a batch of members, headed by the Dudley Rifle Corps Band, started from COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill, and marched to a field at Blackheath, where it had been arranged the procession should be formed. The other courts, headed by the Spinners End Sax Horn Band, were in attendance at the appointed time, and as soon as they were all arranged in their proper order, the members started for the Parish Church, followed by thousands of orderly persons. Although the church has accommodation for 2,000 only, at least 3,000 men, women, and young people managed to get inside the edifice. Over a thousand more wanted to be present at the service, and the vicar, on being informed that such a large number remained outside his church, arranged for an open-air service, which was conducted simultaneously with that held in the church. The sermon was preached by the Rev. T. Ward (vicar), who made a powerful appeal to his hearers to support the Guest Hospital. The two collections amounted to £27 14s 7d.”

Dudley Guardian 12/9/1874

“On Wednesday, the Magistrates sitting in petty sessions at Mrs. *Cooksey*’s HOTEL, decided to grant an extension of one hour to the publicans on Monday and Tuesday evening next, the occasion being the annual wake.”

Stourbridge Observer 7/11/1874

“An inquest was held on Tuesday at Mr. *Cooksey*’s HOTEL, before Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, touching the death of Ellen Homer, aged 4 years. From the evidence adduced, it appears that deceased was playing in the Halesowen road with other children, when a cart which was passing, belonging to Mr. Cooper, grocer, Dudley, caught the child, knocked it down and the wheel passed over it, causing immediate death. Other evidence was given which went to show that it was purely accidental, and the jury found a verdict of Accidental Death.”

County Express 11/11/1876

“A discovery of an extraordinary nature occurred at Old Hill early on Saturday morning last. A man named John Priest found the dead body of a male child wrapped in a portion of an old black skirt with an outer covering of paper, in a garden adjoining Dog Lane. A wall separates the garden from the road, and the body had evidently been thrown over. Information was given to the police, and Dr. Standish subsequently made a post mortem examination. At an inquest held on the body at COOKSEY’S HOTEL on Tuesday night, Dr. Standish described the result of his examination, stating that the child had lived after birth, but that death had been caused by haemorrhage. The jury returned an open verdict of Found Dead.”

County Express 11/11/1876 - Advert

“Wanted, a steady Girl, about 16 of 17 years old, as General Servant.

Apply, Mrs. *Cooksey*, at the HOTEL, Old Hill.”

County Express 6/1/1877 - Advert

“Rowley Regis School Board Election.

Grand Complimentary Banquet to Messrs. Bassano, Ker, Hingley, Hunt, and Bradley.

COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill, January 12th, 1877.

Dinner at Five O’Clock.

Tickets 10s 6d each, to be obtained from Messrs. Richard Green, Cradley Heath; Edwin Burgess, Old Hill; and Joseph Connop, Blackheath.

Immediate application necessary, as the number is necessarily limited.

G. A. H. Best, Hon. Sec.”

County Express 13/1/1877

“Last night a grand complimentary banquet was given at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, to Messrs. W. Bassano, JP, Ker, Hingley, Hunt,

and Bradley, the victorious candidates in the recent school board election. There was a numerous and influential company, and the proceedings were most enthusiastic.”

County Express 13/1/1877

“Trinity Church. The men and boys who lead the singing at Old Hill Church and Schools, sat down to a sumptuous dinner last week, at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, presided over by Walter Bassano, Esq, JP About fifty sat down to the feast, to which thorough justice was done The boys sang several pieces with much credit to their trainer (Mr. B. Cartwright) and the evening was diversified by an exhibition of numerous interesting devices, including an electrifying machine, the latter being an object of special attraction. It should be added that it is doubtful whether any Cathedral choir in England ever sat down to such a banquet as the boys of Old Hill New Church and Schools enjoyed on Wednesday evening. We may also observe that there are now 900 children in attendance every Sunday at Trinity School, Reddal Hill, and that the new building erected at the sole cost of the late Miss Haden, of Haden Hill, will shortly receive these children, the building being almost complete.”

County Advertiser 24/3/1877

“William Turton and Thomas Yeomans, labourers in the employ of Mrs. *Cooksey*, COOKSEY’S HOTEL, were charged with committing a breach of the peace, by fighting in the highway, at the Cross, Old Hill. Police-constable Sylvester proved the offence. Defendants were ordered to pay the costs.”

County Express 7/4/1877

“At the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions on Tuesday, the question as to the removal of the Petty Sessions, at present held at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill, came before the magistrates. A memorial, a draft of which has appeared in our columns, was presented from the inhabitants, praying that the Sessions might not be removed, as their removal would be a source of great inconvenience to persons having recourse to magisterial proceedings. Col. Fletcher, JP, and Mr. W. Bassano, JP, were present. The Police Committee consider that Cradley Heath might be transferred to Brierley Hill without inconvenience, and Tividale similarly to Tipton, whilst Old Hill, Rowley and Blackheath would, undoubtedly, be inconvenienced by the removal of the Sessions to Brierley Hill. It was eventually suggested that the matter remain in abeyance until it is ascertained what course will be adopted with regard to the extension or re-arrangement of the Stipendiary district, and with that view the question remains open for the present. At the same time it was recognised that Petty Sessions would not be entirely removed from the Rowley parish. It may perhaps be worthy of notice that the memorial was opposed by one inhabitant.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/11/1877

“Anti-Popery Demonstration.

On Monday night there was a grand display of fireworks given in a field called the ‘Mace,’ at Old Hill, in the presence of some thousands of people. The display was got up by subscription, and was announced by the bills in which ‘the two Popish plots’ – the Gunpowder Plot and ‘the Popish Plot of 1877’ – were referred to as parallel. After the demonstration there was a supper given at COOKSEY’S HOTEL. Mr. Underwood occupied the chair. Mr. Best (Haden Hill) proposed the toast ‘The Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese, excluding the Ritualists.’ In replying the Rev. J. Ormiston (vicar of Old Hill) expressed his conviction that the English Protestants had too long been content to hold defensive tactics, and it was now high time to assume the offensive in order to circumvent the Papists. The proceedings were characterised by much enthusiasm.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/1/1878 - Advert

“COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill, near Dudley; an old-established house. Rent £40. Lease eleven years unexpired. Goodwill £450. Valuation £150.

For particulars, apply to Joseph Greenway, Valuer, 12, Cannon Street, Birmingham.”

County Express 9/11/1878

“On Tuesday evening last a dinner commemorative of the Gunpowder Plot was held at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, to which about seventy of the leading Protestants of the neighbourhood sat down. The dinner was served in Mrs. *Cooksey*’s well-known style, and after full justice had been done to the good things provided, the cloth was withdrawn, and Dr. Ker was called to the chair.....”

County Express 9/8/1879 - Advert

“Wanted respectable Young Men to form a New Cricket Club at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill.”

Dudley Herald 6/3/1880

“The annual dinner of the Old Hill and Cradley Heath Conservative Association was held on Monday evening at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill. About 120 gentlemen sat down to an excellently-served repast.....”

Dudley and District News 10/7/1880

“On Wednesday the new Police Buildings, which were completed some time past, were taken possession of for the transaction of the business of the Petty Sessions for this district. Hitherto the police courts have been held at a public house in the neighbourhood, known as COOKSEY’S HOTEL, and, although the accommodation there was as good as could be provided at similar places, the completion and opening of the new buildings must be hailed with satisfaction by the magistrates of the division, the solicitors accustomed to practice at the Court, and all others who have to attend it in a professional capacity. The new buildings are situate near to the church, fronting the main street, and comprise a spacious and airy Court-room, magistrates’ retiring room,

witnesses' waiting room, charge office and cells, together with house room, provided for the accommodation of Inspector Walters. The buildings were built by Messrs. Higham, contractors, of Wolverhampton, from designs furnished by Mr. Griffiths, the county surveyor, the total cost of their erection being between £3,000 and £4,000.

Mr. J. Stokes, on behalf of the legal gentlemen who attended the Court, congratulated the magistrates present that at last a building had been secured which accorded with the dignity which should attend the administration of justice. It had occurred to his mind when practising at the old premises that it was rather an anomaly for a person to be brought directly under the influence and temptation of drink and then afterwards be punished for yielding to the temptation. That state of things was now ended, and whilst he congratulated the Bench on the greater facilities afforded for the administration of justice, he only hoped that year by year, consequent upon the spread of education, there would be less need to deal with offending persons."

Dudley and District News 12/2/1881

"*John Edward Corser*, landlord of a public house known as COOKSEY'S HOTEL, Old Hill, was summoned for permitting gaming on his licensed premises.

It appeared that on the evening of the 31st ult, two police-constables, named Hawkins and Garrat, from Brierley Hill, visited the defendant's house in plain clothes. Whilst they were there the defendant's son supplied several youths with a dart board. After some time had elapsed the defendant himself entered the room and challenged anyone to play him at this for a 'smoke.' One of the company played him, and the defendant lost. Subsequently, at the invitation of defendant, a side of four, which included himself, was formed to play for a jug of ale, and this was won by the landlord and his partner, and paid for by the two losers. Two other men afterwards played for 'smokes.'

Defendant pleaded guilty, but urged that he was not aware that he was doing wrong, and informed the Bench that he had since burnt the dart board. He was fined £2 and costs, without any endorsement of his license."

County Express 2/4/1881

"On Thursday morning Inspector Walters, of Old Hill, arrested *John Edward Corser*, landlord of the public house at Old Hill, known as COOKSEY'S HOTEL, on board the 'Garth Castle,' lying at Dartmouth, where it had touched on its outward voyage. The prisoner left home on Sunday with his wife and children, and taking his goods with him, and on Wednesday Inspector Walters received a telegram apprising him that *Corser* was on his way out on board the vessel named. The allegation is that he has embezzled the sum of £20 belonging to a Forester's Club which met at his house, and on this charge he will be brought before the magistrates."

1881 Census

8, Halesowen Road – uninhabited

West Bromwich Weekly News 16/4/1881

"*John Edward Corser* was brought up on remand charged with embezzling £20, the money of the Loyal Marlborough Lodge of the Ancient Order of Foresters, lately held at the defendant's house, COOKSEY'S HOTEL.

Mr. Cooksey, who appeared for the prosecution, applied for the case to be withdrawn, on the ground that defendant had undertaken to pay the money and pay all costs in the matter.

Mr. Stokes, for the defendant, said he ought not to let this application pass without making some remarks on behalf of his client. He could not help thinking the whole proceedings and the great inconvenience his client had been subjected to, had arisen entirely through a misapprehension and there was not the slightest necessity for the proceedings. His client was the landlord of the hotel at which the Petty Sessions were held, and as landlord of the house he became treasurer of the friendly society lodges held there. Although he knew nothing of the society the money was placed in his hands, and that was the utmost that such treasurers knew about. Sometimes the landlord owed a considerable sum to the society and sometimes the society owed a considerable sum to the landlord. The defendant, in accordance with the usual rule, provided substantial bail. Unfortunately for the defendant the hotel did not prosper, and having the opportunity of a good appointment in South Africa, he went away with his family, sending a letter (read) to his brother, stating that he had left the hotel, and asking him to pay the money owing to the society, which he thought was about £5 or £6, and promising to pay it back again. He said he forgot it in the hurry of leaving. He mentioned this to show that he had not left the district dishonestly or dishonourably.

The Bench allowed the case to be withdrawn."

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.

John Edward Corser, COOKSEY'S HOTEL, Old Hill, permitting gambling, 40s and costs.

The persons in the black list were called before the Bench with the exception of *E. Corser*, he having left that house, and had their licenses suspended till the adjourned licensing day."

Birmingham Daily Post 23/9/1881 - Advert

"Old Hill. Old-established and full-licensed Inn, with Malthouse attached, and known as COOKSEY'S HOTEL. Nothing asked for in-coming, a respectable tenant only desired.

Herbert Humphries, Hotel Valuer, Brierley Hill, Staffordshire."

County Advertiser 24/9/1881 - Advert

“To Brewers, Maltsters, Innkeepers, and Others.

To Let, with immediate possession, that Old-established, Full-licensed, and capially situated Inn, known as COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill. With proper management a good trade may be done. There is a well arranged Malthouse connected with the Inn, completely fitted. Nothing will be asked for incoming, a respectable tenant only desired.

Apply to Herbert Humphries, Auctioneer and Hotel Valuer, Brierley Hill; private residence, No.2, Lapley Villas, Bell Street.”

1891 Census

8, Halesowen Road – COOKSEY’S HOTEL

[1] *Thomas Clarke* (36), licensed victualler and house painter, born Dudley;

[2] *Emma Clarke* (32), wife, born Dudley;

[3] Ernest G. Clarke (8), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Arthur R. Clarke (5), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Edith M. Clarke (3), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Mary Brownhill (25), domestic servant, born Dudley:

Birmingham Daily Post 19/5/1891

“Yesterday, at a special petty sessions held at Old Hill, before Mr. A. H. Bassano, Thomas Stanley (37), glassblower, and George Alfred Yates (20), painter, both of no fixed abode, were charged with breaking into COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill, on the 14th inst, and stealing therefrom a pair of boots and 1s in money.

Prisoners were arrested by Police-constable Insley at a lodging-house at Dudley, on suspicion of being concerned with the robbery. Evidence was adduced to show that prisoners were in the hotel twice on the night the burglary was committed, and were ejected for disorderly conduct, but as the police were unable to connect them with the robbery they were both discharged.”

Thomas Clarke was also a plumber. [1892]

He issued tokens from here.

Birmingham Daily Post 21/4/1892

“Last night a meeting of licensed victuallers was held at COOKSEY HOTEL, Old Hill, to take into consideration the replies of Mr. Brooke Robinson and the Hon. H. Spensley to questions which had been addressed to them with respect to their views on licensing questions. It being considered that the reply of Mr. Brooke Robinson was favourable to the trade it was decided to support his candidature at the next general election.”

County Advertiser 8/4/1893 - Advert

“To Plumbers, Painters, &c.

COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill.

Mr. R. Underwood will Sell by Auction, on Monday, April 10th Next, at Eleven o’clock am, the Stock-in-Trade, Tools, Plant, &c, belonging to Mr. *Thos. Clarke*, who is giving up the Business.

Auctioneer’s Office, Old Hill.”

County Express 27/2/1897

“Albert Wilkinson, a young man, of Flood Street, Dudley, was charged with being drunk and disorderly on the 20th inst, also with refusing to quit the licensed premises of *Emma Clarke*, COOKSEY’S HOTEL, and further with damaging a window, the property of Mrs. *Clarke*. On the evening named defendant entered COOKSEY’S HOTEL, drunk. He was refused and requested to leave. Defendant was ejected three times and threatened to smash the windows. When outside Wilkinson smashed eight panes of plain and ornamental glass, of the value 7s 6d. When in the street defendant was arrested by Police-constable Beach. Defendant was fined 10s for the drunkenness, 5s and costs for refusing to quit, and 5s and costs and 7s 6d damage on the charge of breaking the panes.”

County Express 25/9/1897 - Advert

“The Attention of Brewers, Syndicates, Spirit Merchants, Maltsters, Licensed Victuallers, and Others, is particularly directed to the undermentioned Valuable Freehold Licensed Properties.

Mr. Herbert Humphries, FAI, has pleasure in announcing instructions from the Trustees of the late James Holcroft, Esq, to Submit to Public Competition, at the DUDLEY ARMS HOTEL, Dudley, on Tuesday, September 28th, 1897, at Six for Seven o’clock in the Evening.....

Lot 3. Is, without exception, one of the most Substantial and Commodious Fully-Licensed Inns in the Rowley and Old Hill districts. It comprises the well-known COOKSEY’S HOTEL, occupying a grand position at Old Hill. The elevation is imposing, and the structural arrangements are everything that can be desired to provide adequate accommodation for the large trade and domestic requirements.

The Premises are Double-fronted, with Bay Windows and separate Entrances for the Out-door department.

The accommodation comprises Large and Lofty Vaults, Smoke Room, Private Sitting Room, Kitchen, Pantry, etc; Six Bed Chambers, Assembly Room, etc; Excellent Cellaring, with rolling way; Large Yard, approached by covered gateway; Piggeries, Stable with Loft over, Brewhouse, etc.

This House will, to a considerable extent, benefit by the extensive development which will shortly be made, and its present value

enormously increased. Possession will be given on completion.”

County Express 2/10/1897

“On Tuesday evening Mr. Herbert Humphries, auctioneer, of Brierley Hill and Stourbridge, held a most successful sale of licensed property at the DUDLEY ARMS HOTEL, Dudley.

The first three lots submitted were by order of the trustees of the late Mr. James Holcroft.....

Lot 3, COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill, was purchased by Mr. F. Webb at £1,910.....”

1901 Census

Halesowen Road

- [1] *William M. McWhirter* (44), publican, born Old Hill;
- [2] *Jemima A. McWhirter* (39), wife, born Stourbridge;
- [3] *Gilbert E. McWhirter* (17), son, born Old Hill;
- [4] *Ethel McWhirter* (15), daughter, born Old Hill;
- [5] *William M. McWhirter* (13), son, born Old Hill;
- [6] *Alice Mabel McWhirter* (11), daughter, born Old Hill;
- [7] *Mary Jane McWhirter* (9), daughter, born Old Hill;
- [8] *David McWhirter* (7), son, born Old Hill;
- [9] *James Henry McWhirter* (5), son, born Old Hill;
- [10] *Jessie E. McWhirter* (2), daughter, born Old Hill;
- [11] *Minnie Belcher* (21), domestic servant, born Dudley:

William Meldrum McWhirter – see also CROSS, CROWN, WIZARD AND GLASS and CORNGREAVES HOTEL.

A team from here took part in the Rowley Regis and District Air-Gun League. [1903]

County Advertiser 9/1/1904

“*Nebo Littlewood*, landlord of COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, was summoned for permitting drunkenness upon his premises on the 19th ult.

Mr. J. W. Clulow, who prosecuted, explained that on the night in question Police-constable Horne visited the public house. Upon the officer going into the bar he noticed that the kitchen door was closed, and he asked the landlady if there was anyone in that room. Mrs. *Littlewood* replied that there was not, but Horne went into the room and saw a man named William Weston in a helpless state of drunkenness. The officer was unable to get the name of the man, and he was compelled to lock him up. Evidence in support of this statement was given by Police-constable Horne.

For the defence it was urged that the landlady refused to serve Weston with beer, and also requested him to leave the premises, and when the constable entered the house she was under the impression that he had gone.

The Bench fined defendant £5 and costs, amounting in all to £7 12s 6d.”

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 grounds of a conviction against the house.....

COOKSEY HOTEL, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, kept by *Nebo Littlewood*.....

In the case of COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill, Superintendent Johnson said he had served notices of opposition to the renewal of this license upon the ground that it was not required, and that it was difficult of supervision, and that the landlord had been convicted of an offence against the Licensing Laws. He wished to withdraw the opposition respecting proper police supervision, as alterations had been carried out at the premises which met the requirements of the police.

In reply to Mr. Waldron, who represented the landlord, Superintendent Johnson said that since the conviction the house had been properly kept.

The Bench granted the renewal of the license.”

County Advertiser 18/8/1906

“The tenth annual parade of the Old Hill Friendly Societies, on behalf of the local medical charities, will be held tomorrow afternoon in a field lent by Mr. A. E. Sidaway The order of procession will be.....

The Cradley Heath Town Prize Band will start from COOKSEY’S HOTEL.....”

Birmingham Mail 19/9/1906

“At Old Hill Police Court, today, the magistrates were engaged for nearly two hours in hearing a case in which Stephen Bannister, a miner, residing at Dallow Street, Old Hill, was charged with being drunk and disorderly.

Police-constable Davies said that on the 1st inst he saw the defendant in Hales Owen Road, Old Hill, in a drunken condition.

Mr. F. W. Green, who defended, contended that the policeman had exceeded his duty and had instituted the proceedings as the result of a grudge he held against defendant.

In reply to Inspector Gibbs, defendant said a subscription list had been raised at COOKSEY’S HOTEL for the purpose of engaging a solicitor to defend him, as people sympathised with him owing to a wrongful charge having been made against him. He left

his club on the night in question perfectly sober. He denied meeting Police-constable Davies on the following night and asking him not to report the matter. He declared that the officer had manufactured the evidence.

A number of witnesses called for the defence stated that defendant was perfectly sober.

The Bench considered the case proved, and fined defendant 15s, including costs.”

County Express 8/8/1908

“On Sunday afternoon there was held the twelfth annual service promoted by the united friendly societies in the Old Hill district. The occasion was favoured with brilliant weather, and there was a large attendance at the services. The proceedings opened with a large procession, which aroused considerable interest in the district. The Old Hill Ironworks Band started from the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Wrights Lane, at one o’clock, and proceeded to the OLD HOUSE AT HOME INN for sick and draw club, through Cherry Orchard, calling for Court Robin Hood’s Cave and BRITISH OAK sick and draw club; by way of Wagon Street, calling for Success-to-the-FOX-HUNT Lodge; Elbow Street for Court Benjamin and KINGS HEAD sick and draw club; Halesowen Road, calling for Provident Institution, and on to the field. The Cradley Heath Salvation Army Band started from COOKSEY’S HOTEL at one o’clock with Snowdrop Lodge, by way of Halesowen Road, calling for Court Loyal Marlborough; Bank Street, Queens Street, High Street, and on to the field. The Cradley Heath Town Prize Band started from the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill, with Court Robin Hood the Brave; by way of Reddal Hill Road, calling for the WHY NOT sick and draw club, and on to the BRIDGE INN for Welcome to the Bridge Inn Lodge, across Plant Street, Lawrence Lane, Clyde Street, Petford Street calling for Druids Society; Pear Tree Street, Riddings Street, New Street, Halesowen Road, calling for Court Royal Sherwood and Rechabites Society and ROYAL EXCHANGE sick and draw club; High Street to the field. A grand procession was then formed.....”

1911 Census

25, Halesowen Road – COOKSEY’S HOTEL

[1] *Nebo Littlewood* (44), licensed victualler, born Quarry Bank;

[2] Polly Littlewood (36), wife, married 17 years, born Quarry Bank:

Edward Burchell = Edward Burchall

James H. Beaven = James H. Beavon

Richard Arnold Owens = Richard Arnold Owen

1939 Register

25, Halesowen Road

[1] *Benjamin Timmington*, date of birth 13/2/1880, licensee, married;

[2] Beatrice A. (Timmington) Conlin, dob 21/ /1898, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] David Timmington, dob 18/3/1916, warehouse man, chain depot, single:

Benjamin Timmington’s first wife was Emma.

He remarried.

He was also a chainmaker.

He was the father of David Timmington, who played football for Old Hill Wanderers, Sheffield United, Halesowen Town, West Bromwich Albion, and Chelmsford City.

Conveyance 2/7/1934

“All that piece of land situate at Old Hill in the Parish of Rowley Regis in the County of Stafford fronting to main road leading from Halesowen to Dudley and bounded at back by an occupation road on one side by property now belonging to David Morby and on the other side by property now belonging to Mrs. Willetts And Also all that messuage or tenement now being on the said land or on some part thereof used as an Hotel and known as COOKSEY’S HOTEL together with the brewhouse, piggeries, stable and other outbuildings and appurtenances thereto belonging.....”

Bill Bennett was married to Joan.

William Henry Marshall – see also VINE, Blackheath.

A team from here took part in the Cradley Heath Darts League. [1970]

Len Peplow was married to Daisy.

Kenneth Johnson was married to *Shirley*.

He died in 1972.

See also WHY NOT.

* possibly the same person (remarried?)

Sandwell Evening Mail 7/3/1986

“Darts There were a couple of surprises in the Netherton Thursday League. Leaders COOKSEY were pushed all the way before beating lowly HOPE TAVEN B by the odd game, while third-placed WHITE LION (Cox’s Lane) suffered only their fourth defeat in 23 matches. They went down 4-3 to WHITE SWAN (Cradley Road).”

A team from here took part in the Netherton Sunday Darts League. [1986]

Sandwell Evening Mail 19/8/1989

“Kind-hearted customers at three Black Country pubs have given a huge boost to a £4,700 appeal for a heart monitor at Halesowen and Stourbridge ambulance stations. Regulars at the BALDS LANE TAVERN, in Lye, donned fancy dress for a tour of 12 pubs in the area at the weekend and raised £225. Now the pub is planning to raise another £100 though a cabaret night on September 2.

Customers at the COOKSEY pub in Halesowen Road, Old Hill, raised £170 through a sponsored 10-mile run to the Clent Hills and back and another sponsored event where a regular travelled on as many buses as he could in 12 hours. This figure was on top of £330 already raised at the COOKSEY thanks to a jumble sale and a pub crawl.

Regulars at the WHITE LION, Cox’s Lane, Old Hill, have also got in on the fund-raising act. A dozen customers completed a sponsored pub crawl on Friday and collected £417. Mrs. Elaine Gordon, who runs the pub with her husband Robert, said that a car boot sale and a raffle were also planned and it was hoped to raise £1,000 altogether towards the appeal.

Halesowen ambulance station officer Mr. Bev Barrett said he was delighted with the efforts of the three pubs and was very grateful for what was being done for the appeal. He added that it was hoped to raise over £1,000 from an open day being held at the Halesowen station, in Old Hawne Lane, on September 9.”

Old Hill Homing Society was based here until 2006.

[2006]

Halesowen News 19/1/2007

“A Cradley Heath pub, which recently shut its doors, could soon be demolished and redeveloped into a residential home if Sandwell Council planners give the green light. The council has received a planning application for the GOLDMINE public house, formerly the BLUE BALL, and its current fenced off car park in Peartree Lane. The application, submitted by Brightwell Properties Ltd, outlines plans to demolish the Victorian pub and construct a 38 bedroomed care home for the elderly. Planning Officer Mike Nicholls has recommended council planners pass the plans, stating a nursing home for the elderly would be an acceptable use in a residential area. Sandwell Council have also received an application to demolish the COOKSEY public house, with plans to build six two bed apartments. The traditional Victorian pub in Halesowen Road, has been closed and de-licenced for the past three years. Both applications will appear in front of councillors at a future planning committee meeting.”

Halesowen News 16/2/2007

“Ambulance crews attended the old COOKSEY public house in Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath at 11.30pm last night, after reports of persons trapped in a fire. After firefighters searched the building, no-one was found and the ambulance crew were stood down.”

Closed [2007]

Demolished [2009]

Housing was built on the site.

COOMBS TAVERN

Gorsty Hill, OLD HILL

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Joseph Parkes [1863]

Joseph Barnsley [1866]

NOTES

“On Saturday afternoon, Mr. Edwin Hooper, the Coroner, opened an inquest at the house of Mr. *Joseph Parkes*, the COOMBS TAVERN, at Gosty Hill, on the body of Maria Robinson, aged 52 years, who died on Wednesday morning, from injuries she is believed to have sustained at the hands of Joel Holloway (not Oliver, as has been previously reported), a man with whom she cohabited. Mr. William Darby was the foreman of the jury. Holloway was brought up in custody, and was present during the inquest, and at different parts of the evidence he sobbed and repeatedly gave utterance to exclamations acknowledging that he was the cause of deceased’s death. During the inquiry a large number of the inhabitants assembled and remained around the door of the house until the proceedings terminated and the prisoner removed. The jury viewed the body, which was lying at the deceased’s house in the village, and on their return to the room the inquiry was conducted.

James Robinson was called and examined. He said: I am a tailor and live at Quinton. Maria Robinson, the deceased, was my sister. The body the jury have just viewed is that of my sister. She was not married, I believe, but she lived with Joel Holloway. She had done so for many years. They resided at Gosty Hill. Last Wednesday morning some person came to me and told me that Joel Holloway had killed my sister, and that I was to go to the house. I did not believe the statement, and therefore did not go to the house. I have heard many a time of their having quarrelled, and that he had struck her. She often complained to me of his ill-treatment, and I advised her to go to the workhouse. She has left him on some occasions, and has been in the workhouse. She had nine children by him.

By a jurymen: I don’t know that she was last confined at the workhouse.

The prisoner in answer to the usual question from the Coroner as to whether he wished to ask the witness any question, said, ‘No; she was his sister, and he’ll say what he likes. I believe, Sir, that I was the cause of her death, but I did not do it wilful.’

Eliza Robinson, called, said: I am a single woman, and I live at Gosty Hill. I am daughter of the deceased. I lived with her and Joel Holloway. They frequently used to quarrel. This affair occurred on Monday night. Holloway was at home all that day. They were on good terms until about eight o’clock at night, when they had a few words about my having gone out on Sunday night. He scolded me for it, and afterwards some of the neighbours said he had run me upstairs with a knife. Holloway said it was my mother, and at the same time threw a hammer at her. (The hammer, which was here produced, was an ordinary nailer’s hammer, and was used by the prisoner in his trade as a nailer.) The hammer struck her on the pit of the stomach and she bent down, and shouted, ‘Oh, Lord, oh.’ I helped her to Holloway’s anvil, and then he came and struck her with his hand twice on the side of the head. When Holloway threw the hammer he said, ‘There, you b——, I’ll kill you.’ He was in a great passion at the time. My mother went to bed soon after she was struck; on the following morning she came down stairs. She looked white, but dare not tell me anything. She could not eat her dinner. When my father came to dinner she was lying on the bench, but they never spoke to each other.

By a jurymen: Three of the neighbours came to the house door, but they could not get in unless father or I, who were in the shop, drew the bolt.

By the Coroner: My mother was assisted to bed on Tuesday night by my eldest sister. My father slept on the bench during the night. He had done so on Monday night. She got up on Wednesday morning at half-past seven. She was dressed, excepting as to her shoes. She came down stairs, and sat upon a chair by the fire. She called me and said, ‘I think one part of me is a dying.’ I then went into Mary Jones’s and asked her to go for a doctor. She went and a doctor came. I don’t know his name. When he came she was dead. She had died in the arms of Mary Cashmere, who was in the house at the time

The prisoner said the witness’s evidence as to his striking her was incorrect. He asserted that he merely took the hammer from her.

Sophia Baker was the next witness. She deposed: I am the wife of John Baker, a greengrocer. We live in Gosty Hill. I knew Maria Robinson. I had known her for eight or nine years. About half-past eight o’clock on Monday night, her youngest daughter came to me at my house, and said deceased was very ill. She said I had to go to the house in a minute. I asked her what was the matter, and she replied, ‘Why, father’s thrown a hammer at her.’ I went to deceased. She was in the outhouse. The door was open. She appeared to be very ill. I asked her what was the matter, and she said, ‘Joel has thrown a hammer at me, and hit me across the bottom of the abdomen.’ She said she felt very ill. Two of her daughters led her into the house, and I followed them. When we got inside I asked her to lie down, and she said she could not. Her son-in-law came in and sent for sixpenny worth of brandy for her. I gave it to her in three times. I last saw her on that night at a quarter to ten o’clock, when she was up stairs in bed. Holloway was sitting in the corner of the down stairs room at that time with his son-in-law. He made no remark, and never endeavoured to relieve deceased. He was quite sober. He had been working until about the time I saw him in the room. I next saw deceased at half-past ten on Tuesday morning. She was very ill. She was lying on the bench down stairs. She could neither eat nor drink. I went again about eleven o’clock the same day, when the house door was fastened. I went to Joel in the shop. Eliza Robinson was there, and I asked how her mother was, and she shook her head, but never spoke. Joel said he would not have the old b—— (meaning the deceased) nor the children there, or he should be hung for them if he had. I saw deceased again on Wednesday morning about nine o’clock. She was sitting on a chair before the fire. The house was crowded. She said she was dying. Joel knew of her illness. I held her in my arms until she died. She had not lived more than five minutes after I entered the house. Just before she died Joel left the shop and went towards Black Heath. The deceased had been in bad health for about four months previous to her death. Joel and she frequently quarrelled. He was a very frenzy man, but when his pet was over he was as good as a man could be.

Sarah Smith was the next witness. She said: I am the wife of James Smith, a fitter, and live with him at Gosty Hill. On Wednesday morning, about seven o’clock, a neighbour came to my house and said the door (meaning Holloway’s house door) was open, and if I had a mind to go into the house he would watch outside and see that Joel did not harm me. I was afraid to go to the house, because people said he was such a frenzy man, and would not care to run one through with a red hot iron. I did, however, go, and found the deceased sitting by the fire. I asked her if she knew me, and she looked up, but did not say a word. I saw she was dying, and I alarmed the neighbours, and they came into the house. I saw Joel that morning just after the deceased died. He was

standing near the shop, and as we passed a man told him the neighbours would have a policeman sent for and give him into custody. He said, 'All right, I'll be the same man; I'll sing 'too looral looral' when the rope's on,' at the same time pointing to his neck. I laid deceased out. She had a bruise on the left temple, and on the right shoulder, and a third on the right wrist. The inquest was then adjourned until tomorrow (Tuesday) morning, when other witnesses will be produced, and the result of a post-mortem examination stated."
[At the adjourned inquest the jury, after about five minutes' consultation, returned a verdict of Manslaughter, and the prisoner was committed for trial at the next Stafford assizes.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/7/1863

"Staffordshire Summer Assizes.....

Joel Holloway, 61, nailer, pleaded guilty of the manslaughter of Maria Robinson, at Rowley Regis, on the 4th of May. The old man sobbed bitterly and implored the mercy of his Lordship.

The learned Judge, in passing sentence, said the prisoner had committed the crime of manslaughter, the deceased being a woman who had lived with him as his wife. He threw at that woman a hammer, which struck the lower part of her person, and caused her death. There was no suggestion that he had maliciously and wilfully caused her death, and he had said he had no intention to take away her life. Still, he had taken her life away in an unjustifiable manner, and it could not be overlooked without a substantial punishment. That punishment would be six months' imprisonment."

County Advertiser 15/4/1865 - Advert

"Gorsty Hill, Rowley Regis.

Mr. Chandler will Sell by Auction, on Monday Next, April 17th, 1865, at Three o'clock in the Afternoon, the useful Household Furniture, Two Thirty-hour Clocks, Case of Preserved Birds, Nailers' Anvils, Bellows, Tools, and Effects, removed for convenience of sale to the COOMBES TAVERN, Gorsty Hill, aforesaid, for Rent."

County Advertiser 13/1/1866

"On Tuesday last an inquest was held at the COOMBS TAVERN, Gorsty Hill, before Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, on the body of George Lowe, two years of age, the son of a carter, who died from injuries he received by being scalded on the 7th of December. It appeared from the evidence that on the day in question the mother of the deceased placed a pot containing some hot pig's meat on the floor. The deceased stumbled against the pot, overturned it, and was severely scalded. He was attended by Mr. T. Moore, surgeon, Cradley Heath, but he died on the 4th inst. Verdict, Accidental Death."

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. *Joseph Barnsley*, COOMBS HOTEL, Coombs Wood, Gorsty Hill. There was no opposition. Granted."

CORNGREAVES HOTEL

75, (93), Graingers Lane, (Corngreaves Road), (Halesowen Street), CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

William Oliver and Sons Ltd.

Thomas Darby, Old Hill [1919]

George Henry Oliver (acquired on 2nd February 1927)

J. A. and A. Thompson, maltsters, Orchard Street, Oldbury

William Butler and Co. Ltd. (acquired on 27th April 1945)

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

Brenda and Howard Westwood (acquired in July 1987)

LICENSEES

Joseph Cole Snr. [1865] – 1876);

Mrs. Ann Cole (1876 – 1885);

Joseph Cole Jnr. (1885 – 1904);

William Meldrum McWhirter (1904 – [1905]

Joseph Cole [1908]

George Frederick Cole [1909] – 1925);

George Henry Oliver (1925 – 1926);

Isaac William Lunn (1926 – 1928);

Robert Llewelyn Robinson (1928 – 1932);
William Poulton Cole (1932 – 1933);
Maria Robins (1933);
William Ernest Read Wilkins (1933 – 1948);
Mary Adelaide (Wilkins) Kirkham (1948 – 1958);
George Warwick Kirkham (1958 – 1964);
Ronald Thomas Hill (1964 – 1976);
Arthur James Clutterbuck (1976 – 1985);
Christine Jennifer Ward (1985);
Sheila Mary Trafford (1985 – 1987);
Anthony McMahan (1987);
Howard Westwood (1987 – [1994])

NOTES

Halesowen Street [1873]
93, Graingers Lane [1881], [1891]
75, Graingers Lane [1939], [1940]

Joseph Cole was also a grocer. [1868], [1870]

County Advertiser 29/2/1868

“On Tuesday week Mr. *Joseph Cole*, of the CORNGREAVES HOTEL, distributed to the poor of Cradley Heath 120 loaves of bread and 100 gallons of soup.”

County Advertiser 27/2/1869 - Advert

“A Sixty-Night Money Club will commence at the House of *Joseph Cole*, CORNGREAVES HOTEL, Cradley Heath. Any Person becoming a Member will much oblige their humble servant, *Joseph Cole*.”

County Advertiser 19/6/1869 - Advert

“To Let, a Butcher’s Shop and Premises, with an Acre and a half of Land, situate at Darby End, near Dudley. Apply, Mr. *Joseph Cole*, CORNGREAVES HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

Joseph Cole was described as being also a butcher. [1873]

J. Cole and Son were saddle and harness makers. Their shop next door was incorporated into the pub and became the smoke room.

1871 Census

Corngreaves Road – CORNGREAVES HOTEL
[1] *Joseph Cole* (48), publican, born Dudley, blind;
[2] *Ann Cole* (49), wife, born Halesowen;
[3] *Mary Ann Cole* (21), daughter, born Dudley;
[4] *Elizabeth J. G. Cole* (19), daughter, born Dudley;
[5] *Joseph Cole* (15), son, scholar, born Dudley;
[6] *Sarah May* (18), general servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 7/9/1872 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant Girl. One used to a public house preferred. Apply to Mr. *Joseph Cole*, CORNGREAVES HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 11/1/1873 - Advert

“A Sixty-Night Money Society will Commence on Tuesday, January 14th, 1873, at the CORNGREAVES HOTEL. Any person becoming a Member will oblige the Landlord *Joseph Cole*.”

County Advertiser 29/5/1875 - Advert

“Wanted, Two good General Servants. Apply, Mr. *Joseph Cole*, CORNGREAVES HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 26/6/1875 - Marriages

“On the 22nd inst, at Halesowen (by the Rev. J. Stone), Thomas, fourth son of Mr. Samuel Darby, of Old Hill, to Elizabeth Jane Granger, youngest daughter of Mr. *Joseph Cole*, CORNGREAVES HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 3/7/1875 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant, from 20 to 30. One accustomed to a public house preferred. Apply, Mrs. *Joseph Cole*, CORNGREAVES HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 4/9/1875 - Advert

“Wanted, a strong Man, used to cows and horses; a good milker preferred. Apply, Mr. *J. Cole*, CORNGREAVES HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 1/1/1876 - Deaths

“On the 23rd inst [sic], at CORNGREAVES HOTEL, Cradley Heath, aged 52 years, Mr. *Joseph Cole*; deeply regretted.”

County Advertiser 29/4/1876

“At Wednesday’s Police Court, the following transfers took place..... CORNGREAVES INN, from *Joseph Cole* to his widow.”

County Advertiser 28/10/1876 - Advert

“Wanted, a respectable middle-aged Working Housekeeper for an Inn. Good references; also a Lad to assist. Apply, Mr. *Joseph Cole*, CORNGREAVES HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 5/5/1877

“On Monday last, Mr. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the CORNGREAVES HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on the body of Joseph Somers, aged 50 years, a chainmaker. It appeared that deceased met his death by drowning, his body having been discovered in a pool at Pig Lane, on Saturday. It came out in evidence that Somers had been lately addicted to drinking, and had been for some time in very low circumstances. He had been repeatedly heard to say he would ‘make a hole in the water.’ Verdict, Suicide whilst of Unsound Mind.”

Dudley and District News 18/9/1880 - Advert

“Cradley Heath. To Capitalists, Brewers, and Others.

A Most Valuable Old-Established and Well-Situated Hotel at Cradley Heath, in the County of Stafford.

Messrs. Harrison and Humphries have been favoured with instructions to Sell By Auction, on the premises, on Monday, the 4th October, at Six for Seven o’clock in the evening, under conditions to be then produced, incorporating the conditions of the Birmingham Law Society.

All that excellent Freehold old-established and full-licensed House and Grocer’s Shop, situate opposite the entrance to the extensive works of the New British Iron Company, at Corngreaves, and known as the CORNGREAVES HOTEL, and surrounded by other works and collieries. The House is most conveniently and substantially built, and includes seven Bedrooms, Spirit Vaults, large Tap Room, Smoke Room, and Domestic Apartments, and a spacious Assembly Room, where the Ironworkers’ Union and other meetings are held. The Cellaring is large and well drained. The outbuildings are well arranged, and consist of Two-Stall Stable, with Loft, Piggeries, Coach House, Malt and Hop Rooms, and large retire Yard, with gateway entrance. The premises are well laid out, and adapted for the introduction of the Corn or Barrel trade. Gas and water is laid on throughout. The above Hotel has always commanded a large, lucrative, and respectable trade, has not changed hands since its erection 16 years since, and is being sold entirely in consequence of the owner retiring from business.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. Thomas Homer, Solicitor, Brierley Hill, or to the Auctioneers, Broad Street, Birmingham.”

1881 Census

93, Graingers Lane

[1] *Ann Cole* (59), widow, licensed victualler, born Halesowen;

[2] *Henry Cole* (20), son, grocer, born Halesowen;

[3] *Mary A. Stevens* (13), adopted child, born Cradley;

[4] *Mary A. Smith* (25), domestic servant, born Birmingham:

Dudley and District News 23/6/1883

“E. Hooper, Esq. (district coroner), held an inquest at the Police Station, Old Hill, yesterday (Friday) morning, touching the circumstances connected with the death of John William Mountford (27), a single man, and a police constable in the Staffordshire Constabulary, and stationed at Cradley Heath. On Wednesday, the 20th inst, his dead body was found in a pool of water in Pig Lane, Old Hill. Mr. Superintendent Woollaston (Brierley Hill) and Inspector Walters attended the enquiry.

PS George Shaw said the deceased had been stationed with him at Cradley Heath for a little over two years and a half. Witness last saw him alive at a quarter-past two o’clock on Monday afternoon, the 18th inst. At that time deceased, who was off duty, left the station, and did not say where he was going or what time he should return. His time to resume duty would be seven o’clock the same evening, but he did not return at that hour, or during the whole of the night. Soon after seven o’clock witness made enquiries as to his whereabouts, but could not ascertain anything. On Tuesday witness reported the fact of his absence to Inspector Walters, at Old Hill, and still continued making enquiries in the neighbourhood. On Wednesday afternoon a Mrs. Lee brought the hat produced to the police station at Cradley Heath, stating that her boy had found it in Pig Lane pool. Witness identified the hat (a hard billycock) as belonging to the deceased, and he felt satisfied that he was in the water. He sent word to Inspector Walters, and the pool was dragged, with the result that deceased’s body was found here. During the six years witness had known deceased

he had enjoyed good health. When he left the station on Monday he appeared in good spirits, and witness did not know that anything had occurred to disturb his mind. The pool was about 20 yards from the main road, and a person would have to go off the main road to get to it. There was a fencing round the pool, but it was not in good condition. Witness knew of nothing which would cause him to suppose that deceased had committed suicide, nor of anything which would cause anyone to ill-use him. He appeared to be on good terms with everyone.

PC Hyman stated that he had met the deceased at Quarry Bank on Monday night, and he informed him that he had to go on duty at one o'clock in the morning, and should return by the ROBIN HOOD. He subsequently showed witness a letter, and said he thought he should go to the Cape, as he expected his wages would be in the window by Saturday night as he had got into bother over a conference. On hearing that a hat had been found near the Pig Lane pool he went to the pool and found Mountford's foot-prints. There was nothing to lead him to suppose that there had been a struggle.

Ann Cole, of the CORNGREAVES HOTEL, stated deceased called at her house on Monday night at a quarter to eleven o'clock and had a glass of ale, and he appeared to be quite sober.

John Lees, of Cradley Heath, stated that he found a hat in the pool whilst fishing. The pool was very deep.

PC Wickstead (Old Hill), who searched the body, proved finding in deceased's pockets, among other things, three photographs, two of them being photographs of policemen, and one the photograph of a young woman. He also had in his pocket the letter referred to by PC Hyman. Witness knew deceased well, and never saw anything in his manner to warrant the supposition that he would commit suicide.

Insp. Walters, in reply to the Coroner, said on Sunday morning another officer's journal showed that the deceased had not met him at a conference, as he should have done, at eight o'clock that morning. Witness spoke to the deceased about it, and deceased replied that he was there. It was afterwards ascertained that he and the constable had missed each other by a few minutes, and witness told deceased it was all right.

By Supt. Woollaston: Witness had heard that deceased had recently received a letter from a solicitor threatening proceedings over some debt of his.

Superintendent Woollaston, in answer to the coroner, said deceased's parents lived about six miles from Leek, and he (Superintendent Woollaston) telegraphed the first thing on Thursday morning to the superintendent of police at Leek asking for information of the affair to be forwarded at once to them. No reply had been received, and none of the friends had arrived.

PS Shaw: His father and mother are very aged, and there is only a daughter at home with them.

The Coroner, in summing up, said he did not think there was sufficient evidence to enable the jury to return a verdict the deceased had committed suicide.

The jury returned an Open Verdict, to the effect that deceased was found drowned, but how he got into the water there was no evidence to show."

County Advertiser 16/6/1888

"Alfred Shaw (12), Rose Hill, Quarry Bank, was charged with stealing 1s from a till belonging to *Joseph Cole*, CORNGREAVES HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on the 12th inst.

Prosecutor's wife stated that on the date named she was in the kitchen, when she heard a noise in the bar. She went to the bar and saw the prisoner, in a stooping position, going round the counter. She failed to catch him, and he got clear away. On going to the till she found that 1s had been taken.

The Bench ordered the prisoner to receive twelve strokes with the birch rod."

Dudley Mercury 18/8/1888

"On Thursday night Mr. Edwin Hooper (South Staffordshire coroner) held an inquest at the CORNGREAVES HOTEL, respecting the death of John Norris (59), anchor smith, Laurences Lane, Old Hill, who had been found drowned in a pool in Pig Lane. The deceased had for some time been out of employment. There was no evidence to show how deceased got into the water, and the Jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned."

Birmingham Daily Post 12/11/1888 - Advert

"Bay Mare, 14½ hands, free and fast, believed to be sound; with Trap and Harness, or without. Can be tried at anything. Apply, *J. Cole*, CORNGREAVES HOTEL, Cradley Heath."

Birmingham Daily Post 11/11/1890

"Yesterday Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the CORNGREAVES HOTEL, Cradley Heath, respecting the death of Margaret White (52), Grangers Lane, Cradley Heath, who died last Thursday from the effects of injuries received on the 3rd inst, by being thrown out of her husband's trap.

Thomas White said that he was returning from Hagley, and when near Oldswinford he saw a railway dray on one side and a hand-cart on the other side, and as he was going in between them a collision occurred, and he and his wife were thrown out of the cart, and both were rendered unconscious. Witness was driving at the rate of about seven miles an hour when the collision occurred.

John Barlow said Mr. White passed him at Pedmore on the way back from the stock sale to Cradley. When they passed witness they were going at the rate of ten miles an hour, and he saw the deceased whipping the horse.

Stephen Farmer said they were not racing.

John Lee said he was in charge of the dray about a mile from Stourbridge last Monday, when he saw two traps coming at a sharp rate, and Farmer's was first. Witness, when he saw the danger, hoisted his hand, but they took no heed; and White was thrashing his horse. When the traps got close to witness's wagon White's horse put on a spurt and got abreast of Farmer's, when White's trap caught his (witness's) wheel and ran for about hundred yards on one wheel, throwing Mr. and Mrs. White out into the road.

In his opinion the men were racing.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and expressed an opinion that Mr. White had not exercised proper care.

The Coroner then censured White, and said the jury had taken a lenient view of the case, owing to his eyesight being defective, but in his opinion it was a case of gross negligence, and he had narrowly escaped committal for manslaughter.”

1891 Census

93, Graingers Lane – CORNGREAVES HOTEL

[1] *Joseph Cole* (35), licensed victualler, born Dudley;

[2] Mary Ann Cole (36), wife, born Stourbridge;

[3] Joseph Cole (13), son, brewer, born Dudley;

[4] Thomas H. Cole (11), son, scholar, born Stourbridge;

[5] William Cole (9), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[6] *George F. Cole* (4), son, born Rowley Regis;

[7] John Cole (3), son, born Rowley Regis;

[8] May J. Owen (27), servant, born Rowley Regis;

[9] Norah Gallier (22), servant, born Rowley Regis;

[10] Laura Riggs (15), servant, born Lye;

[11] Henry G. Cole (20), servant, born Derby:

County Advertiser 4/7/1891

“*Joseph Cole*, landlord of the CORNGREAVES HOTEL, Cradley Heath, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises, on the 20th ult. Mr. Waldron appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Chas. Herbert Collis for the defence.

In opening, Mr. Waldron stated that at 4.30 on the date in question Police-constables Gibbs and Smedley went to defendant’s house in plain clothes, and saw a woman named Eliza Partridge there. During the time the two officers were there the woman was supplied with six pints of ale and a glass of whiskey, and she was very drunk. A man named Lane came into the house very drunk and he was supplied with two pints of ale. The officers left at 7.15, and both the man and the woman were very drunk. At 7.40 Police-constables Wynn and Davies visited the house in uniform. The attention of the defendant was called to the condition of the two persons, and defendant said they had only been there a short time, and that they had not been supplied with more than one pint. This was clearly an untruth, because the two disguised officers would tell the Bench that the landlord had been in the house the whole of the time. Both the man and the woman went staggering out of the house. He might mention that in the house there were a man and woman who were tattooed, and were sort of an attraction. There had been no complaints against the house before. Police-constables Gibbs, Smedley, Wynn and Davies were called in support of the case for the prosecution.

In defence, Mr. Collis said defendant had lived at the house, and had the management of it, for 26 [sic] years, and there had never been a complaint against it.

The defendant was called, and stated that he had been suffering from influenza, and had been out of the house two hours when Wynn came to the house. He did not see the woman until Wynn came in, and he did not see the man Lane many minutes in the house. He thought Lane was all right when he went out.

Cross-examined: He could not say the woman was drunk or sober. He thought the man had had a little. He was very sorry, and it would not have occurred if he had been there himself. It was untrue to say he (witness) was in the room from 4.30 till 7.15. The woman might have been drinking the whole of the afternoon, but he did not see her. It would be about five o’clock when he went out of the room.

Fredrick Butterworth also was called for the defence. He said the woman was sitting very comfortably, drinking her whiskey, smoking her pipe, and using an oath or two. Both she and the man appeared to be quite sober.

Mr. Bassano said the case was a very bad one, and but for the previous good conduct of the house they should endorse the license. As it was they should only fine the defendant £10 and the costs.

Costs and fine amounted to £11 15s 6d.

Referring to the fact that there had been a tattooed man and woman kept at the house as an attraction, Mr. Bassano said it was nothing to do with the case, but it was something to do with the conduct of the house, and when justices had to renew licenses they should consider whether a house was wanted for public accommodation or just to draw trade by such questionable means.

Mr. Collis, with regard to the attraction provided at the public house, said similar attractions were provided at the Aquarium, London.

Mr. Bassano: I should be sorry to think that the morals of the Aquarium ruled the morals of the licensed houses in this parish. I hope our licensed victuallers do try to keep a better house than they do there.

It was stated that the tattooed people were most respectable, and had now left the defendant’s employ.

Partridge was fined 5s and costs, and Lane 10s and costs, for being drunk on the premises.”

County Express 29/8/1891

“The annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis division of Staffordshire were held at the Police Court, Old Hill, on Wednesday.....

Mr. Waldron represented Mr. C. H. Collis in the application of *Joseph Cole*, of the CORNGREAVES HOTEL, Cradley Heath.

Inspector Bishop said Mr. *Cole* was fined £10 and costs for permitting drunkenness, on the 1st of July last. It was the first and only conviction against the house. Mr. *Cole* had had the management of it for about 20 years.

Mr. Hingley: This is the case where there was an exhibition of a somewhat indecent nature?

Inspector Bishop: Yes; as soon as I said to the publicans in the neighbourhood that it was not approved of, they immediately com-

plied with my request, and ceased the entertainments. We have now no complaint against any of them for this thing. Adjourned.”
AND

County Advertiser 29/8/1891

“The annual licensing sessions for Rowley Petty Sessional Division were held last Wednesday.....

The magistrates said they were pleased to learn that there had been a decrease in the drunken cases. They then proceeded to consider the ‘black list’.....

Joseph Cole, of the CORNGREAVES HOTEL, who was fined £10 and costs for permitting drunkenness on the 1st of July, 1891, and who had kept the house for 20 years applied for a renewal of their licenses through Mr. Waldron, who commented on the respectability of the applicants, and urged that the Bench should not exercise their discretion and take away the licenses because of one conviction Adjourned.”

County Express 3/10/1891

“Old Hill Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. W. Bassano said the only case in which they proposed not to renew the license was in the case of the CROSS INN, Old Hill.....

Mr. Ward asked if all the other licenses were granted without any special application being necessary. Mr. Bassano said this was so. Of course they had, in the exercise of their discretion, thought there were several cases in which they might reasonably withhold the license, and the Bench had had a long discussion that morning before coming into Court as to whether they should do so in the case of a man fined £10 and costs. However, they had decided to grant the whole of the licenses this year, and they gave an intimation that in future the Bench would deal very stringently in cases of conviction under the licensing laws, both as regards the amount of fines and endorsements, and in the cases of endorsements they would deal more stringently. In plain English, this meant that a person with an endorsement against the house would in future have a very small chance indeed of getting his license renewed. They hoped the licensed victuallers and other licensed persons in the district would take a warning from that.”

County Advertiser 31/3/1894

“On Tuesday evening Mr. *J. Cole*, of CORNGREAVES HOTEL, gave a dinner to the members of the Iron and Steel Workers’ Association, at the above hotel. After dinner Mr. Samuel Harris (of Brierley Hill) occupied the chair, and Mr. James Butler (of Cradley Heath) the vice-chair. Addresses were delivered by the chairman, the vice-chairman, and Messrs. Robert Harris (Brierley Hill) and James Hall (Netherton). Mr. Samuel Southall, of the Lye, acted as accompanist, and during the evening songs and recitations were given. In the course of the evening the health of the host and hostess was given, and a very enjoyable evening was spent by all.”

County Advertiser 12/1/1895

“Stoppage of Corngreaves Works. On Monday, the 7th inst, a dinner to the unemployed workers belonging to Corngreaves Lodge was given at the house of Mr. *Joseph Cole*, CORNGREAVES LION HOTEL. After dinner Mr. James Butler was voted to the chair.

The Chairman said he could not help feeling grieved to think the workmen were in such a deplorable condition, but hoped the time was not far distant when things would be brighter and better. He further remarked that very great praise was due to the friends throughout the district for the kind manner they had assisted during this calamity, and he hoped they would all be as good in the future. (Applause.)

Mr. J. Hill, Netherton, then spoke in favour of organisation, and hoped that the members of the different associations would all strive to do their best to help the unemployed Corngreaves men. (Applause.) He then proposed that the best thanks of this meeting be given to the ladies and gentlemen who had contributed so liberally towards the dinner. This was carried with applause and musical honours.

The remaining part of the evening was pleasantly passed away. Toasts, songs, recitation, &c, were given by Messrs. F. Tate, Yoxall, Head, Green, H. Head, and others. Altogether a very enjoyable evening was spent.

The following ladies and gentlemen contributed to the dinner: Sir Benjamin Hingley, Messrs. Brooke Robinson, MP, George Allan, Palethorpe, Rose, J. Cole, G. R. Chatham, John Attwood, J. Mason, Weston, and Gardener, Mrs. W. Homer and Mrs. R. Gill, Messrs. F. Oliver, Beasley, Spiers, Cole, Round, Tromans, T. Birch, B. Newton, Blunt, T. Darby, Parsons, and others.

Some of the good things were left over, and it was arranged to have a knife and fork tea on the following day for the unemployed workmen’s wives. This took place as arranged, when upwards of forty sat down. The evening closed with a hearty vote of thanks to all who had assisted in providing the tea.”

County Express 9/10/1897

“The second annual parade of Foresters in the Cradley, Cradley Heath, Quarry Bank, and Dudley Wood districts, for the benefit of the home at Clent, took place on Sunday afternoon, with every element of success attending it – the day was fine, the crowd was large, and the collections were very satisfactory. A pleasing feature about the parade was the number of members who turned out, and the number of courts. The following courts were represented.....

Robin Hood’s Merry Rangers, CORNGREAVES HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 1/12/1900

“The coming of age of Thomas Henry *Cole*, second son of Mr. *Joseph Cole*, of CORNGREAVES HOTEL, was celebrated on Monday by the roasting of a whole ox on the above premises, the first one so roasted in the district on individual initiative. Handbills were distributed inviting all and sundry to attend and partake of the feast; and children were specially invited to come and dip

their bread in the gravy. At five o'clock am the fire was lighted by Mr. *J. Cole*, and at eight am the ox was placed before the fire by Mr. Charles Cox, of Halesowen, the most experienced man in the district in these matters. During the time the roasting was in progress, Mr. James Rowlands, of the ANCHOR HOTEL, took several photographs of the gigantic joint. Crowds of people flocked to the hotel to witness and partake of the choice beast. The hour of twelve o'clock arriving, the first cut was made by Mr. Cox, and all who partook pronounced it to be ripe, prime, and beautifully tender. As the meat was cooked the whole of it was given away. Never had so many people visited the hotel since the soi disant, 'Sir Roger Tichborne,' paid a seven days' visit to it a few years ago. Despite the reports of poisoned beer, the visitors partook of *Joe Cole's*. A private entertainment was arranged, and consisted of songs, toasts, recitations, &c, in honour of the occasion, and this brought the proceedings to a very pleasant and satisfactory ending. All agreed that never had the cooking of a whole ox been seen done so thoroughly and so cleanly."

1901 Census

Graingers Lane – CORNGREAVES HOTEL

- [1] *Joseph Cole* (46), publican, born Netherton;
- [2] Mary A. Cole (46), wife, born Stourbridge;
- [3] Joseph Cole (23), son, sadler, born Netherton;
- [4] Thomas H. Cole (21), son, grocer's assistant, born Stourbridge;
- [5] William Cole (19), son, sadler, born Cradley Heath;
- [6] *George F. Cole* (14), son, born Cradley Heath;
- [7] John Cole (13), son, born Cradley Heath;
- [8] Fanny Byng (24), domestic servant, born Halesowen:

Tipton Herald 30/5/1903

"*Joseph Cole*, landlord of the CORNGREAVES HOTEL, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath, was charged with permitting drunkenness to take place on his licensed premises on the 11th of April. Mr. J. Walter Clulow prosecuted on behalf of the police, and Mr. William Waldron defended.

Mr. Clulow stated that on the date in question, at 9.20pm, Police Constables Dale and Turner visited the defendant's premises, and in the tap room, sitting on a bench near a table, with a jug of beer in front of him, they found John Hackett, who was drunk. Dale, who was the senior officer, called the attention of the landlady, who was in charge of the house, and was behind the bar, to the condition of Hackett, and she ejaculated, 'Now, Jack, why don't you go; I have told you to go before.' Hackett refused to go, and Mrs. *Cole's* son then told Hackett he must go. Hackett eventually got up, and, picking up the cup in front of him, he attempted to drink, but the landlord's son caught hold of the cup, and remarked, 'It's not yours, it's another man's.' Young *Cole* then put the cup in front of another man. Hackett got up from his seat, and in a staggering attitude left the house, followed by the constables. When outside Mrs. *Cole* told the police that Hackett had only been in the house three minutes, and had not been supplied. She had, she said, requested him to go on several occasions, but he refused.

PCs Dale and Turner then gave evidence in support of Mr. Clulow's statement.

Mr. Waldron, for the defence, contended that Hackett, although being on the premises and also drunk, had not been supplied with beer. He had only been there three minutes, and during that time the landlady had requested him to leave on several occasions. How could they expect a woman to eject a burly man like Hackett. He should prove conclusively that no ale was supplied to Hackett, and that the latter did not consume any.

Mrs. *Cole*, her son, and several other witnesses were called, and all stated that Hackett had been told to leave the premises, and that he was not supplied. The landlady asked him to go, and then the police came in.

The Bench considered the case proved, and fined the defendant 50s and costs.

John Hackett, of Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, for having been drunk on the premises was fined 10s and costs."

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 grounds of a conviction against the house.

CORNGREAVES HOTEL, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, kept by *Joseph Cole*.

The license of the CORNGREAVES HOTEL, Cradley Heath, was renewed to *Joseph Cole* on the application of Mr. Green. Superintendent Johnson stated that the house had been well conducted since the conviction."

County Advertiser 19/3/1904

"*Joseph Cole*, landlord of the CORNGREAVES HOTEL, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on his premises on the 22nd ult.

Mr. J. W. Clulow, who appeared to prosecute, explained that a few minutes after eleven o'clock on the night in question, Police-sergeant Wood, Police-constables Foulkes and Gratage were standing outside defendant's house when they saw a man named John Henry Raycord leave the house in a very drunken condition. He staggered about the road, and the officers had to secure his name and address from one of his friends. Sergeant Wood went into defendant's house and asked him what time he turned out. Defendant replied that, 'We had no one to turn out.' Upon this Police-constable Gratage said, 'Why have you just turned out a man who is drunk?' Police-constable Foulkes then brought the man back to the defendant's door, and Sergeant Wood said to *Cole*, 'This is the man, you see how drunk he is.' *Cole* thereupon replied that the man had not been in the house that evening, but he subsequently said, 'He has not been in the house many minutes, I see you are the new sergeant. Don't be hard on me, and I will see that it shall not occur again.' Raycord must, however, have been in the house some time, for Sergeant Wood had been in the

locality sixteen minutes, and had seen no one enter or leave the house during that time. Evidence in support of this statement was given by Police-sergeant Wood, and Police-constables Foulkes and Gratage.

Defendant urged that the man was not served in his house.

Mr. Bassano said defendant had a bad record with them, and fined him £5 and costs £2 12s 6d. Raycord, who resides in King Street, Cradley Heath, was fined 20s including costs for being drunk on the premises.”

County Advertiser 27/8/1904

“On Sunday afternoon the eighth annual parade and service arranged by the various friendly societies in the Old Hill district took place under favourable circumstances. The proceedings commenced with a large procession.....

The Cradley Heath Town Prize Band started from COOKSEY’S HOTEL and proceeded along Halesowen Road, calling at the VICTORIA HOTEL for societies. Afterwards they marched to High Street, where they called at the DUKE WILLIAM INN for societies and afterwards went on to the field.....

Upon arrival at the field a grand procession was formed This paraded the principal streets of the locality for some time, after which they proceeded to a field in High Street, kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. A. E. Sidaway. Here a service was held, the chair being occupied by Dr. T. E. Mitchell. Notwithstanding the threatening state of the weather there was a large attendance.... A collection was made upon the route, and at the service, on behalf of the Dudley Guest Hospital, Dudley Dispensary, Birmingham Eye Hospital, Birmingham General Hospital, Birmingham Ear and Throat Hospital, and the Old Hill Nurses Fund.”

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.....

William McWhirter, CORNGREAVES HOTEL, Cradley Heath, fined £5 and costs on the 16th 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.]

William Meldrum McWhirter – see also CROSS, CROWN, COOKSEY’S HOTEL and WIZARD AND GLASS.

Tipton Herald 26/6/1909

“During the storm which passed over the district on Tuesday at noon, a streak of lightning struck the chimneys on the roof of the CORNGREAVES HOTEL, at the foot of Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath. The landlord – Mr. *Frederick Cole* – and his family were just preparing to sit down for dinner, when the crash came. A portion of the chimney pots and bricks and mortar were hurled into the street below, and a man and a young girl who were passing at the time narrowly escaped being struck. Another portion of the debris fell with a crash on to the roof, smashing in a big hole and knocking a considerable quantity of plastering off the ceiling in the club room. Fortunately no one was hurt.”

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.....

The Bench sanctioned structural alterations being made at the CROSS HOTEL, Old Hill, and the CORNGREAVES HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 17/9/1910 - Advert

“General (good), about 18 to 20, Wanted.

Mrs. *G. F. Cole*, CORNGREAVES HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

1911 Census

Cradley Heath – CORNGREAVES HOTEL

[1] *George Frederick Cole* (24), publican, born Cradley Heath;

[2] *Elsie May Cole* (22), wife, married 3 years, born Lye;

[3] *George Frederick Cole* (2), son, born Cradley Heath;

[4] *Clara Boxley* (17), domestic servant, born Colley Gate:

Dudley Chronicle 26/8/1911

“Mr. J. Dearns presided over a meeting of the Parade Committee on Tuesday, at the CORNGREAVES HOTEL. A resolution of sympathy was accorded Mr. Chas. Stoneley and the relatives of the man who earlier in the day was killed on the Cradley Heath station. The members of the Ambulance Brigade, who tended the injuries sustained by Mr. Joyner, were cordially thanked. It was decided to visit the Dudley Guest Hospital on September 2nd and to invite as many of the public as cared to attend. It was reported that another collecting-box had been tapered with. It was decided to make a presentation to Mr. Taylor in recognition of his

services as a collector, Mr. Tom Wilkes and Mr. Tom Horton being deputed to collect subscriptions. The meeting decided to sell the goods left over at the variety stalls at the next meeting.”

County Express 6/1/1912

“Dividend Clubs..... CORNGREAVES HOTEL, Cradley Heath.

On Wednesday week some 40 members assembled to the annual supper, Mr. and Mrs. *G. F. Cole* (host and hostess) catering excellently. A smoking concert followed.....”

Birmingham Mail 20/2/1914

“The position at Cradley Heath last night became worse, and the subsidence which has taken place in the last few days is regarded as the worst calamity which has befallen the Rowley Regis parish for many years. There have been a number of occurrences of this kind in the parish, but nothing of such a serious character. There was a gradual movement throughout yesterday afternoon, with the result that additional houses were affected. The main street seems to be the centre of subsidence, and the property is being drawn into a hole in the middle of the street. The roadway had sunk last evening to a depth of about five feet, the cracks in the footpath and road had become wider and more extensive, whilst there was evidence that the tram lines, which had up till then maintained a level position, were being pushed out of place. Up to a late hour last night workmen were employed in propping up those buildings which were in danger of falling, whilst residents were busily engaged in the removal of their furniture and goods to a place of safety.....

The question of liability is a matter which is likely to form an interesting discussion at the meeting of the property owners tonight. The mine owners in the district have admitted their liability for damage to property in the past, and have paid the cost of repairs, and also met a claim in respect of the CORNGREAVES HOTEL.....”

Dudley Chronicle 9/10/1915

“Saturday proved a wretched day for the cycle and fancy dress parade promoted by the Cradley Heath Patriotic Committee. For the first day for many weeks the sun decided to remain indoors, and from start to finish there was a steady downpour of rain which made it very uncomfortable for exhibitors and spectators alike.....

Others in the procession were Master Fred *Cole* (son of Mr. *Cole*, CORNGREAVES HOTEL) as a mounted Indian.....

Mr. Edwards said he was sorry the weather had been so unfavourable. Still a good show had been made, and they would be able to hand over a good sum for the benefit of local soldiers and sailors.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/7/1921

“*George Frederick Cole*, licensee of the CORNGREAVES HOTEL, Cradley Heath, applied to the Old Hill magistrates yesterday for an occasional licence in respect of the fete and gala which has been arranged by the Old Hill Cricket Club for 2 and 3 August. The chairman (Mr. A. H. Bassano) said it was only fair to say that the Bench had received certain communications in which objections were made to the granting of these licences. One of them included a statement that there was a good deal of gambling during the racing events.

The Bench, however, did not consider they should make any different treatment, as such licences were granted throughout the neighbourhood, and acceded to applicant’s request.”

It was put up for sale in October 1925.

Isaac William Lunn – see also FISH, Pensnett, and ROYAL EXCHANGE, Old Hill.

Tewkesbury Register 27/2/1932

“At the Pershore County Court on Monday, His Honour, Judge Roope Reeve, heard an arbitration case between Mary Maria Woodhouse, of Council Houses, King Street, Cradley Heath, who described herself as a hop picker, hotel assistant and dressmaker, and Messrs. Lock and Meikle, of Wick Grange, Pershore, for compensation for personal injuries sustained by the former in an accident which occurred when she was hop picking for the respondents on September 26, 1931. Mr. A. P. Marshall (instructed by Messrs. Bowman, Ekins, and Evans, of Birmingham) represented the applicant, while Mr. H. A. Tucker (instructed by Messrs. Ansell and Sherwin, of Birmingham) appeared for the respondents.

Mr. Marshall, in outlining the applicant’s case, stated that Mary Maria Woodhouse, a married woman, was employed by Messrs. Lock and Meikle, when she tripped over a bind in the hop yards at Wick and sustained a broken shoulder blade. At first a serious view was not taken of the injury, but on returning to her home at Cradley she was examined by a doctor and it was discovered that the right shoulder blade was fractured. He maintained that she was totally incapacitated for three months, and partially so for a further two months. He thought the partial disability would be represented by 50 per cent. The incapacity was now further reduced and amounted to about 25 per cent, but he thought there would always be some partial permanent incapacity.

Continuing, Mr. Marshall said that in addition to the time she spent in the hop fields, Mrs. Woodhouse was a hotel assistant, and a dressmaker, but he asked that the claim under the dressmaking earnings should not be included. He asked that an allowance of 11s 9d should be made per week, based on the sum of 25s which she earned per week when engaged in hop picking, and 13s 6d from her work as an hotel assistant. He thought compensation could be reduced in accordance with Mrs. Woodhouse’s recovery. The applicant, who repeated the oath after the Registrar, before giving evidence, admitted that she was not a very good scholar. She corroborated her Counsel’s statements with regard to the fall and explained that at the time both her hands were engaged, and this prevented her from saving herself when she tripped. She felt great pain in her right arm and she was unable to work with it. After the accident she went to the Grange and Mrs. Meikle supplied her with oils with which to rub her arm.

On returning home several days later, she was examined by Dr. Tibbetts, of Cradley Heath, who had treated her ever since, and in addition she had been going to hospital there for massage twice a week. Her arm was improving, but she found that she was unable to perform her daily duties in the house.

The hop season, Mrs. Woodhouse stated, often lasted six weeks, while on rare occasions she had known it to be of seven weeks duration.

As an assistant in the CORNGREAVES HOTEL, Cradley Heath, where she worked three days per week, she received 2s 6d daily in addition to tips averaging about 2s per day. This brought her average earnings at the hotel up to 13 6d a week.

Replying to Mr. Tucker, applicant said that her work consisted of cooking and charing. She cooked the dinners for customers who sometimes numbered as many as 24, while her mistress did the waiting. No one else helped and the applicant received tips which the gentlemen left under their plates. In addition, twice a year, on the occasion of a half-yearly rent audit dinner at the hotel, she and another person shared the tips, which amounted to 15s or 16s each on each occasion.....

His Honour gave a compensation award of 9s 7d per week from September 26 until December 26, of 4s 10d from that time until February 26, and of 2s 5d continuing.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/1/1933

“Nine licensed houses, the property of Messrs. William Oliver and Sons, of Cradley – a firm which has been established for nearly a century – were sold by auction at the TALBOT HOTEL, Stourbridge, yesterday.

The houses which are situated within a three mile radius, including Dudley, Stourbridge, Amblecote, Brierley Hill, Cradley Heath, Lye, and Cradley, fetched £14,925.

The houses and amounts were.....

CORNGREAVES HOTEL, Cradley Heath, £2,000.”

1939 Register

75, Graingers Lane

[1] *William E. R. Wilkins*, date of birth 31/8/1896, licensed victualler, married;

[2] *Mary A. (Wilkins) Kirkham*, dob 12/9/1894, domestic duties, unpaid, married;

[4] *Thomas Ralph*, dob 31/1/1858, retired, widowed;

[5] *Sarah L. Goss*, dob 1/4/1871, domestic duties, widowed:

Mary Adelaide Wilkins married *George W. Kirkham* on 30th March 1955.

A team from here took part in the Cradley Heath Domino League. [1960]

Sports Argus 31/12/1966

“Who Will Be The 1967 Champions?

The biggest night in Midland Darts! That’s the *Sports Argus* Midland Open Darts Team Championship finals night which takes place next Saturday night at the Morris Commercial Club, Alum Road (6.45).

Nearly 200 teams entered the most popular competition of its kind in the area some nine months ago and the following four sides will contest the right to hold the coveted *Sports Argus* Trophy for the next 12 months.

Aston Social, of Witton Lane, Birmingham 6.

CORNGREAVES HOTEL, of Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath.

White Lion, of Gosford Green, Coventry.

Brook Flights, of Brookfields Tavern, Birmingham 18.....”

[Brook Flights beat Aston Social 5-4 in the final.]

Anthony McMahon – see also COCK, Rowley Regis.

Howard Westwood was married to Brenda.

Its name was changed to BLACK COUNTRY INN in November 1987.

Sandwell Evening Mail 8/8/1990

“A driver escaped unhurt after his van ploughed into a pub at Cradley Heath, causing hundreds of pounds worth of damage. Staff had just finished clearing up at the BLACK COUNTRY INN in Graingers Lane when yesterday’s accident happened.

Police said Mr. George Lawson, aged 53, of Ross-on-Wye, lost control of the van on the sharp bend outside and crashed into the window – sending brickwork and glass flying and damaging tables and stools.

Workmen later boarded up the damaged frontage to allow business as usual for evening customers.

Licensee’s wife Mrs. Brenda *Westwood* today called on Sandwell Council to provide added safety measures on the bend. She said, ‘We had just gone upstairs and were about to settle down when we heard this terrific bang. The van had completely demolished one of the bay windows leaving just a big gap. There is a really sharp bend out here. There have been a lot of near misses and I am surprised nothing has happened before. I think the council ought to put some sort of railings round here and warning signs before somebody gets hurt.’

A spokesman for the West Midlands police said, ‘The van driver steered sharply on the bend but clipped the kerb and mounted the pavement before colliding with the front of the public house. He got out unhurt.’”

[1996]

Closed [1997]

It was demolished c.2002.

CROSS

176, (55), Halesowen Road / Hill Passage, OLD HILL

OWNERS

Thomas Darby, Corngreaves Brewery, Cradley Heath [1891]

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (acquired on 2nd February 1927) [1970]

LICENSEES

Thomas Tromans [1833] – [1845]

William Tromans [1849] – [1854]

Thomas Tromans [1855]

Mrs. Margaret E Tromans [1856] – [1861]

Mary Tromans [1861]

Margaret Eliza Tromans [1862] – **1865**;

Joseph E Whitmore (**1865** – [1875])

Jeremiah Westwood [1876] – [1877] manager

John Frost [] – **1877**;

Henry Tope (**1877** – [1883])

Thomas Darby [1885]

Henry Cole [1890] – **1891**;

William Meldrum McWhirter (**1891** – **1897**);

Henry Cole (**1897** – [1898])

Mrs. Emily Amelia Farndon [] – **1899**;

Frederick Farndon (**1899** – [1901])

Mrs. Phoebe Hartland [1904] – [1912]

Frederick Weston [1916] – **1930**;

Lilian Weston (**1930** – **1932**);

Frederick Cooper (**1932** – **1941**);

Fred Tomney (**1941** – **1945**);

Edward 'Ted' Finch (**1945** – [1970]) for 27 years

Jack Wilkinson []

NOTES

55, Halesowen Road [1896], [1901], [1904], [1908], [1911], [1912], [1924], [1932], [1940]

176, Halesowen Road [1990]

GOLDEN CROSS [1845], [1862], [1868], [1870], [1872], [1873]

CROSS and post office [1849], [1850], [1854]

OLD HILL CROSS [1865]

OLD CROSS [1896], [1900], [1904], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1924]

YE OLDE CROSS [1932], [1940]

It was a coaching inn.

[1820]

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

September 1813 - ____ (?), ____ (?) of ____ (?) and Elizabeth Troman, victualler, Old Hill.

April 1815 - Ed ____ (?), son of Thomas and Elizabeth Troman, victualler, Old Hill.

9th February 1817 - Hannah, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Troman, victualler, Old Hill.

14th March 1819 - Elizabeth Siviter, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Troman, victualler, Old Hill.

10th August 1823 - Henry, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Trueman, victualler, Old Hill.

13th March 1825 - Edny, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Truman, victualler, Old Hill.

11th March 1827 - George, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Truman, victualler, Old Hill.

10th May 1829 - Daniel, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Truman, victualler, Old Hill.

21st April 1833 - Edmond, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Truman, victualler, Old Hill.

[It is not certain that the above Thomas and Elizabeth Troman (Truman) are the same as the licensees of the CROSS, but it is a possibility.]

Black Country Bugle (1983) - Pub of the Month - SAMUELS INN

“Deeds of the property show that it was licensed as long ago as 1820, when it was opened by that famous family of Rowley brewers – the Darbys One of its most famous (or infamous) patrons was Jed Black – The Workus Master who, legend has it, came to a fitting end It boasted a fine bowling team and the green at the rear of the building was the scene of many fine matches That famous bowling green is now the car park.”

Thomas Tromans = Thomas Troman

Arise's Birmingham Gazette 30/9/1833 - Advert

“Freehold Property, near Haysech Mill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Jesse Wright, on Wednesday, October 16, 1833, at five o'clock in the afternoon, at the house of Mr. *Thomas Tromans*, the CROSS INN, Old Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis.....”

Thomas Troman, retailer of beer, Old Hill. [1835]

Arise's Birmingham Gazette 12/3/1838 - Advert

“Extensive Sale Of Valuable Timber, in the neighbourhood of Old Hill.

To be Sold by Auction by Abiathar Bunch, on Monday next, the 19th day of March, at the house of Mr. *Thomas Troman*, the GOLDEN CROSS INN, Old Hill, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, at four o'clock in the afternoon, in the following or such other lots as may be agreed upon at the time of sale, and subject to such conditions as will then be produced – the following valuable timber.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/9/1842 - Advert

“Southern Division of the County of Stafford.

We, Charles Shapland Whitmore, of the Inner Temple, and Thomas Bros, of Lincoln's Inn, Esquires, Barristers at Law, having been duly nominated and appointed to Revise the List of Voters in the Election of Knights of the Shire for the Southern Division of the County of Stafford, hereby give notice, that we shall make a Circuit of the said Division and hold Courts for that purpose, at the several times and places underwritten, that is to say.....

At Rowley Regis, at the CROSS INN, on Friday, the 7th day of October next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, for the parish of Rowley Regis.....

London, September 12, 1842.

Memorandum. The overseers of the said several parishes, townships, and places, are desired to bring with them notices of claims of voters, and all notices of objections to voters transmitted or delivered to the said overseers.

And the voters who have sent in their claims, whether objected to or not, are desired to see that they have been duly registered, as regards the description of themselves and their qualification; and if there is any defect therein to attend before the Revising Barristers at the proper court, to offer such evidence as may enable them to correct the said lists.”

Thomas Troman was also a gun barrel maker. [1845]

William Tromans = William Trowman = William Trotmans

Birmingham Journal 9/1/1847

“On Saturday last, one of those appalling accidents which seem inseparable from mining operations, and are generally so fatal in their effects, from the suddenness of, and impossibility of foreseeing, their occurrence, took place at the New Lion Colliery, at Rowley Regis, belonging to the New British Iron Company, and by which four unfortunate men were hurried into eternity, and the lives of three others placed in great jeopardy. It appears that about eight o'clock in the morning, nine persons were engaged in one of the workings of the pit, which was considered quite safe, when in a moment a great part of the roof suddenly gave way, and in the spot where the men stood a moment before, was observed an immense mass, which had crushed John Betteridge, the manager, Thos. Taylor, Obadiah Jennings, and Elijah Smith, three of the miners, under it. Three of others, named Benjamin Pearson, 'butty,' Thomas Westwood, and Simon Burns, were fearfully hurt, and their cries brought to the spot some of the other workmen, who used every exertion to remove the immense mass, weighing several tons, and about two yards thick, which had suddenly entombed their fellow-workmen. After two hours hard and incessant labour, part of the mass was removed, and underneath were found the bodies of three of the men awfully mutilated, and scarcely recognisable. Smith was not quite dead when discovered, but he was insensible, and expired in a short time after. The bodies were conveyed to their respective residences, where the great-

est grief and consternation prevailed, all of the unfortunate men being married, and having large families. The other three, who were dreadfully bruised, were also paid every attention to; but fears are entertained from the severe nature of their injuries, that fatal results may still ensue. On Tuesday, an inquest was held on three of the bodies, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, at the house of Mr. *William Trowman*, CROSS INN, Old Hill, Rowley Regis. Rumours having been circulated as to the roof being insecure, the Coroner made a strict inquiry into the statement; but it was convincingly shown that the pit was properly worked, and that no precautions could have been taken to prevent the occurrence, neither crack nor flaw having been apparent in the coal. In these circumstances, the Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 28/9/1850 - Advert

“Staffordshire. Freehold Dwelling Houses, situate at Old Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis.

To Be Sold By Auction, by Mr. Bateman, at the house of Mr. *William Trowman*, the GOLDEN CROSS INN, at Old Hill aforesaid, on Tuesday, the 8th day of October, at Six o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be produced.....”

1851 Census

Old Hill

- [1] *William Tromans* (44), victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Margret E. Tromans (33), wife, domestic duties, born Birmingham;
- [3] Alfred Tromans (10), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Thomas Tromans (8), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Elizabeth Tromans (4), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Edmund Tromans (18), brother, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Thomas Jones (13), general servant, born Bridgend, Worcestershire:

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 24/5/1852 - Advert

“Desirable Freehold Public House, and Other Property, at Old Hill, Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by W. Trigger, at the GOLDEN CROSS INN, Old Hill, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, on Tuesday the 8th day of June next, at six o’clock in the evening – the under-mentioned valuable Freehold Properties, 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 I. The old-established and well-accustomed Public House or Inn, called the GOLDEN CROSS, above-mentioned, with spacious Yard, Stable, Gun-barrel Forge, Garden, and Appurtenances thereto belonging, now in the occupation of Mr. *William Tromans*; also the large and substantially-built Warehouse adjoining, now in the occupation of Mr. W. Woodhall, the whole containing (including the site of the buildings) 1546 square yards, or thereabouts.

Lot II. A most desirable Plot of Building Land, adjoining lot 1, having a frontage of 19 yards 2 feet to the Turnpike Road leading from Hales Owen to Dudley, and containing 878 square yards, or thereabouts.

Lot III. Another Plot of Building Land, adjoining lot 2, with a frontage of 19 yards 1 foot to the said road, and containing 691 square yards, or thereabouts.

Lot IV. The Messuage or Dwelling House, with Nail Shop, Garden, and Appurtenances thereto belonging, situated at Old Hill aforesaid, adjoining the Warehouse included in lot 1, and having a frontage of 23 yards to the road leading from Old Hill aforesaid to Cradley, and containing in the whole an area of 445 square yards, or thereabouts, and now in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Green.

The Mines under all the foregoing lots will be sold with the Premises respectively.

For further particulars apply to Messrs. Coldicott and Canning, Solicitors, Dudley; or the the Auctioneer, Bewdley, at whose respective offices a plan of the property may be seen.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 11/8/1852 - Letter

“The Nailors and Their Masters.

To the Editor of the *Worcestershire Chronicle*. Rowley Regis, Aug. 2, 1852.

Mr. Editor. The public are anxiously expecting some explanation as to the cause of the so often repeated strikes among the nail forgers, and as the masters don’t seem inclined to say anything in defence of their frequent attempts to reduce our already too miserable wages, I, as a nailer, feel bound to state the reasons why we resist those attempts. In the first place we still bear in mind the sufferings we underwent some ten years ago, when we reluctantly yielded to become their slaves. At that time, after a week’s almost incessant toil, we repaired to our masters’ warehouse to take the produce of that toil, where we were treated like criminals. Their weighers did just as they liked with us; they acted as if the worst they could say or do was too good for us; in fact, we never knew what we should have for our nails until receiving the money, and then, be what it would, we dared not complain. We were always too glad to leave the place where we were looked upon with such loathing. In the next place, we feel satisfied that there would be as much difficulty in maintaining a lower rate of wages as there has been to maintain the present, and that if we offered no opposition we know not what they would bring us to. Perhaps in the course of time some of them would think they were conferring a boon upon us, by allowing us to take away our bags with some iron to make some more on the same terms. We were on strike last summer for six weeks, and were enabled to maintain our price soon after our return to work. Rumour said they were to give us ‘a winter pinch.’ They did so, and we weathered the storm for five weeks, and were again successful; so they thought they would try us again in the summer. They have done it, and we have been on strike six weeks at the time I write, and are determined to remain on strike till our masters think proper to give us our price. We hold daily meeting at the GOLDEN CROSS, at Old Hill, Rowley Regis, and shall continue to do so till the strike has terminated. I sincerely hope that other tradesmen will not stand by and see us fall without lending a helping hand, for we feel convinced that if they could succeed in breaking the bond of unity

which holds us together, they would apply the lash with tenfold severity, if possible; but we are resolved to perish at once rather than allow them to kill us by degrees. Now, sir, as I have stated our side of the question, I hope the masters will state theirs, and allow the public to judge between us. Sir, if you can make it convenient to publish this letter in your valuable paper, you will very much oblige yours, &c, A Nailer.”

Birmingham Journal 14/1/1854 - Advert

“To Publicans, Brokers, and Others.

Sale of Household Furniture, Brewing Utensils, Casks, Publicans’ Requisites, and Various Other Effects, at the CROSS INN, Old Hill, Rowley Regis.

Mr. Bateman has received instructions from the Executors of the late Mr. *Thomas Tromans*, to Sell by Auction, on Thursday Next, the 19th day of January, commencing precisely at Eleven o’clock in the morning, at the CROSS INN, at Old Hill, in the parish of Rowley Regis.

A quantity of useful Household Furniture, Brewing Utensils, well-seasoned Casks and various other Effects; comprising capital mahogany and oak Dining Tables, Circular oak Tables, Corner Cupboards, Clock, Chairs, Drinking Tables and Forms, Hogshead, Half-hogshead, and other Casks, Brewing Utensils, Kitchen Requisites, Chests of Drawers, Feather Beds, Glass, China, Silver Spoons, and various other Effects.

Catalogues of Sale, giving full descriptive particulars, will be distributed, and may be had from the Auctioneer, Dudley; and at the Place of Sale.”

Birmingham Journal 13/5/1854 - Advert

“Freehold Property, at the Yew Tree Gate, Powke Lane, in the Parish of Rowley Regis.

To Be Sold by Auction, by Thomas P. Stokes, on Tuesday Next, the 16th day of May, at the House of Mr. *William Tromans*, the CROSS INN, at Old Hill, in the parish of Rowley Regis aforesaid, at Six o’clock in the evening, and subject to such conditions as shall be then and there produced.....”

Thomas Tromans reported hoof marks on the roof in 1855.

Birmingham Journal 16/8/1856 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Building Land, at Old Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Bateman, on Tuesday, the 2nd day of September, 1856, at Six o’clock in the evening at the house of Mrs. *Trowman*, the CROSS INN at Old Hill aforesaid, and subject to conditions then to be produced.....”

Brierley Hill Advertiser 18/4/1857

“As we stated last week, Mr. Joseph Shakespeare, the butty of the pit where the explosion took place, was so seriously hurt that little hope was entertained of his recovery. He has since died, and on Saturday, an inquest was held over his body, at the CROSS INN, Old Hill, but was adjourned till the 28th inst, in order that one of the men who was injured, but is now recovering, might be able to attend. Mr. Brough, government inspector, was present during the enquiry.

The older Mason has also since died from the injuries received. An inquest was held over his body on Friday morning at the BIRCH TREE INN, Black Heath, and was adjourned until Tuesday next, the 21st inst.”

Brierley Hill Advertiser 25/7/1857

“On Monday last, the Independent Order of the ‘Knights of the Wood’ held their anniversary at the house of Mrs. *Troman*, the CROSS INN, Old Hill, when about seventy members sat down to a sumptuous spread, which reflected the greatest credit on the worthy hostess. After due justice had been done to the festive board, and the cloth withdrawn, Mr. T. Priest was appointed to take the chair, and Mr. J. Tibbitts the vice chair, which they ably filled. Toast and song followed each other in rapid succession, and the afternoon was spent in the greatest conviviality. Mr. J. Perks, the indefatigable secretary, delivered an able address on the Widows’ and Orphans’ Fund, after which a handsome collection was made in aid of the same.”

County Advertiser 29/8/1857 - Advert

“The Inhabitants of Old Hill and the surrounding neighbourhood, are respectfully informed that on Monday, August 31st, the Miners’ Independent Order of the Knights of the Wood, intend holding a Public Tea Party at the house of Mrs. *Troman*, the GOLDEN CROSS, Old Hill, for the Benefit of the Widow and Orphans’ Fund.

Tea on the Table at Five o’clock. Tickets One Shilling each, may be had at the Lodge house, or any of the Members.

The Cradley Heath celebrated Brass Band, under the Leadership of Mr. Wallace, will be in attendance.

It is hoped the public will come forward to help in such a noble cause.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/12/1857

“John Maloney, a nailer, of Rowley, was charged on Monday, at Wordsley, before C. E. Swindell, Esq, and the Rev. F. J. Clarke, with stealing one shilling, the property of Samuel Bennitt, also a nailer, of Rowley. The circumstance were somewhat singular. On the previous Tuesday night the parties were at the house of Mr. James Pearson, publican of Rowley, and the prosecutor placed a shilling upon the table to pay for a pint of ale, but before it was taken up he was called out of the house, and on his returning it had disappeared. Another man was in the room, but both he and the prisoner denied any knowledge of the shilling. Suspecting that the prisoner had it, the prosecutor and a policeman followed him to the CROSS INN, kept by Mrs. *Tromans*, at Old Hill. Here the prisoner called for a pint of ale, and in payment gave the landlady a shilling, which, on being examined, turned out to be the

one lost by the prosecutor, the latter having positively identified it by a mark. The defendant, for whom Mr. Burbury appeared, was committed to hard labour for fourteen days.”

1861 Census

Old Hill – GOLDEN CROSS

- [1] *Margaret E. Tromans* (42), widow, victualler, born Birmingham;
- [2] Alfred Tromans (20), son, warehouseman, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Thomas Tromans (18), son, warehouseman, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Elizabeth Tromans (14), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Eliza M. Tromans (6), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] John Payne (73), father, draper, born Birmingham;
- [7] Ann Bayliss (19), general servant, born Radnorshire:

County Advertiser 28/1/1865

“On Monday last, the members of the Knights of the Wood Friendly Society, held at the GOLDEN CROSS INN, Old Hill, sat down to an excellent dinner, given by the host. After the cloth was withdrawn, the usual business of the society was gone into, and five new members were enrolled. A pleasant evening was spent.”

County Advertiser 11/2/1865

“A meeting of miners was held at the CROSS INN, Old Hill, on Wednesday night, and was numerously attended. Mr. W. H. Miller was called to the chair. Mr. William Brown, of Hunslet, a member of the Miners’ National Union, addressed the meeting, and pointed out that at the present time union among all classes was beginning to spread through the land. Masters in every trade were combining together, and therefore, he contended, the working men should also unite. Still, he reminded those present that there was a medium even in union, and if legitimate bounds were outstepped, then, instead of being a benefit, union proved an injury. After speaking upwards of two hours, the speaker resumed his seat amid cheers.”

County Advertiser 8/4/1865

“*Joseph Whitmore*, landlord of the CROSS INN, Old Hill, was summoned for allowing drunken and riotous conduct in his house. He was permitted to settle the case by paying costs; but he was, at the same time, cautioned to see that his house was conducted with order and regularity.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 27/5/1865

“*J. Whitmore’s Match v Time*. For this match, in which E. Westwood bets *J. Whitmore* £10 that his mare does not trot eight miles in 30 minutes, we have received the £5 sent this week, but the previous £15 stated to have been forwarded to us has not come to hand. The match is for *Whitmore’s* mare to be driven in harness by the owner eight miles in 30 minutes, for £10 a side, on Monday, May 29, ten miles from Old Hill, near Dudley.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 16/9/1865

“Our readers must remember that Mr. *Whitmore*, of the CROSS INN, Old Hill, near Dudley, matched his mare to trot eight miles in 30 minutes, which stood to take place on May 29, but a dispute having arisen as to the ground to be trotted over, the match remained in abeyance until last week, when it was arranged the mare should trot on Monday last, from Birmingham to the Cross, Old Hill. At the time appointed the mare was started on her journey, and with the greatest apparent ease accomplished the distance in 25 minutes. The stakes, £20, will be forwarded to Mr. *Whitmore*, as requested on Wednesday.”

County Advertiser 16/9/1865

“At the Police Court, on Wednesday, *Joseph Whitmore*, landlord of the CROSS public house, Old Hill, was summoned to answer two charges – one of cruelly-treating a horse by overdriving it, and another of furious driving. Mr. Sheldon defended. Police-constable Fox said that on Monday last he received information that the defendant had undertaken to drive a mare from Birmingham to Old Hill, a distance, he believed, of between nine and ten miles, in half an hour, for a wager of £10. Witness went to a bridge on the Stourbridge Extension Railway, which crosses the turnpike road along which he expected the defendant would come. About a quarter to four o’clock he saw the defendant coming along in a skeleton trap, driving a mare at a gallop, and flogging her. The mare seemed very much distressed, and staggered from one side to the other like a drunken man. He could see in the direction from which defendant came for about 300 yards, and about 100 yards on the other side. He then went to the CROSS public house. The mare had been taken out of the trap, and a man was pulling her ears. There were weals on the ribs of the mare, on each side, as thick as his finger, and half as long as his arm. The weals were most numerous on the right side. There was blood on one of the mare’s legs, but witness did not know where it had come from. He has never seen an animal so badly whipped in all his life. He believed that the mare belonged to the defendant. Cross-examined: He had very little experience of horses. There was a trap before the defendant clearing the way. The horse in it was not distressed. That trap was stopped just after it passed under the bridge. It had come close to the bridge before the other horse was in sight. The defendant was not merely using the whip in such a way as to urge the mare by the sound of it; but he was hitting her. He did not see the mare paw the ground. He did not hear any one say that she could do the journey again at once; but he heard persons say that if she had had to go another another twenty yards, she would have fallen down. There were 300 or 400 people present. Police-constable Wylie deposed that he went to the yard of the CROSS public house, and found a person attending to the mare. He examined the mare carefully, and found a large number of weals on its ribs. The mare seemed much distressed. In answer to

the Bench witness said that the mare did not seem more distressed than a horse that had run in a race. Police-constable Powner stated that the conditions of the wager were that the mare should run eight miles in half an hour, at any pace the defendant pleased. He had spoken to the defendant about it in the course of the three weeks that the match had been pending. He had heard from defendant himself that he started from Broad Street, and came by Long Lane, Blackheath, and Waterfall Lane. The distance was done in twenty-five minutes. The horse was sixteen hands high. Mr. Sheldon, in defence, urged that the horse had been specially trained for the match; that being in good condition, and sixteen hands high, the distance in the time at any pace, was not only not too much for the mare, but could be done by it with perfect ease. The trap and harness were of the light kind usual on such occasions, and the distance – eight miles – was accurately measured, and was not nine and a half or ten miles as stated by the police-officer Fox. He would not deny that the mare had been beaten to some extent, but she was one of that sort that required driving, and he submitted that under the circumstances the defendant was perfectly justified in the use he had made of the whip. In conclusion, he told the Bench that the mare was able to take food in about an hour after her arrival at Old Hill; and had been at work since, therefore he contended there could have been no cruelty practised. Mr. *Whitmore* had wanted to back out of the wager, but found he could not do so, and he would undertake that nothing of a similar kind would again occur. After a brief consultation, the Bench said they considered the case proved, and fined the defendant 40s and costs; and on condition of his having engaged that nothing of the kind should again occur, so far as he was concerned, they would dismiss the other case on payment of costs.”

County Advertiser 25/11/1865

“At the Police Court, on Monday, George [sic] *Whitmore*, landlord of the OLD CROSS public house, Old Hill, was summoned to answer a charge of selling a quantity of cider at Brierley Hill wake, without having a license. A young man, who accompanied the person in charge of the cider, proved that he saw some of the cider sold in the Market Place. Police-sergeant Carroll stated that his attention was called to the person selling cider for the defendant; and on going to the place saw several men standing round the cart drinking. He asked the man if he was selling without a license, and he said he was not, producing at the same time a license granted at Old Hill. The defendant did not deny the charge; but he urged that he had a right to sell the cider. He had made inquiries of the officers of Excise, and had been told that he could sell under his license at fairs or races. He had sent his man to Wordsley races, but he could not get admission to the course; and he had consequently come to Brierley Hill. The magistrates’ clerk explained that according to the last Act of Parliament relating to the matter, publicans could only sell at races or established fairs. It said nothing about wakes. The Bench told the defendant that he ought to have applied for an occasional license; and they added that if he would consent to pay the costs they would not impose a fine. Defendant agreed to take that course.”

County Advertiser 7/4/1866

“On Easter Monday the Miners’ Independent Order of the Knights of the Wood held their twenty-first anniversary at the house of Mr. *Joseph Whitmore*, GOLDEN CROSS INN, Old Hill. The members met at ten o’clock, and, headed by the Old Spinners End Band, marched in procession to the Netherton Primitive Methodist Chapel. An impressive sermon was delivered by the Rev. W. Turner, late of Old Hill. The procession was then re-formed, and, after partaking of an excellent dinner, the members enjoyed themselves till a late hour in the manner usual on such occasions.”

County Express 12/1/1867

“Edward Johnson and John Siviter, chainmakers, were summoned by Mr. *Joseph Whitmore* for wilfully damaging the bar door of the CROSS INN, Old Hill, his property. Complainant was detaining a man named Humphries until the police should arrive, when Johnson broke the door, one part of which was glass, and caused damage to the amount of 15s. Johnson was fined 1s and costs, and 8s damages, or fourteen days. Siviter was discharged.”

Stourbridge Observer 2/2/1867

“At the Old Hill Petty Sessions, on Wednesday last, before E. Moore and F. W. G. Barrs, Esqrs, Joseph Humphries and Joseph Williams were summoned by *Joseph Whitmore* for assaulting him. Complainant, on being sworn, said: On Monday evening, the 7th January, about half past nine o’clock, in my house, at the CROSS INN, Old Hill, I was sent for into a room in consequence of Williams having broken a jug. I said to Williams, ‘I am told you broke this jug; you had better go out.’ He said he would not. He afterwards said he would, and commenced to do so, when Humphries said, ‘Give the b——r a smack.’ He then struck me. I pushed Williams up the room to get him out. Humphries followed me, and struck at me with a jug. He picked up another and threw it at me, and hit some one else. I got them out, but they came in again and went into the kitchen, and said, ‘We’ll have a b—— row tonight.’ I got Humphries in the bar, and sent for a policeman. When I went into the bar again, Humphries set about me again, and I defended myself as well as I could. Mr. Burbury, on behalf of the defendants, cross examined complainant, who said: Williams and another man were fighting when I went into the bar. I was pushed down, and got a black eye by coming into contact with the fender. This was last Monday week. I had my waistcoat on when the man known by the alias of Camp Trot, came in, and did not take it off. I did not take hold of Williams, before he struck me. Henry William Giles, Barney Bagley, and James Plant were called as witnesses for the complainant, and corroborated his statement. Defendants pleaded not guilty. The Bench, however, took a different view of the case, and fined them 2s 6d each and costs; or in default 14 days’ hard labour. One of the defendants, Joseph Humphries, summoned the above complainant, *Joseph Whitmore*, for assaulting him, and said as

follows: On the 7th of January, I was in *Whitmore's* house. I went in about half past seven o'clock. I paid for a jug of beer, and went into the Music Hall. There were about 50 people there. I saw no jug broken either by myself or Williams, but *Whitmore* charged Williams with breaking one, and said to him, 'If you don't pay for it I'll put you out.' He beat Williams all the way up the place. We had only one pint of ale between us. He turned to me after he had put Williams out and said, 'You are one of the b—s, and he caught hold of me, dragged me into the bar, and put some one to mind the door while he punched me. He held me up and punched me for a quarter of an hour, and knocked me down several times. There were four or five in the bar, while he was punching me.

On being cross examined by *Whitmore*, he said that *Whitmore* did come and order the people out of the house, and put the gas out. Case dismissed."

County Express 27/4/1867

"On Easter Monday last, the Miners' Independent Order of the Knights of the Wood Lodge held their 23rd annual feast at the house of *Joseph Whitmore*, the GOLDEN CROSS, Old Hill. The members met at one o'clock, and partook of the old English fare. After dinner, Mr. Issacher Allport was called upon to preside. The evening was spent in harmony, both vocal and instrumental, by the members, and broke up by ten o'clock, without a jarring word, by singing the old Doxology."

Birmingham Daily Post 9/3/1868 - Correspondence

"The Wrought-Nail Trade. To the Editor of the *Daily Post*.

"Sir. The nailmakers, after being on strike for four weeks, are about to resume work tomorrow (Tuesday), the 10th instant, at the full price, twenty shillings in the pound; or, in other words, the '64 List.

On Friday, February 28, a meeting was held by the nailmakers' committee, at the CROSS, Old Hill, when an appeal to the masters was drawn up, and deputation appointed to wait on them for signatures, when the following firms signed to give the price – namely, the 1864 List: Mrs. E. Tinsley, Messrs. K. Willits, S. Wilks, Wallins and Foster, R. H. Smith and Co., Homer and Hecton, Jones and Lloyd; Mountford, Homer, and Mountford; Collins and Wallis, O. Shaw, S. Heeley, H. Shaw, T. Bissell, E. Yorke. Some of the masters have not paid the reduction, and those who have paid it and have not signed the appeal we hope they will do the same, as the firms that have signed give the price, namely, the 1864 List. Those firms who will not comply, their hands will be put on strike, and supported by those who are at work.

Joseph Tibbatts, Chairman."

County Advertiser 18/4/1868

"On Monday Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, held an inquest, at the CROSS INN, Old Hill, on the body of James Danks, aged thirty-nine, collier. Deceased was employed at No.20 Pit, Saltwell Colliery, and on Thursday he had occasion to go from the thick coal into the heathen coal. In order to do so he took hold of the pit chain, and was being pulled up. When he got about nine feet from the bottom he lost his hold, and fell to the ground on his head. Assistance was rendered immediately; but the deceased only spoke a few words, and then expired. The Jury found a verdict of Accidental Death; but they coupled with their verdict a censure upon the butty for allowing the deceased to be drawn up from the thick coal to the heathen coal without having a skip attached to the chain, that being contrary to the Special Rules for the regulation of collieries."

County Advertiser 15/8/1868 - Advert

"CROSS INN, Old Hill.

Mr. *Joseph Whitmore* begs respectfully to inform the public that his £50 Money Club will Recommence at the above house on Thursday, August 20th, 1868. Shares from £5 to £50. Any person becoming a member will much oblige."

Stourbridge Observer 20/3/1869

"On Thursday evening, 11th inst, Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, held an inquest at the GOLDEN CROSS, on the body of John Thomas Hickman.

On the jury being sworn, it was found that one of them, named Joseph Bannister, had not arrived, and the Coroner fined him £2. Bannister arrived just after the jury had been to view the body, but the Coroner declined to remit the fine.

From the evidence given it appeared that deceased was employed at Mr. Rose's pit, and was helping a man named John Danks, who was getting some hanging coal from a gateway. While so engaged, a piece of coal fell from the roof, causing such severe injuries that he died shortly afterwards.

Verdict, Accidental Death."

Stourbridge Observer 10/7/1869

"A meeting of nailmakers took place on Monday morning last, near the GOLDEN CROSS INN, Old Hill, and in point of numbers far exceeded any which has yet been held, showing that a deep impression had been made on the nailers of the neighbourhood by the visit of some of the members of the committee.

Mr. Joe Tibbetts, of Old Hill, who presided, said it was with feelings of delight that he saw so many present, because they had stuck to the promises they had given, and came there that morning to declare that they were determined to strike and help their Bromsgrove brethren. Let them take courage and make up their minds to win, and they were certain to succeed.....

A proposition was then put that no more nails should be made until the masters paid the men 20s to the pound. This was carried by an overwhelming majority....."

Stourbridge Observer 24/7/1869

“A meeting of nailers was held at eleven o’clock, at the GOLDEN CROSS, Old Hill. There was nearly 1,000 persons present. Mr. J. Tibbetts presided.

Among the speakers were Mr. Ashfield and Mr. Giles, who attended as a deputation from Bromsgrove. Both speakers said some of the masters in that district had offered to give the full price asked for by the men. The men, however, were very firm, and were determined not to commence work until the whole of the masters would agree to the same.

Other speakers followed, and the meeting was of a very unanimous character. The usual resolutions having been put, every hand was held up to ‘Play on.’”

County Advertiser 14/8/1869 - Advert

“Found, on the 7th inst, near Cradley Heath, a Black Retriever Dog. If not owned in seven days will be sold. Apply at the CROSS INN, Old Hill.”

Stourbridge Observer 21/8/1869

“On Monday morning last, a large meeting of nailers was held near the GOLDEN CROSS INN, Old Hill. The meeting was very orderly, though not nearly so enthusiastic as some of the previous meetings.

Mr. Joseph Tibbetts (who presided) said he was glad to see so many present; and at the last meeting he was anticipating that at this meeting he should be able to inform them that the masters had come to terms, and that the strike was over. But, unfortunately, though efforts of the most sacrificing character had been made on behalf of the men, the masters had not at present come to terms, and hence, he was sorry to say, they must still strike on. They had done all they consistently could to bring about a reconciliation, and it was for them to say whether they would strike on, or whether they intended to begin again at the old list.

(We’ll strike till the masters give us 20s to the pound.)

He was glad that they were still determined to strike on, and that they were not disheartened by the long time they had now been on strike. He assured them that the strike must soon be over, and then they would not regret the misery and privations they had endured....”

County Express 15/1/1870 - Advert

“The Engine Tenders of this neighbourhood are hereby requested to attend a General Meeting on Monday Evening next, at Mr. J. Whitmore’s, the CROSS INN, Old Hill, at Half-past Seven o’clock.”

County Advertiser 15/1/1870

“Anthony Willett Jones, chain manufacturer, &c, and Philemon Baker, a clerk in his employ, were summoned to answer something like seven or eight charges, for offences alleged to have been committed at the house of *Joseph Whitmore*, CROSS INN, Old Hill. Mr. Addison appeared for *Whitmore*, and Mr. Stokes was engaged for the defence. Before any evidence was taken the Bench and Mr. Stokes expressed an opinion that it would be far the wisest plan for the matter to be amicably arranged. Mr. *Whitmore*, however, who had been most brutally beaten, objected to any settlement being come to. Some evidence was then taken; but as there are counter-charges, and the whole of the witnesses were not examined on one side, we think it only fair to refrain from publishing the evidence till next week.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/1/1870

“At the Police Court yesterday some hours were occupied in hearing the evidence of the different cases arising out of the disgraceful row which took place at the CROSS INN on the 6th instant. As local readers have already been made aware of the circumstances connected with the disreputable affair, we merely give the decisions of the Bench. For refusing to leave the house when requested, Anthony Willett Jones and Philemon Baker were each fined 5s and costs. For assaulting Jones, the landlord *Joseph Whitmore* was fined 1s and costs; and for inciting *Whitmore* to commit a breach of the peace, Jones and Baker were called upon to find sureties to keep the peace for twelve months. Mr. Stokes of Dudley, and Mr. Addison, were the solicitors engaged in conducting the case.”

County Advertiser 22/1/1870

“The wages of Colliery Engine Tenders. A meeting of members of the trade from the surrounding district was held on Monday evening last, at the CROSS INN, Old Hill. The meeting was well attended, and the question of wages was discussed at some length. It was the unanimous opinion of the meeting that the request of sixpence per day advance upon the present wages was not an unreasonable one; and it was resolved that a general notice should be given on the first Saturday in February, unless the masters complied with the demand. A memorial, it appears, has been sent during the past week to the Chairman of the Coalmasters’ Association, praying that the masters will comply with the wishes of the men; and that any decision they (the masters) came to might be forwarded to the chairman of a meeting to be held by the men on Monday next, at the DOG AND PARTRIDGE public house, Brierley Hill.

On Thursday evening, another meeting was held at Pensnett. The attendance was large, and the proceedings were of the most unanimous character.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/2/1870

“At Old Hill Petty Sessions yesterday.....

The remaining charges arising out of the disgraceful row at the CROSS INN were gone into yesterday at the Police Court. Elizabeth Whitmore, who was charged with cutting and wounding John Smith, was discharged. For breaking the window of *Joseph Whitmore*, John Smith was ordered to pay the amount of damage and costs.”

Stourbridge Observer 23/4/1870

“On Monday last the Miners’ Independent Order of the Knights of the Wood, held their 25th anniversary at Mr. *J. Whitmore*’s, the GOLDEN CROSS INN, Old Hill. The members met at one o’clock, and about 30 sat down to a sumptuous dinner. After the cloth was removed, Mr. E. Haden was called to the chair, and Mr. Thomas Weston to the vice-chair.....”

County Express 25/6/1870

“Alfred Williams, was charged with being drunk and incapable, on the 18th inst. *Joseph Whitmore* of the CROSS INN, said defendant was in his employ, but he had now discharged him. He was driving home in a cab of the 8th inst, and drove the cab into a cart, although there was plenty of room to pass. He told him of it, but he swore at him, and quite insulted him. Defendant refused to allow him to take charge of the horse. Witness ultimately sent for the police and gave him into custody. He paid him his wages this morning.

Mr. Hingley: Oh you needn’t have paid him wages, he had forfeited them by his disobedience and bad conduct.

Sergeant Powner proved having taken the prisoner into custody on being sent for, by the last witness, at half-past seven on Saturday evening. He was quite drunk at the time. Defendant was fined 5s and costs, or fourteen days.”

Stourbridge Observer 10/12/1870 - Advert

“Notice. Mr. *J. E. Whitmore*, Having made arrangements with the Great Western Railway Company for a Cab Stand at Cradley Station, begs to inform the Public generally, and Commercial Gentlemen in particular, that he will meet all Trains at the above Station.

Charges strictly moderate.

NB. Horses Let on Hire.

J. E. Whitmore, Proprietor, GOLDEN CROSS, Old Hill, near Dudley.”

1871 Census

Old Hill – GOLDEN CROSS

- [1] *Joseph Whitmore* (40), licensed victualler, born Dudley;
- [2] Elizabeth Whitmore (37), wife, born Scotland;
- [3] Emily Whitmore (12), daughter, scholar, born Dudley;
- [4] Maria L. Whitmore (11), daughter, scholar, born Dudley;
- [5] Thomas Whitmore (10), son, scholar, born Dudley;
- [6] John Whitmore (8), son, scholar, born Dudley;
- [7] James Baker (38), porter, born Buildwas, Shropshire;
- [8] Thomas Price (20), porter, born Rowley Regis;
- [9] Ann Poole (23), general servant, born Dudley:

Stourbridge Observer 15/4/1871

“On Easter Monday the members of the Independent Order of the Knights of the Wood held their 26th anniversary at the house of Mr. *J. Whitmore*, the GOLDEN CROSS INN, Old Hill. The members met at nine o’clock in the morning, and proceeded in procession to the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Quarry Bank, headed by the Spinners End Brass Band, under the leadership of Mr. Bennett. They then returned to the Lodge, where ample justice was done to a substantial dinner, provided in a first class manner by the worthy hostess.

After the cloth was withdrawn, Mr. G. Buttery occupied the chair, and Mr. Timothy Priest the vice chair. The usual loyal toasts were drunk, and the proceedings were brought to a close by the singing of the Doxology.”

Stourbridge Observer 29/4/1871

“Phoebe Priest was charged with stealing a half pound of butter, the property of *Joseph Whitmore*, of the GOLDEN CROSS INN, Old Hill, on the 24th instant. William Priest, grocer’s assistant, proved seeing the prisoner go into prosecutor’s shop, put her hand on a dish and take the butter off, and put it in her pocket. He ran across, and accused her of it, when she pulled it out of her pocket.

Mrs. Elizabeth *Whitmore*, wife of prosecutor, identified the butter as their property.

Police-constable Cox proved apprehending the prisoner, and charging her with the offence. She said, ‘Don’t take me, I will make it up with Mrs. *Whitmore*.’

Prisoner was committed to take her trial at the next Stafford Sessions.”

Stourbridge Observer 1/7/1871 - Advert

“Car, Cab & Posting Establishment. The CROSS INN, Old Hill.

J. E. Whitmore Begs to inform the Public that he can supply Carriages with Grey Horses for Wedding Parties.

Pair and Four-Horse Breaks, for Picnic and Pleasure Parties, on the Shortest Notice.

Also, Cars, Cabs, Waggonettes, Broughams, Vehicles &c.

NB. Horses to Let on Hire by the Day, Week, or Month.

Orders per Post will receive prompt attention.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/8/1871 - Correspondence

“The Nail Trade. To the Editor of the *Daily Post*.

Sir. At a district meeting held at the house of Mr. Richard Tildesley, the OLD LYTTELTON ARMS, Hales Owen, on Saturday, August 26th, it was unanimously agreed to appoint a deputation of two men to solicit the masters in the wrought nail trade of South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire to pay the net list price agreed upon by the masters September 15, 1869, without deduction or deviation. On Saturday next, September 2nd, when the deputation appointed to wait upon the masters will attend an adjourned meeting, appointed to be held at the house of Mr. *Joseph Whitmore*, the GOLDEN CROSS, Old Hill, at six o'clock in the evening, the result of the deputation will be finally discussed. Gentleman of the nail trade, I hope you will comply with our wishes, and give us the net list price of September 15, 1869, so as to prevent a general strike, that would be painful both to masters and men. Think of the great suffering we poor nail makers must undergo during the approaching winter if we are to work at ten per cent off the very low prices of the net list. I humbly appeal to you on behalf of a starving people to give us the price.

Yours truly, John Price. Rowley Regis, August 28, 1871.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/9/1871 - Correspondence

“The Nail Trade. To the Editor of the *Daily Post*.

Sir. I beg to inform you that an adjourned district meeting of nail-forgers was held on Saturday last, at the house of Mr. *Joseph Whitmore*, GOLDEN CROSS, Old Hill, for the purpose of receiving the report of the deputation which waited on the masters, and to carry out the resolutions of the former meeting, held at the OLD LYTTELTON ARMS, Hales Owen. The meeting was well attended by representatives of the various districts, and the report was somewhat favourable. Six of the masters have already promised to pay the price on Saturday next. The others do not object; but, on the contrary, most of them sympathise with us, and believe that the trade will allow the net list price of 1869 to be paid. The matter was fully discussed, and we do sincerely hope and trust that by Saturday next the whole of the masters will pay the full list price; and so we shall not be driven to the painful necessity of a general strike.

Yours truly, John Price, District Chairman, Rowley Regis.”

Stourbridge Observer 21/10/1871

“The Miners Independent Order of the Knights of the Wood Lodge, held at Mr. *J. Whitmore*'s, the CROSS INN, Old Hill, gave to the Dudley Dispensary the sum of £2 2s.”

County Advertiser 1/6/1872

“Josiah Marsh, a cab-driver, was charged with assaulting *Joseph Whitmore*, publican of Old Hill, on the 20th May. The complainant said that on the date referred to he went home and found the defendant, who was one of his cab-drivers, in a state of intoxication. The man used very bad language in the house, and complainant threatened to turn him out unless he chose to conduct himself in a more becoming manner. The defendant became so unruly that complainant was obliged to turn him out. In doing so he knocked the defendant down, upon which the defendant jumped up and ‘punched’ him in return. The complainant also claimed £1 for neglect of work, the defendant having absented himself from his duties for some time after the disturbance. Defendant was ordered to pay a fine of 2s 6d and the costs, or go to prison for 14 days.”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/6/1872

“The Strike in the Brick Trade. At a mass meeting, held at the GOLDEN CROSS, Old Hill, on Monday last, it was unanimously agreed that the men to whom the masters had conceded the rise and reduction of hours were to commence work on Tuesday, and that those men to whom the masters had not given the advance should remain on strike till their demands are complied with.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/7/1872

“A meeting of nailmakers was held at Mr. *Whitmore*'s CROSS INN, Old Hill, on Wednesday, when the following resolution was passed. That it is the opinion of this meeting that we, the nailers of this district, are bound by our social and moral interest to stand by and support the resolution come to by the Committee of the United Nailers' Association, and not resume our labour until the masters reconsider the decision arrived at at Dudley [see DUDLEY ARMS, Dudley], and agree to issue a printed net list conceding the 20 per cent advance on the list of 1869, with the exception of the concessions made with the plate, rivet and spike nailmakers.”

Stourbridge Observer 10/8/1872

“The nailers of Rowley Regis and the surrounding districts held a meeting at Mr. *Whitmore*'s CROSS INN, Old Hill, on Monday evening, to appoint deputations to visit upon three of the nail masters at Dudley, who have paid a reduction of 10 per cent on the 1872 list, and it was agreed that unless those masters gave the price of the above list on Saturday next, the men would strike, and the surrounding districts would support them.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/8/1872 - Advert

“Brewer Wanted, who understands his business. Constant employment.

J. E. Whitmore, GOLDEN CROSS INN, Old Hill.”

Stourbridge Observer 26/10/1872

“John Johnson was charged with assaulting Elizabeth *Whitmore* at the CROSS INN, Old Hill, on the 19th inst, and further charged with wilfully damaging some glass. Mrs. *Whitmore* said defendant was in her house drunk, on the above date. She requested him to leave, when he refused to go, and struck her three times on the face and body, and broke some windows, doing damage to

the amount of 4s. For the assault defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs, or 14 days; and for the damage fined 6d, 4s damage, and costs.”

Joseph Whitmore was also a greengrocer. [1873]

County Advertiser 21/6/1873

“John Smith, secretary of a lodge of the Friendly Knights of the Wood Society, held at the GOLDEN CROSS INN, Old Hill, was charged with refusing to pay Henry Johnson, nailer, of Old Hill, the sum of 8s due to him according to the rules, for one week’s allowance during sickness. The complainant stated that he had been a member of the club for twenty-five years, and it was enrolled by Act of Parliament. He was taken ill and went ‘on the box.’ He produced a doctor’s certificate and applied to the defendant for a week’s sick pay. Defendant said that he had applied too late, and refused to pay the money.

Defendant: I wish to say he has sued the wrong man. According to the Act of Parliament, 19 Victoria, a sick member must sue.

The Magistrates’ Clerk: There is a latter Act, 21st and 22nd Victoria, which says it shall be sufficient to make the secretary or other officer of the society, at the time the complaint is made, the defendant in such proceeding.

The Assistant Magistrates’ Clerk: The fact is they want to do him out of his pay.

The Bench made an order upon the defendant to pay the amount due to complainant, and the costs.

Defendant (warmly): I will pay the money, but I shall appeal against the decision.”

Stourbridge Observer 6/12/1873

“Samuel Stevens, chainmaker, was charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the CROSS INN, Old Hill, when requested, on the 29th ult. Defendant was further charged with wilfully breaking two squares of glass. *Joseph Whitmore*, the landlord, proved the case, and said defendant insulted his wife. He refused to go, and broke two panes of glass. Defendant was also charged by Inspector Price with being drunk and disorderly on the same date. Police-constable Collier proved the case. Defendant pleaded guilty. For refusing to quit, defendant was fined 5s and costs; for being drunk in the street, he was fined 1s and costs; in default 21 days.”

Stourbridge Observer 21/2/1874

“Elijah Allport was charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the GOLDEN CROSS INN, Old Hill. Mrs. *Whitmore*, the landlady, proved that defendant was drunk and refused to quit the house when she requested him to do so. Fined 5s and costs.”

County Advertiser 14/3/1874

“Alfred Broom, a brewer in the employ of *Joseph Whitmore*, GOLDEN CROSS, Old Hill, was charged with having on the 5th inst, stolen a quantity of liquors, the property of his employer. Mr. Stokes defended.

The prosecutor stated that the prisoner was engaged by him as a brewer. On Friday a quantity of rum, brandy, and whiskey, was missed out of three different casks in the wine cellar of his house.....

Walter Pulley, a horse driver, also in the employ of the prosecutor, said that on the 5th inst he saw the prisoner in the brewhouse. He had a pint cup in his hand containing rum and water, and he asked witness to drink. Witness drank, and the next day he saw prisoner engaged in the cellar. He had a cup in his hand containing whiskey, and he asked him to drink, but he refused. The master then came into the cellar, and prisoner placed the whiskey behind a barrel.

Mr. Cheese, excise man, gauged the barrels, and found four gallons of brandy deficient, nine gallons of rum, and two gallons of whiskey.

Police-constable Cooper said that he apprehended the prisoner and charged him; he said, in answer to the charge, ‘Can they prove I stole it?’ On Monday, as he was taking him to Haden Hill to have him bailed, a woman, a relative of the prisoner’s, said, ‘Alf, however came you to do it?’ Prisoner said, ‘I should not have done it if it hadn’t been for the drink.’ He further stated that ‘He did not sell it, but gave it away.’

Mr. Stokes contended that there was no evidence against the prisoner.

Mr. Barrs, however, adjourned the case for seven days, bail being accepted.”

[The case was subsequently referred to Stafford Sessions.]

Stourbridge Observer 11/4/1874

“At the Stafford Sessions, on Wednesday, before Mr. R. A. Kettle, Assistant Chairman, Alfred Broom, on bail, was charged with stealing, on the 5th of March, a quantity of rum and other articles, the property of *Joseph Whitmore*. Mr. Kynnersley was for the prosecution; and Mr. Corser defended the prisoner.

The case was that the prisoner was employed by the prosecutor, a publican, at Old Hill, as brewer and cabman, and that he had gained access to the spirit cellar, which was partitioned from the ale cellar, and stolen 7½ gallons of rum, 4 of brandy, and 2 of whisky. The accused had given a quantity of spirits away, and this fact having aroused suspicion an exciseman was sent for, and the casks having been gauged, it was ascertained that the quantities of spirits named had been drawn off. After his apprehension the prisoner said it was through drink he had done it, and if he had known it would come to that (meaning the prosecution) he would have paid for it.

The jury retired to consider their verdict, and after half an hour’s absence returned a verdict of acquitted.”

County Advertiser 11/4/1874

“On Monday the Miners’ Independent Order of the Knights of the Wood Lodge held their twenty-ninth anniversary at the house of Mr. *J. Whitmore*, GOLDEN CROSS, Old Hill. The members met at nine o’clock, and paraded the different neighbourhoods

to the Old Hill Tabernacle, when a sermon was preached by Mr. Smart. The procession was headed by the Cradley Heath Brass Band. After service the members returned to the lodge house, where a substantial dinner was provided by the hostess. Mr. W. Morgan, PG, was called to the chair, and the evening was spent very pleasantly. This society subscribes annually two guineas to the Dudley Dispensary.”

County Advertiser 24/10/1874

“The Guest Hospital The secretary, Mr. E. Poole, reported the following subscriptions and donations.....
Mr. J. Whitmore, GOLDEN CROSS, Old Hill, £1 5s 10d.”

County Express 20/3/1875

“Thomas James and Benjamin Pugh were charged with being quarrelsome and refusing to quit licensed premises on the 13th inst. It was shown that on the day in question the defendants were in the house of Mr. Whitmore, the CROSS INN, Old Hill. They were quarrelsome and on being ordered to leave the house refused to do so, but ultimately went. It happened at eleven o’clock at night; the defendants were sober. Pugh went when the barmaid ordered him out. An officer went into the house and the defendants were fighting. James was fined 2s 6d and the costs; and Pugh 5s and the costs.”

County Advertiser 11/9/1875 - Advert

“Old Hill, Rowley Regis.

The CROSS INN and Premises, Nail Warehouse, Six Dwelling Houses, Nailshops, Yards, Gardens and Premises, and Three Lots of Very Valuable Building Land, situate at Old Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Bateman, upon the Premises on Monday, the 20th day of September, 1875, at Six o’clock in the Evening, and subject to conditions then to be produced, embodying the common form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society, the following Valuable Freehold Property.

Lot 1. That Long-established and well-situated Old Licensed Public House, called the CROSS INN, at Old Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, with Shop, Nail Warehouse, extensive Outbuildings, Stabling, Yard, Garden, and Premises adjoining, and now in the occupation of Mr. Whitmore and the Chapel Trustees, at the yearly rent of £43, the whole containing in quantity 1,300 square yards. The property is well situated for business purposes, and in a very populous neighbourhood.....”

County Advertiser 12/2/1876

“Noah Allport was charged with being drunk and disorderly on the 5th inst. Police-constable Kettle said he had to eject defendant from the CROSS INN, Old Hill, in consequence of his disorderly behaviour. When they got outside defendant challenged him to fight. Defendant was convicted in January, 1875, of a similar offence, and then promised that he would not offend again for twelve months. He now pleaded that he had kept his promise, and said he would not get drunk again for eighteen months. The Bench discharged him with a fine of 2s 6d and costs on this understanding.”

Dudley Herald 26/2/1876 - Advert

“Preliminary Notice. Clearing Out Sale at the CROSS INN, Old Hill, near Dudley.

Mr. John Bent has received instructions, from the Proprietor, to Offer for Sale, the whole of the Excellent Brewing Plant, Copper Boilers, well-seasoned Ale and Store Casks; together with the stock of Ale Casks from the OLD BUSH INN, Dudley.

Full descriptive catalogues will appear in next week’s impression.”

County Express 17/6/1876

“John Carter was brought up in custody, charged with having stolen a glass on the night of the 3rd inst, the property of *Jeremiah Westwood*, landlord of the CROSS INN, Old Hill. Mr. Hayes appeared to prosecute.

It appeared from the evidence of the landlord, that a man named Powell took a glass containing liquor into the street opposite his house and offered it the prisoner. Instead of prisoner returning the glass he ran away. This was corroborated by Powell. Inspector Price apprehended prisoner, and in answer to the charge he denied that he had the missing glass. It was however found in his possession. Prisoner was sentenced to two months’ imprisonment with hard labour.”

County Advertiser 10/3/1877

“Stephen Farmer, butcher, of Old Hill, was charged by *Jeremiah Westwood* with having assaulted him on the 27th ult, and also with having been disorderly on his licensed premises, the CROSS INN, Old Hill. Mr. Hayes prosecuted.

The complainant stated that defendant came into his house on the night of the above date, and after being supplied with some ale, commenced using disgusting language. He remonstrated with him, and at length was obliged to order him to leave. Defendant refused to do so, and after witness had sent for the police, he threw him down violently, injuring his back.

Defendant called a witness, who, however, proved the case against himself.

The Magistrates fined him 10s and costs for the assault, or twenty-eight days, and for refusing to leave 10s and costs, or fourteen days additional.”

County Advertiser 17/3/1877

“On Tuesday, Mr. E. Hooper, district coroner, held an inquest at the CROSS INN, Old Hill, touching the death of Isaacher Allport (52), of Elbow Street, Old Hill. Deceased was a collier, and was employed at No.23 pit, Rowley, belonging to the Earl of Dudley. On the morning of the 5th inst, an explosion of gas occurred in that portion of the mine where he was working, and he was very severely burnt. The injuries he received terminated fatally on Saturday morning last. From the evidence offered it did not appear

that there was any human cause for this explosion, and a verdict of Accidental Death was accordingly returned. Deceased was a married man.”

County Express 31/3/1877

“*John Frost*, landlord of the CROSS INN, Old Hill, was charged with having, on the 13th inst, permitted drunkenness in his house. Mr. Addison prosecuted and Mr. Hayes defended.

Police-constable Wickstead said that he visited the CROSS INN at a quarter-to-twelve o’clock on the morning of the 13th and saw Mr. *Westwood*, the manager of the house, talking to two men on the back premises. On going into the house he found a man named Brassington, who asked witness to drink from a cup which he had. Brassington was drunk, and witness called *Westwood’s* attention to the man, and said he thought he had had enough to drink. *Westwood* merely smiled. At three o’clock pm he paid a second visit to the house, and found Brassington still there. He then asked witness to drink from a cup containing ale. Mrs. *Westwood*, in answer to witness, said that she would ‘see to him,’ meaning Brassington, but he did not leave. On the afternoon of the same day he had occasion to visit the house again, and found Brassington had not left, but was still remaining in the kitchen; and on paying a subsequent visit in company with Police-constable Silvester found the man asleep. *Westwood*, the manager, ‘slapped’ him on the face and he awoke. Brassington was then drunk, and staggered out of the house. His brother officer, Police-constable Silvester, told *Westwood* that he should report the case, and in reply the manager said he hoped he would not, as Brassington had not been there above five minutes.

Police-constable Sivester corroborated.

Mr. Hayes, in defence, said that there was an inquest at the house on the afternoon in question, and *Westwood* did all he possibly could to manage the house. It was a fact that Brassington did visit the house several times, but he should prove that the evidence of the officers was incorrect. In order to constitute a case of permitting drunkenness it was necessary for the prosecution to show that the manager supplied ale knowing a person to be drunk.

Jeremiah Westwood said he managed the CROSS INN for defendant. Wickstead never spoke to him about Brassington until seven o’clock pm. On leaving the house about four o’clock in the afternoon the man appeared to be perfectly sober. He returned about seven o’clock, but witness did not fill him any ale.

William Brassington said that he was at the CROSS several times during the day, and also made a visit at seven o’clock pm when *Westwood* refused to supply him with ale and requested him to leave.

In the result, the Bench fined defendant 40s and costs.”

Jeremiah Westwood – see also BEE HIVE, Graingers Lane, and RAILWAY TAVERN, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath.

Henry Tope = Henry Tupe

County Express 25/8/1877

“After the business of the Petty Sessions had been disposed of the Annual Licensing Sessions were held. The Black List was first called on, and it appeared that the following were the publicans who had been convicted of offences against the Licensing Laws during the past year.

John Frost, CROSS INN, Old Hill.

License renewed with a caution from the Magistrates.”

County Express 25/1/1878

“Mr. Hooper (Coroner) held an inquest on Wednesday, at the OLD CROSS, Old Hill, on the body of Henry Powell, aged 21, miner, of Garratts Lane, who died from injuries received whilst at work at the Gawn Colliery, belonging to Messrs. Hingley and Son. It was shown that the injuries were caused by accident, and the jury returned a verdict to that effect.”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/6/1878 - Advert

“General Servant Wanted. One from the country preferred.
Apply, CROSS INN, Old Hill.”

County Express 4/10/1879

“An inquest was held by Mr. E. Hooper, at the CROSS INN, Old Hill, touching the death of Edgar Mason, aged 1 year and 9 months, of Garratts Lane, Old Hill. Deceased was last seen alive by his mother, on the 25th ult, about two in the afternoon. He left the house, and in about half-an-hour afterwards was found by a person named Noah Hackett lying on his back dead, in an ash-pit in the yard, and was at once taken home. A verdict of Found Dead was returned.”

Dudley Herald 14/2/1880 - Advert

“The CROSS INN, Old Hill. Valuable Building Land, Garratts Lane, Old Hill.

Mr. B. Bellingham (late John Bent and Bellingham) will Sell by Auction, at the House of Mr. *Henry Tope*, the CROSS INN, Old Hill, on Monday, February 23rd, 1880, Two valuable Lots of Building Land.

Sale will commence at Six o’clock prompt.

For further particulars, apply to Mr. Ernest F. Whitehouse, Solicitor, Dudley; or of the Auctioneer, 205, Wolverhampton Street, Dudley.”

County Express 7/8/1880

“Alfred Charlton, nailmaker, of Halesowen parish, was charged with assaulting Vincent Towers. The complainant, whilst in the CROSS INN, Old Hill, taunted defendant about some horses, upon which the latter struck complainant on the face. In consequence of the provocation, the bench fined defendant 1s without costs.”

1881 Census

Halesowen Road

- [1] *Henry Tope* (26), licensed victualler, born Morley, Devon;
- [2] *Fanny Tope* (25), wife, born Devon;
- [3] *Agnes Tope* (4), daughter, scholar, born Manchester;
- [4] *Jessie Perris Tope* (1), daughter, born Rowley;

County Advertiser 4/6/1881 - Advert

“Money! Money! Money!

All Persons in want of Money, and those who are desirous to Invest, should join either of the undermentioned Loan and Investment Societies, held at Mr. Thomas Gaunt’s OLD BUSH INN, Powke Lane, Rowley, every Wednesday Evening; at *Henry Tope*’s, OLD CROSS INN, Old Hill, every Thursday Evening; and at the HOLLY BUSH INN, Mrs. Jane Homer’s, Cradley Heath, every Saturday Evening. No Fines for Non-payment. No Interest to pay.

Business hours from Half-past Seven to Nine o’clock.

Scale of payments.

For a Share of £10 0s 0d. 1s 3d per week.

For a Share of £20 0s 0d. 2s 3d per week.

For a Share of £30 0s 0d. 3s 3d per week.

For a Share of £40 0s 0d. 4s 3d per week.

For a Share of £50 0s 0d. 5s 3d per week.

Registered pursuant to Act of Parliament.

The rules may be seen and every information obtained by applying at either of the above places, or on application to the Secretary, Mr. Isaac Cashmore, Auctioneer and House Agent, Rose Cottages, Rowley Regis.”

Dudley and District News 15/7/1882

“At the Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, before H. S. Hickman W. Bassano, and C. Holcroft, Esqs, Moses Rock (treasurer), and Roland Robert Turner (secretary), of the Friendly Knights of the Wood Friendly Society, held at the CROSS INN, Old Hill, were summoned by Mr. John Billingham, of Birch Coppice, Saltwells, a member of the above society, that a certain dispute had arisen between him and the society respecting the amount of his sick allowance, and the said society refused, and still did refuse, to pay him the sum due and payable to him according to the rules of the said society for allowance during his sickness for 49 weeks, from the 25th day of July, 1881, to the 3rd day of July, 1882, and there is now coming to him in respect of such allowance, the sum of £3 9s.

Mr. Cooksey defended, and said he had many objections to raise. One was that Billingham had not proved the registration of the society.

The Bench said it might be taken for granted that the society was registered.

Mr. Cooksey, continuing, said the question the Bench had to consider was whether Billingham was entitled to recover the sum he claimed. The rules of the society formerly provided that the full sick pay should be 8s per week, and the half pay 3s 6d. But at a special meeting of the society in 1879, this rule was unanimously altered to 7s 6d and 3s respectively. At a general meeting, held 27th December, 1880, the rule was again altered, and the full sick pay reduced to 6s per week. The reason why the sick pay had been reduced was because sickness had increased to a great extent, and it being an old society, many of the members were aged and infirm, so that there was too great a drain on the funds of the society to allow the higher rates of sick pay. Mr. Cooksey asked Billingham if when he received the reduced sick pay he ever asked as to the amount, or object to receive either the 6s or the 3s. Billingham replied he did not.

Mr. Cooksey said Billingham had received 49 payments of the reduced sick pay, and had never made a complaint to anyone, not even to the officers of the society, and they knew nothing of the complaint until the present summons was served upon the two defendants. Mr. Cooksey thought the case should be settled by the society, and that the Bench had no jurisdiction in the matter. He asked Billingham if he was present at the general meeting when pay was reduced and whether he received a notice to attend the meeting? Billingham replied he was not at the meeting, neither did he receive any notice of it. Mr. Cooksey contended that Billingham was present, and this he could prove. There were other members present who were receiving sick pay and submitted to the reduction without a word.

Mr. Cooksey called Roland Robert Turner, one of the defendants and secretary to the society, who said he gave Billingham notice of the general meeting, and he was present when the resolution was passed. Not a voice raised any objection against it, and there were about 30 members present, although there were 70 members in the society. He did not give Billingham a written notice, for the rules did not specify that written notices should be given.

Joseph Rock, one of the trustees of the society, said he was present at a meeting held December 27, 1880, when the resolution was passed to reduce the sick pay to 6s. He would swear that Billingham was present, and that he expressed himself to the effect that the club should be wound up.

The Bench said that two witnesses had said that Billingham was present at the meeting when the sick pay was reduced, and he must abide by the resolution, and the case would be dismissed.

Mr. Bassano said it was rarely found that any of the friendly societies were solvent, and in time it would be seen that they were not

so.”

Dudley and District News 18/8/1883 - Advert

“Warehouse To Let, (or Stores), situated in a good position in centre of Old Hill, suitable for China, Nail, or Rivet Warehouse. Apply to *H. Tope*, CROSS INN, Old Hill.”

County Express 3/10/1885

“On Wednesday morning the premises of Mr. *Thomas Darby*, the CROSS, Old Hill, were discovered to have been broken into. A boy named Thomas Wright, nine years of age, was apprehended on suspicion, and he admitted having broken into the place five or six times before. Mr. *Darby* refused to prosecute on account of the boy’s age, and he was discharged from custody.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 5/3/1887

“At a meeting of nailers’ delegates, held at the CROSS INN, Old Hill, on Tuesday evening, Mr. J. Price presiding, the following resolution was passed: That, owing to Mr. T. Williams, nail and rivet manufacturer, Halesowen, reducing the nailmakers’ wages another 10 per cent, on Saturday last, we take out the whole of his hands on strike, and that levies be collected in the whole of the nailmaking district to support the operatives on strike.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/2/1889

“A well-attended meeting of delegates from the nailmaking districts was held at the CROSS INN, Old Hill, on Monday night, for the purpose of considering the wages question, and what action should be taken to secure an advance. After considerable discussion, the following resolution was passed: ‘That at the meeting of masters, held at Birmingham in January, it was understood by the delegates that the meeting was adjourned until February 14 to appoint a permanent chairman, and, as we have not heard of any results from that meeting, this meeting is adjourned until this day fortnight, and in the meantime public meetings be held in the districts to test the opinion of the operatives with reference to giving notice for an advance of 10 per cent, as it now impossible for the operatives to live at the present low prices.’”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1889

“A meeting of miners was held last night, at the CROSS INN, Old Hill, for the purpose of determining what action should be taken with regard to the wages question and the Wages Board. Mr. B. Winwood remarked that at a colliery in the Rowley district the miners had experienced great difficulty in obtaining their fire-coal. The meeting had been called for the express purpose of considering whether they should join the Wages Board or the national movement. Trade was now in a flourishing condition, and it was only right that the operatives should participate in its benefits by receiving a higher rate of wages. It was decided to join the national movement, and also take a ballot in the Old Hill district to ascertain the views of the men on the Wages Board.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/12/1889

“A well-attended meeting of miners was held last night, at the CROSS INN, Old Hill.....
A resolution was passed to give fourteen days’ notice next Saturday for an advance of 10 per cent.
A miner proposed that they support the eight-hours movement independently of the wages question, which was carried unanimously.”

Birmingham Daily Post 13/3/1890

“At the Police Court, yesterday, Thomas Williams, showman, was charged with assaulting the police; and Charles Williams, also a showman, was charged with being drunk, on Thursday. Police-constable Insley deposed to having seen the defendants come out of the CROSS INN, Old Hill, when Charles Williams was the worse for drink. A disturbance took place, and upon going up to the defendant Charles the other defendant became disorderly, kicked and bit him, and endeavoured to throw him down. For the defence witnesses were called to show that the defendants did not assault the police and were not disorderly. The Bench fined Thomas £1 and Charles 13s, including costs.”

County Express 15/3/1890 - Advert

“Cradley Heath, Staffordshire.
Highly-important and Very-valuable Freehold Public House, RED LION INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath.
Mr. E. H. Boilstone has been favoured with instructions to Sell by Auction, at the house of Mr. *H. Cole*, CROSS INN, Old Hill, on Monday, the 31st day of March, 1890, at Six for Seven o’clock in the Evening.....”

Birmingham Mail 11/4/1890

“This morning a large body of miners in the Rowley, Lye, Hales Owen, and surrounding districts, who are out on strike for an advance of 5 per cent immediately and 5 per cent in August, assembled at the CROSS INN, Old Hill for the purpose of discussing their present situation adjourned.”

1891 Census

Halesowen Road – CROSS INN

[1] *Henry Cole* (30), licensed victualler, born Dudley;

[2] *Amelia Cole* (27), wife, born Halesowen;

[3] *Joseph Henry Cole* (3), son, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Martha Ann Billingham (19), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 4/7/1891

“*Henry Cole*, landlord of the OLD CROSS INN, Halesowen Road, was charged with selling drink to a drunken person on the 20th of June. Mr. Waldron prosecuted and Mr. Chas. Herbert Collis defended.

Mr. Waldron, in stating the case, said a man named Eli Cooksey went into defendant’s house at 9.30 under the influence of drink, and was supplied with one glass of ale and two glasses of whiskey.

Inspector Bishop went to the house at 10.50, and drew the attention of the landlord to Cooksey’s drunken condition. The excuse was made was that the man had only just come in and had not been supplied. There was no denial of drunkenness.

Inspector Bishop, Police-constables Gibbs and Smedley were called in support of the case for the prosecution.

Inspector Bishop in cross-examination was asked if he thought it was right to permit a drunken man to go into a licensed house.

Witness refused to answer the question unless he was obliged, but on being pressed answered: ‘I do. If the landlord is not capable of judging when a man’s drunk or sober he is not capable of conducting a licensed house.’

Mr. Collis, for the defence, said that all the man had to drink at defendant’s house was a bottle of soda water. Continuing, Mr.

Collis said the inspector was greatly to blame when he saw the man Cooksey go into the house for not telling him to go home. It was not right for the police to allow men to go drunk into a licensed house, and then hang about and summon the landlord. When a licensed victualler was doing a brisk business on a Saturday night he could not keep an eye on everyone. If a landlord was reasonably cautious that ought to be sufficient. The police instead of going in for convicting ought rather to assist the licensed victualler. But in this case, as he had said, all that Cooksey had was a bottle of soda water.

Mr. Bassano said as it happened Inspector Bishop advised Cooksey to go home.

Mr. Collis quoted a case in support of his argument.

Mr. Bassano: I don’t think it is any part of the inspector’s duty to prevent a man going into a public house.

Defendant was called and said the man Cooksey, who had been a waiter at his house, asked for a pint of ale. Witness saw he had had enough, and told him so, and gave him a bottle of soda water. Cooksey stopped in the house three or four minutes, and then left. Witness saw the man again at a quarter to eleven when he had just come in. Cross-examined: It was a lie to say that he supplied Cooksey with a glass of ale or two glasses of whiskey. Cooksey was not in the house ten minutes altogether on the two occasions.

Cooksey was called, and swore he had nothing to drink in the defendant’s house except soda water. Cross-examined: He had had plenty of beer, but he thought he was able to stand some more. (Laughter.) He had been convicted of various offences.

Mr. Collis: But you’ve never been convicted of telling a lie. (Laughter.)

Mr. Waldron: I don’t know where we shall get to directly.

Mr. Bassano: This case has the usual feature of difficulty in it. We have oath opposed to oath, and it is only by careful observation and small bits of evidence that one can be guided as to which oath must be believed and which disbelieved. It is quite impossible there could be any mistakes – absolutely impossible that the policeman could be mistaken. They have either come here deliberately to perjure themselves, or else the witnesses for the defence have perjured themselves. There is no question of mistake on either side. We have no doubt on which side the perjury is. Defendant will be fined £5 and costs.

Cooksey, for being drunk on the premises, was fined 5s and costs.”

County Express 11/7/1891

“Mr. *Henry Cole*, CROSS INN, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, and Mr. Darby, Old Hill, entered into recognisances to appeal at the next Staffordshire Quarter Session against the decision of the magistrates last week, when *Henry Cole*, was summoned and fined £5 and costs for permitting drunkenness. It will be remembered Mr. C. H. Collis, who defended, raised the question whether it was not the duty of a police officer to prevent a drunken person entering a public house.”

County Express 29/8/1891

“The annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis division of Staffordshire were held at the Police Court, Old Hill, on Wednesday.....

Mr. Waldron (for Mr. C. Herbert Collis, Stourbridge) appeared in support of the application of *Henry Cole* of the CROSS INN.

Inspector Bishop deposed that Mr. *Cole* was fined £5 and costs in July, for selling liquor to a drunken person. Nothing else was known against the house. He understood that notice of appeal had been given in the case.

By Mr. Waldron: It was one of the best houses in Old Hill. No complaint had ever been made before or since the conviction.

Adjourned.”

AND

County Advertiser 29/8/1891

“The annual licensing sessions for Rowley Petty Sessional Division were held last Wednesday.....

The magistrates said they were pleased to learn that there had been a decrease in the drunken cases. They then proceeded to consider the ‘black list’.....

Henry Cole, of the CROSS INN, who was fined £5 and costs for supplying ale to a drunken person on the 1st July, 1891.....

applied for a renewal of their licenses through Mr. Waldron, who commented on the respectability of the applicants, and urged that the Bench should not exercise their discretion and take away the licenses because of one conviction..... Adjourned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/9/1891

“At the Old Hill Police Court, yesterday, Eli Cooksey, Old Hill, was charged with committing perjury in the court on 1st July. Mr. Waldron prosecuted, and Mr. Collis (Stourbridge) defended.

Mr. Waldron said the case arose out of a summons which came before the Bench on the 1st July, in which *Henry Cole*, landlord of the OLD CROSS INN, Old Hill, was fined £5 and costs for selling ale to a drunken person, Eli Cooksey, the defendant. *Cole* called Cooksey as a witness and he swore he went to the OLD CROSS INN about ten o'clock, and was not supplied with any intoxicating liquor, and that when he left at eleven o'clock he was sober. Two officers in plain clothes visited *Cole's* house, and saw Cooksey come into the house drunk, and he was supplied with whisky. He was now prepared to prove that the defendant was supplied with other ale in the smokeroom.

Mr. Goodman (magistrates' clerk) produced the summonses, and a copy of the evidence which the defendant gave.

Inspector Bishop gave evidence as to seeing Cooksey go into *Cole's* premises on the day in question drunk.

Police-constables Gibbs and Smedley deposed to seeing the defendant (Cooksey) supplied with ale and whisky by the landlord.

Felix Broughton said the defendant Cooksey asked him to drink out of his cup, which contained ale. Cooksey was not sober.

Samuel Davis, George Nock, and Wm. Goode also corroborated.

Police-constable Lewis deposed to seeing Cooksey come out of the OLD CROSS INN about eleven o'clock very drunk.

There was no defence and prisoner was committed to the Staffordshire Assizes, bail being allowed.

Henry Cole, landlord of the OLD CROSS INN, Old Hill, was charged with committing perjury on the 1st July. The evidence in the former case was repeated. Mr. Waldron prosecuted, and Mr. Collis defended. Defendant was committed to the assizes, bail being allowed."

County Express 3/10/1891

"Old Hill Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. W. Bassano said the only case in which they proposed not to renew the license was in the case of the CROSS INN, Old Hill, lately kept by *Henry Cole*. The Bench considered that *Cole* was not a fit and proper person to hold a license. They did not wish to withdraw the license from the house. Therefore it was for those who represented the owners to consider what steps should be taken in regard to the license.

Mr. Waldron said he had been consulted by the owner, Mr. Darby, and he had also had a consultation with Mr. Collis, who represented *Cole*, the occupier at the time of the conviction, and what he anticipated happened that morning, and his advice was that a respectable tenant should be provided and placed in possession of the premises before the justices assembled that morning. Certain agreements had been entered into between the parties. The person Mr. Darby had put in was Mr. *William Melville McWhirter*, of Old Hill, who bore a respectable character, and against whom the police had no objection. He applied for a temporary permit on behalf of the applicant.

Mr. Collis said he raised no objection to that, but he must express his astonishment at the decision of the Bench, as they had no evidence before them.

Mr. Goodman: Pardon me, the evidence was given on the licensing day. Nearly all the magistrates present today were present at the annual sessions.

Mr. Collis said he didn't think that was sufficient.

Mr. Goodman: It makes no difference.

Mr. Collis: There is only one conviction against the house, and there is an appeal against it standing before the Quarter Sessions. After that expression, I shall say no more, and the man will have to go out.

Mr. Waldron: He is out, and we are in possession.

The Bench granted the temporary permit to Mr. *McWhirter*."

William Meldrum McWhirter = William Melville McWhirter

Birmingham Daily Post 22/12/1891

"At the Staffordshire Assizes, yesterday – before Mr. Justice Day – *Henry Cole*, formerly landlord of the OLD CROSS INN, Old Hill, and Eli Cooksey were charged with committing perjury at the Old Hill Police Court on July 1. The case against Cooksey was taken first. *Cole* was summoned before the magistrates for selling drink to Cooksey, who, it was alleged, was drunk. The latter swore that he had had nothing intoxicating to drink in *Cole's* house, and this was the perjury complained of. Several police-officers and other witnesses swore that they saw him supplied. For the defence a number of witnesses were called, and they each denied that Cooksey was served with drink. He was an occasional potman at the house, and fetched a jug of beer for a customer, but had none himself. The jury acquitted him, and under these circumstances no evidence was offered against *Cole*."

County Express 5/12/1891

"The Dispute in the Hobnail Trade. A meeting of operatives in the hobnail trade in the Blackheath, Old Hill, and Rowley districts was held on Wednesday at the CROSS INN, Halesowen Road, Old Hill. Mr. W. Hackett announced that all the employers had consented to pay the 1890 list of prices, and a delegate said the advance on present wages would range from 10 to 20 per cent. (Hear, hear.) It was decided to resume work next morning."

County Advertiser 17/2/1894 - Advert

"OLD CROSS INN, Old Hill.

Mr. E. H. Boilstone will hold a Sale by Auction, of Miscellaneous Stock, on Monday Next, February 19th, 1894, at the above Inn, comprising Horses, Carts, Four-wheel and other Dog Carts, Gigs, Sets of Harness, Pianoforte, Sideboards, Engine Pumps, Chaff Engine, Copper Boiler, Quantity of Barrels, Quantity of Iron, Fan, &c.

Special entries: Capital Brown Horse Pony, 13 hands, 5 years old, quiet to ride and drive, pass trams, free and fast; the property of Mr. *William McWhirter*, Old Hill. Capital Brown Horse, 15 hands, 5 years old, sound, and very fine mover; the property of Mr.

Joseph Cole, of Cradley Heath.

Sale to commence at Two o'clock. Horses will be sold at 2-30.

Auctioneer's Offices: Old Hill, Staffs."

Birmingham Daily Post 16/7/1894

"On Saturday night a meeting of miners was held at the CROSS INN, Old Hill. Mr. B. Winwood (agent) said the Scotch miners' strike was a question of great importance to all miners, whether they were unionists or not, and he argued that the levy of 1s per week per member which had been put upon them was none too much to meet the heavy claim for the support of the strikers....."

County Express 21/8/1897

"The first of what is intended to be an annual demonstration of the friendly societies in the Old Hill district, was held on Sunday, the object in view being to help the funds of the Dudley Guest Hospital, Dudley Dispensary, and Birmingham Eye Hospital the day was bright and promising, and there were large numbers of people all along the route.

At one o'clock the 1st Worcestershire Volunteer Band started from the CROSS INN, proceeded across Halesowen Road, calling at Trinity Schools and GEORGE HOTEL; then across Lawrence Lane into Reddal Hill Road, calling at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, and proceeding to the Cross, where the final procession was formed. Meanwhile the Old Hill Brass and Red Band started from the WHITE LION INN, proceeded by way of Powke Lane and Garratts Lane to Wrights Lane (as far as the PRINCE OF WALES INN), and returned to Garratts Lane, calling for lodges at the BRITISH OAK INN, FOX HUNT INN, Tabernacle, DUKE WILLIAM INN, VINE INN, to the Cross. On the arrival of this contingent a huge line was formed, and very pretty it looked. Members of the various lodges wore their regalia, and these being interspersed with the more elaborate honorary members' scarves, gave the line a very bright appearance....."

County Advertiser 2/10/1897

"The adjourned licensing sessions for Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division was held on Wednesday at the Police Court, Old Hill, before Messrs. W. Bassano, J. Walker, and G. Green.....

Henry Cole applied for the transfer of the license of the CROSS INN, Old Hill, from Mr. *McWhirter* to himself.

Inspector Given said the house was badly conducted. Applicant had formerly kept the house, and was fined £5 and costs for an offence against the licensing laws. Since 1892 applicant had kept the BEEHIVE INN, and had conducted that house very satisfactorily, there being no complaint whatever against him. If the Bench granted the application he hoped Mr. *Cole* would give an undertaking that the house should be properly conducted. The Bench granted the application, applicant giving the required undertaking that he would not have any inducements connected with the house."

William Meldrum McWhirter – see also CROWN, COOKSEY'S HOTEL, WIZARD AND GLASS and CORNGREAVES HOTEL.

Dudley Herald 19/2/1898

"On Monday evening the members of the Snowdrop Lodge of the United Order of Free Gardeners held at the CROSS HOTEL, Old Hill, were entertained to dinner by the host (Bro. *Cole*). A capital repast was provided, to which upwards of 50 members and friends sat down....."

County Advertiser 7/5/1898

"Local Miners and the South Wales Dispute.

A meeting was held on Wednesday night at the CROSS INN, Old Hill, when Mr. Winwood presided over a large attendance, and addressed the gathering....."

County Advertiser 27/8/1898

"On Sunday afternoon the annual hospital parade and open-air service, arranged by the various friendly societies in Old Hill and the surrounding district took place. Processions were formed at different points of members of the Foresters, the Free Gardeners, and provident societies, numbering altogether about 1,000, and these, accompanied by the Blackheath, Halesowen Temperance, and Old Hill Bands, paraded the principal streets of the locality, after which they marched to a field in Garratts Lane, lent for the occasion by Mr. A. Sidaway, where a special service was held. Addresses were delivered by the Revs. E. Brewer, MA (vicar of Old Hill), and W. B. Cheshire (Primitive Methodist). A collection was made along the route and at the service in aid of the Guest Hospital, Dudley Dispensary, and Birmingham Eye Hospital, this realising £25 14s 5³/₄d.

The following was the order of procession issued by the committee. The Blackheath Village Band will start from the WHITE LION INN, Powke Lane, at 1-45 prompt, proceed down Garratts Lane, calling for societies at the BRITISH OAK INN, Tabernacle, DUKE WILLIAM INN, and VINE INN, turning across Queen Street on to the old football ground (by kind permission of Mr. W. H. Jarvis). The Halesowen Temperance Band will start from the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Wrights Lane, at 1-45 prompt, proceed round Cherry Orchard Street, into Wrights Lane, turning down Wagon Street, calling at the OLD ENGINE INN, proceeding down Elbow Street and King Street, across Halesowen Road, to the old football ground. The Old Hill Band will start from the CROSS INN at 1-45 prompt, calling for societies at Trinity Schools and GEORGE HOTEL, proceed across Lawrence Lane, turning up New Street, Ridding Street, Pear Tree Street, Pear Tree Lane, thence into Reddal Hill Road, calling at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, and proceeding to the old football ground. A grand procession will be formed as follows....."

County Advertiser 29/4/1899

“John *Farndon*, husband of *Amelia Farndon*, who holds the license of the OLD CROSS INN, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises on the 14th inst. Mr. Waldron defended.

Police-constable Beach said that he was on duty in Halesowen Road on the night of the date named and visited the OLD CROSS INN on two occasions. The first time he went in he saw defendant on the premises in a drunken condition. He told defendant about his state and defendant said, ‘If I am drunk you are. Take me to a doctor if I am drunk.’ Defendant afterwards went to Dr. Mitchell’s house, but did not see the doctor. Upon visiting the house a second time, witness found defendant still there drunk. Mr. Waldron said his instructions were that defendant was not drunk, but, unfortunately, his witness would not state that defendant was perfectly sober. It was therefore useless calling them and he must leave the matter in the hands of the Bench. A fine of 10s and costs was imposed.”

County Advertiser 2/9/1899

“At the Rowley Police Court, on Wednesday – before Messrs. W. Bassano, J. F. Pearson, and G. Green – John *Farndon*, Mace Street, Old Hill, was charged that, on the 25th inst, he did assault with intent to inflict grievous bodily harm *Emily Amelia Farndon*. Mr. W. Waldron appeared for the prosecutrix, and Mr. A. E. G. Pritchard defended.

Mr. Waldron said this case was one of very serious importance to prisoner. The proceedings were taken under section 18, 24 and 25 Vic, chap.100, and this section read ‘Whoever shall unlawfully and maliciously, by any means whatever, wound or cause any grievous bodily harm to any person with intent to maim, disable, or harm any person, shall be guilty of felony, and may take his trial at the Assizes of the county.’ The facts, as he was instructed, disclosed, he regretted to say, very disgraceful conduct on the part of the husband. It appeared that in February of the present year he married prosecutrix who kept the CROSS HOTEL, Old Hill, and who, he believed, at the time of their marriage, was a widow with two children. Unfortunately the marriage was not a happy one, and there would be ample evidence showing that from time to time he assaulted his wife. The result appeared to have been that on last Monday week they left the hotel, and went to reside in a small house in Mace Street, Old Hill. Last Friday prisoner went from home about six o’clock in the morning, and returned about a quarter to twelve. He lay down about twenty minutes while his wife was busy getting the dinner. After giving the children their dinner she called to him to come to his dinner. Defendant then made use of a foul expression, and came into the kitchen. Now it was important in this case to observe carefully what happened when he went into the kitchen. When he came into the kitchen he took off his coat, and when he had done so he (the speaker) did not know whether it was the heat or intent; they said it was intent to do some harm to his wife – he went to the table and picked up a table knife. He said to his wife, ‘I will kill you, you — cow.’ He then struck at her, and the violence of the blow was such that the knife was broken, and part of it fell upon the floor. The evidence would show that it was a knife which was used, and, accompanied by the expression made use of by the prisoner, there was clearly an intent to maim his wife and to do her grievous bodily harm within the meaning of the section he had read. Prosecutrix then went from the kitchen into the sitting room, where he picked up a bundle of stair rods and struck her across the shoulders, and at the same time using another foul expression. He was not content even with this, but ultimately picked up a lamp, which was on the table, and said, ‘You — cow. I will kill you.’ The prosecutrix then said to him, ‘Don’t throw the lamp; it will make such a mess.’ He did not throw the lamp, which enabled his wife to get out of the house and into the garden. The result of this violence was that the prosecutrix was very much exhausted, and her health and comfort was very seriously interfered with. Information was sent to the police, and prosecutrix was examined by a doctor. Police-constable Plant, accompanied by three other officers, went to the house, and Plant told him he would have to go quietly or by force. The moment prisoner found he had to go to the Police Station he said he would go quietly. Prisoner accordingly went to the station, and Inspector Given charged him with this offence. He invited the Bench to carefully consider the prisoner’s reply ‘I never touched her with it.’ Given only had the end of the knife then in his possession, and the prisoner said, ‘I broke that upon myself.’ If the Bench believed the evidence of the wife and the servant girl, who was in the house when the affair occurred, and whom he should call, there would be no doubt that he committed the offence, and that he knew the serious nature of what had occurred. He (the speaker) supposed prisoner thought that if he told a lie he would have the benefit of it for the moment, and get out of it. It was a matter which could be decided by a jury, and a jury alone, and if that was so, it seemed to him that the offence which he had read from the section was amply made out, and it was their duty to send the prisoner for trial. In the event of the Bench doing so, he should not object to bail, but he asked the Bench to exercise discretion as to the amount of bail they fixed.

Amelia Farndon, wife of the defendant, said they were married on the 8th of February this year, and before that date she was a widow with two children. They had been keeping the CROSS HOTEL, Halesowen Road, until the last week, when they moved to a private house in Mace Street, Old Hill. On Friday last, her husband left home about 6 o’clock in the morning, and did not return till 11.45am the same morning, when he went into the sitting room and lay down for about twenty minutes. When she had prepared the dinner, she called her husband but he did not reply. She went again the second time, when he said ‘I will have no more dinner in that house.’ The two children were of the ages five and eleven years. Shortly afterwards defendant came into the kitchen, and pulled off his jacket, and threw it across the table. He said he would murder her, then rushed at her with a knife, the result being that the knife was broken and one part fell to the ground. He made another rush at her in the doorway between the two rooms, and struck her across the shoulders with some rods, saying, ‘You — cow, I will kill you.’ The next thing he picked up was a table lamp, and was in the act of throwing it, when she said to him, ‘Don’t throw it, or else you will make a mess.’ Defendant did not throw the lamp. After this witness managed to get into the yard, and went straight to the Police Station. She went to Dr. McQueen’s, and he examined her. The doctor examined her again the previous day. She was very much upset, and it greatly interfered with her health and comfort.

Cross-examined: She had not taken any proceedings against him in that Court before. She did not feel angry against him. Witness said he would have to be a very different man before she went to live with him any more. The business at the CROSS HOTEL had been sold to Mr. *Farndon*’s brother. Defendant wanted his wife to give her £25 out of the money realised from the hotel. On Wednesday she asked her husband to go down to Tannton to fetch the children back. She gave him 25s, and he brought her the

change, which she said he could keep to buy him some shoes with, but he refused to accept it. On Thursday he went out and did not return till after eleven o'clock, when he brought another man with him named Joseph Perkins. She complained to him about coming in late, when he said he had been across to help his brother, who was a stranger to the place. Witness said he could never be at home now, but when they lived at the CROSS he was always stuck at home. He was in an awful temper when he struck her with the knife.

Lily Brettell, domestic servant, for the prosecutrix, gave corroborative evidence of what occurred.

Dr. McQueen said that when prosecutrix went to him she was in an extremely excited condition, and trembled so much that she could hardly speak. There was a small incised wound about three quarters of an inch long on her right thigh, which was skin deep. The dress was not cut through. The knife produced was such as would be likely to cause the wound. It was more breaking of the skin than a cut, and indicated that a considerable amount of force must have been used. He found bruises.

Cross-examined: The injury was never dangerous.

Police-constable Plant said he apprehended the prisoner at the CROSS HOTEL.

Inspector Given said that when he charged the prisoner he replied, 'I never struck her in my life. I broke it upon myself.' Witness had a part of the knife at the time. At the same time prisoner showed witness a small cut on his hand. Witness examined the stair rods, and found a patch of blood on one of them.

Cross-examined: Prisoner did not say that he had broken the knife in catching it against his thumb.

The Bench committed the prisoner for trial at the next Stafford Assizes, and Mr. Pritchard intimated that prisoner would reserve his defence. Bail was accepted, the prisoner in £300, and one surety of £150."

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/12/1899

"Staffordshire Autumn Assizes.

John *Farndon* the prosecutrix said the wound on her thigh was a very slight one, and since the affair she had been living with her husband The jury, by his Lordship's direction, returned a formal verdict of not guilty, and in discharging the accused the Judge said he hoped there would be no renewal of ill-feeling, and told the prisoner to bear in mind that it was his wife who had got him out of the trouble."

County Express 28/7/1900

"On Wednesday night a meeting in connection with the Miners' Federation of Great Britain was held at the CROSS, Old Hill, when addresses on organisation, and various points interesting to miners were given by Mr. B. Winwood and Mr. Albert Stanley. Speeches by the same speakers at Lye the previous night are reported elsewhere."

A bagatelle license was granted on 26th September 1900.

County Advertiser 1/12/1900

"The Lock-out in the Tube Trade. On Monday afternoon a meeting of the men who have been locked out at the Lion Works, Old Hill, by their employers, Messrs. Lloyd and Lloyd, in consequence of their decision to join the union, was held at the CROSS INN, Old Hill. Mr. T. Sitch presided, and condemned the action of the employers, but said the only thing they could now do was to make the best of a bad job. It was an unfortunate time for their lock-out, owing to the depression in the tube trade. Mr. J. Smith also addressed the meeting and at the close a considerable sum was distributed in relief."

County Express 8/12/1900

"Another meeting of the locked-out men at Old Hill was held at the CROSS INN on Monday. A few of the men have gone to other situations, but a considerable number are still out.

Mr. James Smith, who presided, said Mr. Jones, their secretary, informed him that a few of the men had gone to work at other trades, and others at the old shop. So long as trade was so depressed, he did not see any possibility of the thing being ended. All they could do was to repeat the advice given on previous occasions and hope that in future they would be able to make a better fight of it. The federation would do all they could to support the men, either in getting fresh situations or in getting them back at the old place....."

1901 Census

55, Halesowen Road

[1] *Frederick Farndon* (26), licensed victualler, born Milverton, Warwickshire;

[2] Logine F. Farndon (27), wife, born Kingsbury, Warwickshire;

[3] Oswald F. Farndon (1 month), son, born Old Hill;

[4] Catherine Trickett (19), servant, born Longton, Staffordshire:

County Express 8/6/1901

"The delegates appointed by the friendly societies of the district held a meeting on Wednesday evening at the CROSS INN, to make arrangements for the annual parade in August. The resignation of the secretary (Mr. L. H. Flemmings) who inaugurated the parades, was accepted with regret. The following officers were elected: Chairman, Mr. D. Blunt; vice-chairman, Mr. Philip Simpson; secretary, Mr. G. Creswell; assistant secretary, Mr. John Darby; treasurer, Mr. A. E. Sidaway."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 31/10/1901

"An ex-publican named John *Farndon*, at Rowley Regis yesterday was fined 20s for being drunk and disorderly. Defendant

disputed the evidence of the police, and stated a surgeon tested him in walking and in reading a newspaper, and declared him to be sober.

He did not produce the surgeon as a witness.”

County Advertiser 19/9/1903

“Joseph Smith, haulier, of Salop Street, Oldbury, was charged with having no light attached to his vehicle on the night of the 9th inst. Police-constable Horne stated that he saw defendant’s horse and trap standing outside the CROSS INN, Old Hill, on the night in question. There was no light on the vehicle. Defendant pleaded that he was under the impression that when a vehicle was not being driven no light was necessary. The horse was standing outside the public-house, and was in charge of a lad. The Bench fined defendant 10s, including costs.”

County Advertiser 15/12/1906

“An application was made by *Phoebe Hartland*, of the CROSS INN, Old Hill, for permission to make alterations in connection with the out-door department at the public house. This was granted.”

County Advertiser 29/12/1906

“Sick and Draw Clubs.....

The Old Cross Club, held at the CROSS INN, Old Hill, had a supper and a smoking concert on Saturday evening. Mr. J. B. Well- ing presided, and a successful year was reported. The dividend was 9s 6d per member.....

At all these meetings the chairmen, the secretaries, the auditors, and the hosts and hostesses were formally thanked, and besides the speeches there were songs. All seem to have spent convivial evenings.”

County Advertiser 9/2/1907

“On Tuesday night, Mr. E. O. Nightingale conducted a sale by public auction at the CROSS HOTEL, Old Hill, and offered up a valuable freehold out-door beerhouse in Holly Bush Street, Cradley Heath, and a house adjoining, which produced £11 1s per annum, but when the bidding amounted to £685 the properties were withdrawn.”

County Advertiser 8/3/1907

“On Tuesday night a smoking concert for the benefit of Mr. A. Adams who had been unable to follow his employment since December 18th last on account of injuries he sustained, was held at the OLD CROSS INN, Old Hill. Mr. B. Bennett presided. A capital programme was gone through, the artistes being Professor Dudley, Messrs. Sam Johnson, S. Evans, W. King, J. Collins, B. Booker, C. Rudge, F. Evans, and D. Hill. Mr. Dingley officiated as accompanist.”

County Advertiser 30/3/1907

“The coming of age of Mr. Harry Darby, younger son of Mr. Thomas Darby, of the Beehive Corn Mills, Old Hill, and Corngreaves Brewery, Cradley Heath, was celebrated by a dinner at the CROSS HOTEL, Old Hill, on the evening of the 21st inst. Dr. Tibbetts kindly consented to take the chair, and on behalf of the staff hands and workmen gathered together to do honour to the occasion, presented to Mr. Harry Darby a handsome combined dressing case and travelling bag, suitably inscribed, together with an illuminated address. This was duly acknowledged, and afterwards a very enjoyable evening was spent, the company breaking up at 12pm.”

County Express 15/5/1909

“On Tuesday at an auction at the CROSS INN, Old Hill, two newly erected freehold houses situated in Clifton Street, Old Hill, producing £28 12s were sold for £407. Messrs. Thomas Cooksey and Co. were the solicitors in the matter; auctioneers, Messrs. Fleming and Son.”

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..... The Bench sanctioned structural alterations being made at the CROSS HOTEL, Old Hill, and the CORNGREAVES HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

The Era 19/10/1910 - Advert

“Wanted, Experienced Operator and Manager, with modern outfit, for gas and electric; must understand management and advertising, open Dec. 5. Ray, CROSS HOTEL, Old Hill, near Birmingham.”

1911 Census

55, Halesowen Road – CROSS HOTEL

- [1] Charles Hartland (66), assisting in business, born Birmingham;
- [2] *Phoebe Hartland* (44), wife, married 16 years, hotel proprietress, born Birmingham;
- [3] William A. Prees (22), step-son, draughtsman, National Telephone Co. Ltd, born Birmingham;
- [4] Phoebe Mary Prees (19), step-daughter, assisting in business, born Birmingham;
- [5] Dorothy Caroline Hartland (14), daughter, born Aston, Worcestershire;
- [6] Harriett Perkins (20), general domestic servant, born Netherton;
- [7] Annie Hartland (4), grand-daughter, born Birmingham;

West Bromwich Weekly News 29/3/1913

“The Coroner (Mr. G. C. Lewis) held an inquest at Old Hill, on Tuesday, on John Payne (67), nailmaker, of no fixed abode, but a native of Blackheath, who was found hanging in an outhouse at the CROSS HOTEL, Old Hill, on March 21st. The evidence showed that Payne was for a time an inmate of the Workhouse Infirmary at Stourbridge, and was under the impression he would be taken back to the Union. On March 21st he met a woman named Ellen Jones, to whom he said he would hang himself rather than go back to the workhouse. Two hours later he was found hanging in an outhouse at the CROSS HOTEL. The jury returned a verdict of Suicide during Temporary Insanity.”

Evening Despatch 11/8/1915

“At an inquest held by Mr. G. C. Lewis, county coroner, at the CROSS HOTEL, Old Hill, the question of payment of juries was raised by Mr. Ambrose James, a member of the jury, who asked if the Coroner could give them any idea when payment would be made in Staffordshire. The Coroner said he supposed it was most like other things, they would have to wait until the war was over.”

A team from here took part in the Langley and District Bowls League. [1916]

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.....”
[Old Hill CROSS were runners-up.]

Dudley Chronicle 9/10/1930

“The following licence transfers were granted.....

CROSS INN, Old Hill, from *Frederick Weston*, deceased, to *Lilian Weston*.”

Dudley Herald 17/1/1931

“There was a large gathering at the weekly meeting of the Samuel Lodge of the R.A.O.B. at the CROSS HOTEL, on Thursday evening of last week. Bro D. Shaw, KOM, was in the chair, and following the business meeting, the usual entertainment was given, items being contributed to the programme by Bros. W. Walker, KOM, C. Ellis, F. Jackson, S. Darby, and H. W. Evans, KOM.”

Dudley Herald 30/5/1931

“Brother Potter, CP, presided at the weekly meeting of the Samuel Lodge R.A.O.B. held at the CROSS HOTEL on Thursday of last week. Songs were contributed by Brothers Shaw, Nock, Ellis and J. Y. Jackson.”

1939 Register

Halesowen Road – CROSS HOTEL

[1] *Frederick Cooper*, date of birth 27/8/1901, licensed victualler, married;

[2] *Florence Cooper*, dob 27/12/1901, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[4] *John Frederick Cooper*, dob 27/11/1935, under school age, single:

Frederick Cooper was fined £13 and £4 4s 0d costs for two cases of supplying intoxicants during prohibited hours; he was fined £2 for permitting drunkenness, and £2 for obstructing the police on 1st October 1941.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/10/1941

“Three men were fined at the local police court yesterday following a midnight incident at OLD CROSS HOTEL, Old Hill, when, it was alleged, police officers were defied and obstructed.

Frederick Cooper, the licensee, was fined a total of £19 for refusing to admit police officers to his premises, for supplying intoxicating drink and aiding and abetting its consumption after hours, for permitting drunkenness on licensed premises, and for obstructing the police.

Sidney Stewart Downing, aged 40, of New Road, Halesowen, was fined £16 for aiding and abetting *Cooper* in supplying drink and permitting drunkenness, for consuming drink after hours, for being drunk on licensed premises, for obstructing the police, and for being drunk and disorderly.

Herbert Sidney Massey, aged 36, of 32, Perry Park Road, Blackheath, was fined £14 for failing to immobilise his car, for causing obstruction with the car, for aiding and abetting *Cooper* in supplying, for consuming drink after hours, and obstructing the police. Each defendant was ordered to pay five guineas special costs.

It was stated that seeing a car outside the hotel at 12.3am, two police officers entered in spite of *Cooper*'s efforts to prevent them, and there found the other defendants. *Downing*, it was stated, drew himself three glasses of beer and drank them in defiance of the police.

The defence was that *Downing* and *Massey* did not arrive at the hotel until after 10 o'clock and did not pay for drinks, but were the guests of the licensee.”

Frederick Cooper – see also RING O’BELLS, West Bromwich.

A team from here took part in the Cradley Heath Domino League. [1960]

Closed

It reopened as SAMUELS in 1983.

Sandwell Evening Mail 28/1/1986

“One of the Black Country’s oldest pubs has reopened after being saved from demolition by two businessmen with a £50,000 face-lift. The century-old VICTORIA pub near Cradley Heath’s speedway track at Dudley Wood closed more than a year ago because of its crumbling condition. Now businessmen Michael Billingham and Stan Owen, who have interests on Old Hill’s SAMUELS INN, have reopened the pub after buying it from Banks’s, the brewery firm, and spending £50,000 on remedial work.....”

[1990]

It was destroyed by fire.

Demolished in the late 1990s.

CROSS GUNS

59, Newtown Lane, (59, Bannister Street), CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

Thomas Barnsley [1851] – [1862]

Rowland Barnsley [1862] – **1870**;

Richmond Barnsley (**1870** – [1872])

Richard Barnsley [1873] – [1881]

Robert Barnsley [1887] – [1900]

Joseph Dudley [1901]

Thomas Perks [] – **1904**;

John Percival (**1904** – **1905**);

Reuben Chapman (**1905**);

John Richard Homer (**1905** – [1909])

NOTES

59, Newtown

59, Newtown Lane [1881], [1891]

59, Bannister Street [1901]

Thomas Barnsley = Thomas Barnesley

1851 Census

New Town

[1] *Thomas Barnsley* (48), gun barrel maker, born Rowley;

[2] Nancy Barnsley (43), wife, born Oldswinford;

[3] Robert Barnsley (14), son, born Rowley;

[4] Eleanor Barnsley (16), daughter, born Rowley;

[5] Ryland Barnsley (9), son, born Rowley;

[6] Ann M. Barnsley (6), daughter, born Rowley;

[7] *Richmond Barnsley* (1), son, born Rowley;

[8] Joseph Foxall (18), nephew, gun barrel borer, born Kingswinford;

[9] William Edge (23), son in law, gun barrel grinder, born Rowley;

- [10] Mary Ann Edge (22), daughter, born Rowley;
- [11] Ann Maria Edge (2), granddaughter, born Birmingham;
- [12] Tom Edge (1), grandson, born Birmingham:

County Advertiser 2/7/1859

“A serious affray took place on Saturday night last between one of the constabulary force stationed at Cradley Heath and two brothers named Roland *Barnsley* and Ryland *Barnsley*, chainmakers. It appears that about nine o’clock on the evening in question Police-constable Burnet was sent to the quell a disturbance at the CROSS GUNS public-house, New Town, Cradley Heath, kept by Mr. *Thomas Barnsley*, the father of the two men above-mentioned. On arriving there he saw Roland *Barnsley* stripped to his shirt fighting with a man in the passage of the public-house. There were forty or fifty persons assembled in front of the house, and the policeman, who was not in uniform, remained outside amongst the crowd about ten yards from the door. After being there nearly ten minutes, Roland *Barnsley* came out, together with the other man with whom he had been fighting, and the policeman then interfered. Roland asked him what he wanted there, and struck him or attempted to strike him, when the policeman at once pulled out his staff, and began to use it most unmercifully upon Roland’s head. He inflicted three frightful scalp wounds, and completely stunned him by the blows, and the people around commenced hooting ‘murder.’ Ryland *Barnsley* here went to his brother’s assistance, and struck the officer a severe blow on the head with a pair of tongs, which were broken by the force of the blow. The people around also tried to get at him, and finding he was being set upon by the crowd, Burnet took to his heels and made his escape.

Today the two *Barnsleys* were summoned before the magistrates for assaulting the police in the execution of their duty. Mr. Burbury appeared for the accused, the one who had been so brutally struck upon the head with the staff being accommodated with a seat in Court during the examination. In cross-examination Burnet said that Roland *Barnsley* struck him several blows with his fist previous to his using his staff, and that he did not know he was empowered to call upon anyone to assist him. He had only been in the force about four months, and did not recollect being instructed to that effect. The policeman called a witness named Raybould to prove the assault upon him; but his evidence was of a very contradictory nature, and did not coincide with the statement of complainant. Three witnesses were called for defendant, and Mr. Burbury, in addressing the Bench, said the officer had greatly exceeded his duty, and there was not the slightest pretence for using his staff in the manner he had done. If the injuries received had proved of a fatal nature, the policeman would have been indicted for murder. He contended that no assault had been proved, and asked the Bench not only to dismiss the case, but also to impress upon the police the necessity of exercising a proper judgement in the discharge of their duties.

The Bench retired to consider their decision, and on their return said they considered the assault proved in both cases. In the case of Roland *Barnsley* they considered that the police had used too much violence, and the officer was certainly in the wrong in using his staff in such a manner; but nevertheless he was in the execution of his duty, and it was wrong for *Barnsley* to attack him. Under the circumstances they should inflict upon him the nominal penalty of 6d and costs. In the other case, in which the tongs had been used upon the officer’s head, they should inflict a fine of 10s and costs.

Mr. Burbury said he wished it to be known that they should take proceedings against the policeman in the County Court for damages. The Bench said they likewise wished it to be known that they did not approve of the policeman’s conduct in using his staff in such an unwarrantable manner.

The case excited much interest in the crowded court.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 31/8/1859

“On Friday afternoon, Mr. *Thomas Barnsley*, CROSS GUNS INN, Newtown, provided a feast, free of expense, for chainmakers now on strike, and to which 120 sat down. After all had dined well, sufficient remained to supply a hundred more living in the neighbourhood. After the cloth had been removed the Chairman (Mr. S. Stringer) proposed the health of the host and hostess, the toast being drunk with loud applause. Mr. *Barnsley*, in responding to the toast, said he had always been a working man himself, and should always give them his cordial sympathy when they tried to better their conditions.”

Thomas Barnsley was also a gun barrel maker. [1861]

1861 Census

New Town

- [1] *Thomas Barnsley* (58), gun barrel manufacturer, born New Town;
- [2] Nancy Barnsley (53), wife, born Hill Hole, Worcestershire;
- [3] Ryland Barnsley (17), son, gun barrel maker, born New Town;
- [4] Ann Mary Barnsley (14), daughter, scholar, born New Town;
- [5] *Richmond Barnsley* (11), son, scholar, born New Town;
- [6] Thomas Edge (11), grandson, gas boy, born Birmingham;
- [7] Jane Smith (19), general servant, born Lye Waste;
- [8] William Edge (17), grandson, gun barrel grinder, born New Town;
- [9] Thomas Leib (?), lodger, tailor, born Birmingham:

Rowland Barnsley was also a gun barrel maker. [1864], [1865], [1868], [1870]

Richmond Barnsley was born in 1849.

He married Sarah Jane Hatton (born 1851).

1871 Census

New Town – CROSS GUNS public house

- [1] *Richmond Barnsley* (21), publican, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Sarah Barnsley (20), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Caroline Barnsley (5 months), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Ann Hatton (24), domestic servant, born Lye:

Stourbridge Observer 22/7/1871

“Arthur Tromans was charged by Alfred Baynham with assaulting him on the 8th instant.

Complainant said he lived at New Town, and on the above date he went into a public house. Defendant wanted to make a wager about singing. Defendant would not put any money down, and complainant’s brother said he ought to be ashamed, when he said he would knock his brother’s head off, when complainant said if he did so he would have to pay for it. Defendant then struck off at him, and hit him several times, and knocked him down. His ears were bleeding.

John Baynham, brother of complainant, corroborated him.

Defendant called Thomas Brettell (17), who said he was singing at the CROSS GUNS, New Town, Cradley Heath, on the above date. Complainant went into the kitchen and threw his money on to the table, and wanted to stake money to fight. He did not see the defendant strike complainant.

Fined 6d and costs; in default 14 days.”

Stourbridge Observer 4/7/1874

“Joseph Homer was charged with stealing two boots on the 17th ult, the property of *Richard Barnsley*. Mary Ann Barnsley, said she was in the CROSS GUNS Public House, when she saw the prisoner put something under his coat and conceal it. She informed the landlady of it. *Ellen Barnsley*, wife of the prosecutor, proved that the boots were stolen, and the two odd boots were near the prisoner.

Richard Barnsley said that from information received he took out a warrant to apprehend prisoner, but before it was executed prisoner said he would buy him a pair of boots to make it right about the others. The police were sent for, and prisoner apprehended. Solomon Poole, broker of Dudley, said that the prisoner brought two odd boots to his shop, and offered them for sale. He did not buy them.

Prisoner pleaded guilty, and said he was very sorry.

Sentenced to 3 months hard labour.”

County Advertiser 25/3/1876

“William Homer was charged with being drunk upon licensed premises, in the occupation of *Richard Barnsley*, on the 18th inst, and also with refusing to quit the same when ordered to do so by the manager. *Ellen Barnsley* said her husband kept the CROSS GUNS INN, Newtown, Cradley. On the day named defendant came to her house and made a disturbance. She ordered him to leave, but he refused, and she had to send for a policeman.

Police-constable Cooper said he ejected defendant from the house.

Defendant was further charged with being drunk and disorderly in the public highway. Fined 2s 6d and costs in each case.”

1881 Census

59, New Town Lane

- [1] *Richard Barnsley* (28), clerk at gun barrel works, born New Town;
- [2] Ellen Barnsley (29), wife, born Old Hill;
- [3] Caroline Barnsley (7), daughter, scholar, born Old Hill;
- [4] Rowland Barnsley (4), son, scholar, born New Town:

Robert Barnsley = Robert Barnesley

County Express 9/4/1887

“Samuel Heath and Noah Dunn, chainmakers, New Town, Cradley Heath, were charged with assaulting Eli Foley, chainmaker, of the same place, on the 29th ult. Mr. Waldron defended.

Prosecutor said that at nine o’clock on the morning in question he went to the CROSS GUNS INN, New Town, to have his breakfast, and there found defendant, who used blackguardly language to him, and said that if they had a — rope they would hang him. A man named Garratt who was also in the house, went to the landlord and endeavoured to get a rope, but failed. Heath then said, ‘We will buckle our — straps together and hang him,’ but it was found that the straps were not long enough to effect this object. Heath then struck him on the eye, causing blood to spurt out, and Dunn afterwards set about him. In cross-examination prosecutor said a dispute arose as to the wages for which he was working.

Mr. Waldron: Then Garratt could not get a rope and you were not hung? – Prosecutor: No, sir.

For the defence two witnesses were called who said the prosecutor first struck Heath, and a fight followed.

The case was dismissed.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 8/10/1887

“*Robert Barnesley* of the CROSS GUNS, Cradley Heath, was charged with selling intoxicating liquors during prohibited hours on

the 2nd inst.

PC Wickstead gave evidence to seeing Joseph Edwards and Joseph Smith in the house with rum drinking.

Defendant said it was a relative, and he had no intention of breaking the law.

A fine of 20s and costs was imposed.”

County Express 15/10/1887

“Samuel Edwards (44), chainmaker, New Town, Cradley Heath, was charged with being drunk on licensed premises on the 2nd inst, known as the CROSS GUNS INN, Cradley Heath. Police-sergeant Hayward said he saw the defendant at the CROSS GUNS INN with a glass of rum before him. He was helplessly drunk. The defendant was fined 5s 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.....

Robert Barnesley, landlord of the CROSS GUNS, fined £1 and costs for selling rum during prohibited hours. Inspector Walters said that since the applicant had been summoned he had conducted the house fairly well. The Bench said that it was the first time, and they would not say anything about it, and he must be careful in future. The license was granted.”

1891 Census

59, Newtown Lane

[1] *Robert Barnesley* (56), publican, born Dudley;

[2] Sarah Barnesley (60), wife, born Dudley;

[3] Kate Barnesley (18), daughter, barmaid, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Beatrice Grice (12), granddaughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Pollie E. Cooper (18), niece, born Dudley;

[6] Elizabeth Hingley (42), widow, visitor, born Rowley Regis;

[7] Henrietta Hingley (18), visitor, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 25/5/1895

“A Raid On Publicans.....

Robert Barnesley, landlord of the CROSS GUNS INN, Cradley Heath, was charged with unlawfully allowing gambling to take place on his premises on the 29th ult. Mr. Waldron appeared for the police, and Mr. Ward for defendant.

Mr. Waldron detailed the facts given below, and said that the landlord just before eleven o'clock said, ‘Now lads, it is just on the mark, be quick over it.’ There could only be one inference, he submitted, to be drawn from that language, viz, that the landlord knew what was going on, but it was immaterial in this case as the landlord was bound by the acts of his servant, and they would hear that his servants were in and about the room. If he proved these facts, he submitted that it was a clear case, and one which ought to be punished as the Bench thought fit.

Police-constable Rixson, stationed at Kinver, said on the 29th ult he was sent on special duty to Cradley Heath, and about 9-25 visited defendant’s house, accompanied by Police-constable Woodcock and a man named Badger. Witness went into the tap room, in which there were fourteen persons. At a quarter to ten four of the men agreed to play ‘tippet’ for half a gallon of ale, and the two losers paid for the ale. Four other games were then played, and money was handed over. Defendant’s grandson supplied the ale, and he could hear and see what was going on. Shortly before eleven o'clock the men decided to play for a shilling, nine up, as time was short, and during the progress of the game defendant came to the door and said, ‘Now lads, it is just on the mark, be quick over it.’ The score was being marked with a piece of paper and a pencil by a man at the end of the table. There was another waiter who helped in the serving.

Police-constable Woodcock said he went into the house at 9-30, and corroborated the last witness. The landlord went in and out of the room several times.

George Badger corroborated.

Mr. Ward was not going to say that tippet-playing was not going on, but he urged that it was done without the knowledge or connivance of the defendant. Further, one witness said the landlord only came to the door, and another said he walked round the room, and that was a severe discrepancy. The house on this evening was very busy, and the defendant would not be able to hear any noise from the tap room, especially as he was informed that tippet was a quiet game, such as would not draw his attention to the men. It was near closing time, and defendant doubtless merely meant that it was nearly time for them to go, and they must finish whatever they might be doing. He thought, under the circumstances, that justice would be well met by the payment of costs. Mr. Bassano remarked that Mr. Ward appeared to forget that there were two waiters, one of whom was experienced.

Mr. Ward, after some further conversation, called the landlord, who said that he had no knowledge of tippet being played. If he had known he should have stopped it at once.

The Bench considered *Barnesley’s* case a very bad one, and fined him £5 and costs, and endorsed the license.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/9/1895

“The Old Hill adjourned annual Licensing Sessions were held yesterday. Mr. Waldron applied for a renewal of the licenses to *Robert Barnesley* which were adjourned from the annual licensing day. Mr. Bassano asked how the houses had been conducted in the meantime, and Inspector Given replied that everything had been satisfactory. The licenses were renewed.”

Robert Barnesley was also a brewer.

1901 Census

59, Bannister Street – CROSS GUNS INN

[1] *Joseph Dudley* (54), publican, born Old Hill;

[2] Jemima J. Dudley (29), wife, born Old Hill;

[3] Mary Dudley (1), daughter, born Old Hill;

[4] Sarah Turley (30), unmarried, sister in law, born Old Hill;

[5] Constance E. T. Turley (20), unmarried, sister in law, born Old Hill:

County Express 6/4/1901

“*Joseph Dudley*, landlord of the CROSS GUNS INN, Newtown, Cradley Heath, was charged with permitting drunkenness and selling intoxicating liquor to a drunken person, on March 14th. Mr. Clulow prosecuted, and Mr. Ward defended. Briefly the facts were that soon after nine o’clock in the evening Police-constable John Dale found in the tap-room a company of men, among whom was the landlord, *Joseph Dudley*. There was singing going on, and a great noise being made. His attention was particularly drawn to a man named Priest, and another man whose name he had not been able to ascertain, and it was apparent they were both in an advanced state of drunkenness. Dale went away to communicate the facts to his superior, Police-sergeant Pitcher, but some time elapsed before he found him. They returned together to the house at 10.30 and found Priest still sitting among the other customers, but the other man had gone. Police-sergeant Pitcher called the landlord’s attention to him, and the defendant replied that he had only been there for about two hours. Priest then got up to go out, but he had to support himself by the table. Before going he drank the ale in his cup.

Police-constable Dale, Police-sergeant Pitcher, and Police-constable Wright gave evidence in support of the charge.

Mr. Ward, for the defence, submitted that there was nothing in Priest’s condition to indicate it to the landlord. The landlord had only been in the house three months, and he was hardly accustomed to the class of business there, as it was in a rough neighbourhood. Priest sat quietly in the house, and there was nothing to show the landlord that he was in the condition stated by the police. The defendant then gave evidence. He admitted the man had been in the house three hours on the night in question. Since witness had been in the house he had tried to keep it in good order, and he denied that he had been warned by the police as to his method of conducting it.

Mr. Ward had intimated that he would withdraw his plea of not guilty, and plead guilty.

The Bench said they thought he had adopted a wise course, as from what the defendant had said in the witness box they thought it almost their duty to endorse the license. They wished that advocates would realise more in these cases that the witness they brought often only served to prove the incompetency and unsuitability of a landlord to keep a public-house. They fined the defendant £5 and costs on the first charge, solicitor’s fee being allowed, and the second charge was withdrawn. They would not endorse the license.

Joseph Priest, of Bannister Street, Cradley Heath, was fined 10s and costs for being drunk on the premises. Defendant called a number of witnesses to prove his innocence.”

County Express 10/8/1901

“David Perry, chain manufacturer, of Baxter Street, Cradley Heath, appeared to answer a charge brought against him of unlawful assault by a former employee of his, William Henry Willetts, a chainmaker, aged 19. Mr. Waldron defended.

Willetts said on July 30th he went into the CROSS GUNS INN, Cradley Heath, and found defendant there. Defendant asked him to go down to the shop to see some chain which he (witness) had made formerly, and said he would give him a quart of beer if he would. He accordingly went to the shop with Perry, who, on getting into the chainshop, locked the door after them, saying ‘Now you can see the chain.’ Witness did not know whether it was chain he made, but while he was bending down looking at it, Mr. Perry put it round his neck and snatched it up, lifting him off the ground. The chain ran over a pulley. Mr. Perry then went and unlocked the door again, and called one of his workmen (Mr. Bushell) in to look at the chain, and then when he had done examining it and was washing his hands in the ‘bosh,’ Mr. Perry again put the chain round witness’s neck, and pulled him off the floor a second time. Bushell interfered, and, putting his weight on the chain let him down. The chain had made marks round his (witness’s) neck, and hurt him very badly; he could not work all the week afterwards. In cross-examination Mr. Waldron asked if complainant had not been working for defendant for a time when the latter was ill, and some of the chain he made was sent to Messrs. Holt and Willetts, and thence to Russia, from whence it was sent back again, being badly worked, the defendant in consequence losing £8 16s 9d? – Defendant: I can’t tell sir; he did not tell me so.

Mr. Waldron: When Elan Barnsley, your fellow workman said at the CROSS GUNS that you had told him that you had purposely made the chain bad, and Mr. Perry charged you with it, did you not call him a — liar? – Complainant: No, Sir.

Mr. Waldron: Did your master say when he told you to look at the chain, that you ought to be hung? – Complainant: Yes, and he would have hung me if Bushell had not been there.

William Wiggin, a youth in Perry’s employ, deposed to seeing through the chainshop window the whole that passed at first between Perry and Willetts. When Perry put the chain round Willetts’ neck, the latter resisted and struck him twice. In cross-examination witness said Perry simply put the chain round Willetts’ neck.

Jabez Bushell, next called, said he was in the CROSS GUNS on the 30th, and heard the argument between Perry and Willetts, and he followed them to the chainshop some two minutes after they left. When he got there the door was fastened, but defendant, who had seen him pass the window, unfastened it, and asked him to come and look at the chain. Witness immediately pulled the chain off him – it was tight round his neck – and said to defendant. ‘If I’m agen’ thee, I would pull thee over.’ Perry had again locked the door and the key was taken out, but he unlocked it again and Willetts went away. Perry was not drunk. Cross-examined: He did not think the lad was hurt particularly; he saw the mark of the rust on his neck.

Mr. Waldron, for the defence, admitted Perry put the chain round Willetts's neck. The affair, he said, arose in this way. Perry, who had for 30 years done work for Messrs. Holt and Willetts, some little time ago-employed complainant, in making 5-16 and 5-8 chain, and on one piece of 5-16, as stated, Perry had lost £8 16s 9d, and on another piece of 3-8 had to pay £5 9s because of Willetts's bad work. Elan Barnsley on the 30th, while in the CROSS GUNS INN with defendant and complainant, charged the latter with having purposely made the chain bad. The two went out together to see the chain, and the defendant, aggravated by complainant's manner at the inn, and to frighten him, put the chain round his neck. He had no wish to injure him.

Mr. Bassano said it appeared evident to him Perry had employed the boy Willetts to do a man's skilled work for him. The lad was utterly incompetent to do it, and then Perry was angry because his shoddy work was rejected, and he had to suffer for it. What surprised him was that Messrs. Holt and Willetts did not test the chain before sending it over to Russia. Doubtless the lad deserved a shaking for his bad work, but Perry should not have given way to his impulse, and done as he did. He did not think the case called for a very heavy penalty, so Perry would be fined 10s and costs, 14s 6d in all."

Thomas Perks = Thomas Parks

County Advertiser 9/1/1904

"*Thomas Parks*, landlord of the CROSS GUNS INN, Newtown, Cradley Heath, was summoned for permitting drunkenness upon his premises on the 19th ult. Mr. J. W. Clulow prosecuted, and Mr. W. Waldron defended.

Mr. Clulow explained that at 10.45 on the night in question Police-constable Foulkes and Smith visited defendant's house, and in the kitchen found a man named Andrew Edge in a drunken condition sitting at a table. Police-constable Foulkes called the attention of the landlady to the man's condition, and she replied, 'It's nearly closing time.' The man could scarcely stand, and he was locked up by the police.

Evidence was given by Police-constables Foulkes and Smith in support of this statement.

Inspector Hodgkinson and Police-sergeant Pitcher stated that when the man was in the cells he was drunk.

For the defence, Mr. Waldron denied that Edge was drunk, and asserted that the police had acted in a very unreasonable manner in taking the man into custody. He also contended that they were not justified in apprehending Edge. A club was held at the house, and Edge was a member of it. He should be able to prove, by a large number of witnesses, that Edge was perfectly sober, and he hoped that such a doubt would be raised as to justify the magistrates in dismissing the case.

A number of witnesses were called, but the Bench, after a short consultation, decided to convict, and fined defendant £5 and costs, amounting in all to £8 3s 6d."

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 grounds of a conviction against the house.....

CROSS GUNS INN, Newtown, Cradley Heath, kept by *John Percival*.....

The case of the CROSS GUNS was taken first, and Superintendent Johnson stated that he opposed the renewal of the license upon the grounds that it was not required, that the house was so constructed as to make it difficult to supervise, that the house was of a disorderly character, and that the following convictions had been recorded against it: 6th January 1904, £5 and costs for permitting drunkenness, 3rd April 1901, £5 and costs for permitting drunkenness, and in 1893, £5 and costs for permitting gaming, and the license endorsed.

Inspector Hodgkinson said the house was situated upon the Worcestershire boundary, and that it was one of the worst houses in the division for the police to supervise. There was only one entrance, whilst other parts of the premises opened into the private workshops. The house was also in a dilapidated condition, and in its present state unfit for a licensed house.

Mr. Waldron, who represented the landlord of the house, said it was a very old house, and he urged the Bench not to think of confiscating the license, and pointed out that the Government were about to make new proposals regarding the licensing question.

Eventually the Bench consented to renew the license upon condition that structural alterations were made to the premises to the complete satisfaction of the police, and within a period of three months."

County Advertiser 17/12/1904

"Sanction was given to *John Percival*, landlord of the CROSS GUNS INN, Newtown, Cradley Heath, to make alterations at the premises in order to increase the living accommodation."

County Advertiser 7/10/1905

"An application was made for the transfer of the license of the CROSS GUNS INN, Newtown, Cradley Heath, from *Reuben Chapman* to *John Richard Homer*. The outgoing tenant was not present, and it was explained that he was in Wales, but that a letter had been received from him consenting to the transfer. The magistrates, however, decided to have the application in better order, and adjourned it for a week. They also directed that the outgoing tenant should be present."

County Advertiser 16/12/1905

"Licensing Business.....

In the case of the CROSS GUNS, Newtown, Mr. Bassano pointed out that the house had a bad record and that the ingoing tenant must carefully conduct it. If it came before the Bench again they would probably take another course from that previously taken."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/2/1906

“The annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty 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.....

CROSS GUNS INN, Newtown, 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 Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday.....

Mr. Bassano said the bench had under consideration the nine houses, five of which were objected to on the ground of convictions and four others on the ground of redundancy. It had raised a very large question, and the magistrates had had before them the consideration of the parish as a whole. He threw out a 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.....

CROSS GUNS INN, Newtown, Cradley Heath.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/2/1907

“James Sidaway, a chainmaker, was yesterday fined by the Cradley Heath magistrates 20s for refusing to quit and disorderly behaviour in the CROSS GUNS INN, New Town.”

County Advertiser 30/3/1907

“The coming of age of Mr. Harry Darby, younger son of Mr. Thomas Darby, of the Beehive Corn Mills, Old Hill, and Corngreaves Brewery, Cradley Heath, was celebrated by a dinner at the CROSS HOTEL, Old Hill, on the evening of the 21st ult. Dr. Tibbetts kindly consented to take the chair, and on behalf of the staff hands and workmen gathered together to do honour to the occasion presented to Mr. Harry Darby a handsome combined dressing case and travelling bag, suitably inscribed, together with an illuminated address. This was duly acknowledged, and afterwards a very enjoyable evening was spent, the company breaking up at 12pm.”

It was referred to the Compensation Authority in March 1908.

Tipton Herald 13/2/1909

“.....On the ground of it being structurally unfit, the Superintendent objected to the renewal of the license of the CROSS GUNS, Newtown, kept by Mr. *John Richard Homer*. Mr. W. F. Taylor appeared for applicant.

Inspector Needham said the house was in a dilapidated condition, it was in a tumble-down condition, and the business was being conducted in an adjoining wooden structure.

In answering Mr. Taylor, the Inspector said he had nothing to say against the business carried on there, and he had no objection to the pavilion. Some time ago the house was mentioned as redundant.

Mr. Taylor said he was not in a position to give an undertaking that the house would be re-built within the next 12 months, even if the license were renewed. They had hoped that by this time the land had settled, but it had not, and as yet it had not been considered prudent to re-erect. All he could ask the Bench to do was to renew the license for another 12 months, and if in the meantime they did not consider it prudent to re-build, he would give the Bench an undertaking not to ask for a renewal next year.

The Chairman said in accordance with their policy of necessary reduction, that was one of the houses the Bench decided on last year. They refused to deal with it, however, at Stafford, on the ground of redundancy, and intimated that the magistrates could deal with it structurally. If the Bench were to allow houses which were structurally deficient to be rebuilt they would get no further with the question of reduction of licenses, for as soon as a house was said to be structurally unfit, application would be made to effect improvements. They regretted that they could not see their way to renew the license. Their refusal was on the ground of structural deficiency.”

It was mentioned in Bennett's Business Directory for 1911-12.

CROWN

127, (104), Graingers Lane / Cradley Road, (Five Ways), CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1896)

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1909)

LICENSEES

Joseph Archer [1850]
Israel Worton [1866] – [1870]
Erskine Worton [1871]
Israel Worton [1872] – [1896]
John Jones [1891] – [1892] manager
James Shalor [1891]
Frank Gower [] – 1900)
John Percival [] – 1903);
James Johnson (1903 – []
John Gregory [] – 1905);
James Hiram Robbins (1905 – []
James Johnson [1908] – 1923);
Edward Gough (1923 – 1924):

NOTES

104, Graingers Lane [1881]
127, Graingers Lane [1904], [1911], [1912], [1924]

OLD CROWN [1925]

Joseph Archer, beer retailer, Cradley Heath. [1850]

Israel Worton = Israel Wharton = Israel Whorton

County Advertiser 25/8/1866

“Rowley annual licensing meeting was held yesterday.....
The following are the new applications and their results.....
Israel Worton, CROWN beerhouse, Cradley Heath, refused.”

Stourbridge Observer 17/8/1867

“On Monday evening a numerously attended meeting of the horse nail makers of this neighbourhood was held at the house of Mr. *Israel Worton*, CROWN INN, Five Ways. Their object in meeting together was to establish an Union among them, their old Union having for some time ceased to exist. There was no particular business transacted, owing to the absence from home of one of the chief employers of this locality, whose opinions on a certain point, it is necessary they should understand.”

County Advertiser 31/8/1867

“The Annual Licensing Meeting.....
There were thirteen applications for spirit licenses.....
The applications of *Israel Worton*, Cradley Heath were granted.”

County Advertiser 1/2/1868

“On Wednesday evening, about 160 gallons of excellent soup was given away to poor people, at the CROWN INN, Cradley Heath. The meat (120lbs) was given by Mr. Lloyd, butcher, and the vegetables by Mr. *I. Worton*. We understand that next week a second distribution will take place at the CROWN INN, the expense of which will be defrayed by persons in the immediate neighbourhood.”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/9/1868 - Advert

“Capital Corner Spirit Vaults and Tavern. The CROWN INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath, near Railway Station, doing one of the largest and most profitable trades in the district. In-coming £450.
Apply, Roderick and Son, Birmingham.”

County Advertiser 27/7/1869

“Charge Of Refusing To Support A Mother.
On Wednesday, at the Old Hill Police Court, before Messrs. Moore and Barrs, *Israel Worton*, licensed victualler, Cradley Heath, was summoned on the charge of the above nature.
The relieving officer put in a certificate from Dr. Malins, showing that the woman had been suffering from pleurisy; and the officer further stated that a surgeon had called his attention to the case, alleging that the woman was not having the common necessities of life. The amount given in relief was 4s.
The defendant asked the officer to name the latter medical gentleman spoken of.
The officer replied that it was Mr. Hodgson.
Defendant said, in the first place, Mr. Hodgson had made the statement purely through paltry spleen. Such statement was without

a shadow of truth. His (defendant's) mother was a housekeeper, and a married brother lived with her, and paid one-half of the housekeeping expenses. Besides this, she had three or four lodgers, who each paid her 2s 6d a week, and she frequently earned as much as 10s a week in assisting at confinements. He had frequently told her she could live with him, and that there was a comfortable home for her at his house for the rest of her days. His mother had never been refused anything by him; in fact, she has whatever she liked from his house and grocery shop, and he had often been imposed upon by articles being fetched away and given to other members of the family. He indignantly denied that his mother had ever been in want; and he must say that, under such circumstances he thought it extremely hard he should be summoned to a public court on such a disgraceful and unfounded charge. Defendant called upon his brother's wife to say whether his mother had ever been without food. This woman replied that she had not.

The Bench said that relief had been given, and defendant must refund the amount with costs. They should also make an order for him to pay 1s 6d a week for the next month."

County Advertiser 28/8/1869 – Advert.

"Wanted, a respectable industrious Girl-Of-All-Work, with good character. Apply to Mrs. *Worton*, CROWN INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath."

Israel Worton was also a grocer. [1868], [1870], [1872]

1871 Census

Cradley Road – CROWN INN, Five Ways

- [1] *Erskine Worton* (34), married, publican and grocer, born Dudley;
- [2] *Ishmiel Worton* (12), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Clara A. Worton* (10), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *David Tite* (45), visitor, labourer, born Halesowen;
- [5] *Bella Swindell* (34), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Reuben Worton* (3), visitor, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *Hannah Darby* (21), visitor, born Quarry Bank;

Stourbridge Observer 19/8/1871

"Early on Monday morning Cradley Heath was all astir and hundreds of persons could be seen wending their way towards the Five Ways to witness the procession of Foresters, which was announced to take place that day. The weather being fine thousands of persons were present to witness the procession through the various streets. Ten o'clock was the appointed time for starting, but it was nearly half-past eleven before they got away, owing to their having to wait for some of the Courts from a distance.

The various Courts assembled at the Five Ways, and then formed themselves into order of procession. The following Courts were represented: No.3068, Hope and Anchor, QUEENS HEAD, Corngreaves Street, Cradley Heath; No.3595, Cable and Anchor, BIRD IN HAND, Cradley Heath; 4127, Good Samaritan, BEEHIVE, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath; 4196, Foresters' Home, VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath; 4233, Loyal Shenstone; 4340, Loyal Marlborough, COOKSEY'S HOTEL, Old Hill; 4398, Moss Rose, ROYAL OAK INN, New Town; 4546, Robin Hood's Merry Rangers, CROWN INN, Five Ways; 4970, Lye Reformed, WINDMILL INN, Lye. Although the district of Cradley Heath and Halesowen comprises 36 Courts, only nine took part in getting up the Fete.

The procession started from the Five Ways, headed by the Cradley Heath Brass Band. The Pensnett Victoria Brass and Reed Band and the Halesowen Drum and Fife Band also took part in the procession. Each band played lively quick steps passing through Lomey Town, Five Ways, Four Ways, Reddal Hill, Old Hill, and Haden Hill, en route for Halesowen, passing through the principal streets and then to the Leasowes. The procession was three-quarters of a mile in length, and was accompanied with three magnificent banners bearing suitable mottoes of the Order, and a large number of flags, the members wearing the various badges of the Order, and accompanied by Robin Hood, Little John, Will Scarlet, Friar Tuck, Shepherds, &c, &c.

On arriving at the beautiful and classic grounds, famed as having been the seat of the poet Shenstone, the procession passed round the house of B. Gibbons, Esq, who had kindly placed the whole of the grounds at the disposal of the Committee.....

There was a number of shooting galleries, Aunt Sallys, and other things to amuse all classes. During the day a number of balloon ascents took place.....

It is estimated that between six and seven thousand persons were present, upwards of £100 being taken at the gates, and it is expected there will be a good surplus in aid of the funds of the Order and General Hospital.

We must not close without a word of praise to the Committee, who were indefatigable in carrying out the arrangements according to the programme. The refreshments were provided by Mrs. S. Cartwright of Cradley Heath, and the tea and confectionery by Mr. J. Corns of Wolverhampton."

County Advertiser 19/10/1872 - Advert

"Wanted, a respectable Servant Girl. One capable of assisting in a bar. Apply to Mrs. *Worton*, CROWN INN, Five Ways Cradley Heath."

Stourbridge Observer 4/1/1873

"Charles Evans, porter, was charged with stealing a quantity of rum, the property of *Israel Wharton*, landlord of the CROWN INN, Cradley Heath, on the 25th ult. Prosecutor said defendant had been in his employ five weeks. On the above date he went down the cellar to stoup a Barrel of ale, when he found a bottle of rum which was placed behind the barrel. He watched the cellar,

and about half past eight he caught the prisoner with the bottle in his possession in the gangway. He took hold of him and brought him up the cellar, and sent for a policeman. The rum was worth 1s 6d.

Police-constable Collier said from information received he apprehended the prisoner and charged him with stealing a quantity of rum, the property of *Israel Wharton*. He said, 'I did steal it.'

Prisoner pleaded guilty and was sentenced to one month hard labour."

County Advertiser 4/9/1875

"*Israel Worton* was charged with having, on the 24th ult, assaulted Richard Province. The complainant stated that the defendant had promised him a present of a gold scarf-pin, and on the day in question he reminded him of his promise. Defendant then became angry and struck him several times. A cross-summons charged Province with assaulting *Worton*. Complainant came into his house and used abusive language. He tried to eject defendant, when he struck him several times and bit him on the leg. He then gave defendant two or three 'good hot ones.' There was a charge against Province for refusing to quit *Worton's* house, the CROWN INN, Five Ways, and he was fined 2s 6d and costs. The other summonses were dismissed."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/8/1877

"On Saturday afternoon an inquest was held before Mr. Hooper at the CROWN INN, Five Ways, on the body of Thomas Charles Gibbs (39), grocer.

John Grainger said that he last saw Mr. Gibbs alive at a quarter-past eleven on Wednesday night. He then appeared cheerful and healthy, and made arrangements to go with witness on the following day to Birmingham. During the night he was called up, and he ascertained that Mr. Gibbs had died very suddenly. The wife was very ill and much distressed, and was taken to her mother's. The Coroner said Mrs. Gibbs was in such a sad condition that, if possible, he should avoid calling her as a witness.

Ann Garratt said that immediately an alarm was made the servant went for her, and she was the first to enter the chamber. She found Mr. Gibbs quite dead. He was a good husband and father.

Mr. H. R. Kerr, surgeon, said he had been the medical attendant of deceased for about five and a half years. At 2.45 on Thursday morning he found deceased in bed and examined him carefully. He found no external marks of violence. His impression was that Mr. Gibbs had died from some heart affection. He had no moral doubt that it was spasm of the heart which caused instant death. The neck having become dark was an indication of it. Deceased was a strictly steady and sober man and very regular in his habits. A verdict of Died from Natural Causes was returned."

County Advertiser 6/10/1877

"Conservative Association. A preliminary meeting for the purposes of forming a Conservative Association was held under the auspices of the Stourbridge Constitutional Association at the house of Mr. *Israel Worton*, CROWN INN, Five Ways, on Tuesday evening. There was a good attendance. Deputations were present from Stourbridge, Brierly Hill, and Cradley. Mr. Dunn presided....."

County Advertiser 17/11/1877 - Advert

"Valuable Life Interest in Shops and Premises, Cradley Heath.

To be Sold by Auction by Messrs. Rollinson and Beckley, on Thursday, the 4th day of December, 1877, at the house of Mr. *Israel Worton*, Cradley Heath, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions....."

County Express 23/3/1878 - Advert

"Sale of Ironmongery at Cradley Heath.

Mr. S. Leonard will Sell by Auction, at the CROWN INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath, This Day (Saturday), March 23rd, a Lot of General Ironmongery, comprising Saucepans, Pots, Kettles, Tin Cans, various sizes; Oil Cans, Boxwood and Steel Rules, Candlesticks, quantity of Cutlery, Iron Bedsteads, Perambulator, and a variety of useful and miscellaneous Articles, belonging to a party giving up the business, and which has been removed to the above Inn for convenience of Sale.

Sale at Six o'clock in the Evening."

County Advertiser 6/7/1878 - Advert

"Wanted, a good General Servant, from 20 to 28 years of age. A good character indispensable.

Apply, Mrs. *Worton*, CROWN INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath."

County Express 5/10/1878

"A meeting of the members of the Conservative Association was held on Tuesday evening last, at Mr. David Bridge's, New Town. There was a capital attendance, and several members were enrolled.....

After the transaction of some formal business, it was decided to hold the first annual meeting and dinner at Mr. *I. Worton's*, CROWN INN, Five Ways, on Monday, December 30th."

County Express 20/3/1880 - Advert

"General Election. Meetings of the Conservative Electors of Quarry Bank and Cradley Heath will be held on Monday Evening, March 22nd, at the ROYAL OAK INN, Quarry Bank, Chair will be taken at 6.30; and at Mr. *Israel Worton's*, the CROWN INN, Cradley Heath, Chair to be taken at 8.

Alfred Waterman, Esq, will Address the Electors."

County Advertiser 31/7/1880 - Advert

“Wanted, a General Servant; age 20 to 25 years. One from the country preferred. Apply, in the first place, CROWN INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 5/3/1881 - Advert

“*Worton's* Music Hall of Varieties, Five Ways, Cradley Heath.

Proprietor *Israel Worton*.

On Monday, March 7th, 1881, and for Each Evening during the Week.

Important Engagement and First Appearance at this Hall of Mr. Tom Beaumont, England's Greatest Acrobatic Negro Comedian, Big Boot, Song, and Dance Artists, Stump-speech, Patter Vocalist, &c.

N.B. The only Artiste that Turns Back Somersaults in Big Boots.

Special Engagement and First Appearance at this Hall of Miss Beatrice Irving, the new refined Serio-comic, Ballad Vocalist, Dancer, &c.

Great success and last Six Nights of Mr. Percy Della, Comic Character Vocalist, &c.

Re-engagement for Six Nights longer, in consequence of a great success, of Miss Lizzie Wright, Serio-comic and Ballad Vocalist.

Immense Success and last Six Nights of Miss Ettie Parole, Serio-character and Dancer.

Pianist, Jabez Bloomer; Cornet, Joseph Westwood; General Manager, Ishmael *Worton*. No Charge for Admission.”

Ford's Household Almanack 1881 - Advert

“*Israel Worton*, horse dealer, CROWN HOTEL Music Hall, Five Ways, Cradley Heath.

A Talented Company! Appears at this Hall every Evening.

Ales, Wines, & Spirits, of the Best Qualities. Cigars of the Best Brands.”

1881 Census

104, Graingers Lane

[1] *Israel Worton* (44), licensed victualler and horse dealer, born Cradley;

[2] Erskine Worton (46), wife, born Dudley;

[3] Ishmael Worton (22), son, horse breaker, born Rowley;

[4] Benjamin Tipton (22), hostler, born Chester;

[5] Margaret Cafferty (18), domestic servant, born Stourbridge:

Dudley and District News 10/6/1882

“The following persons, all of Cradley Heath, were charged by Mr. John George Horder, one of her Majesty's Inspectors of Weight and Measures, with infringing the Act.

Israel Whorton, licensed victualler, Five Ways, was charged with selling beer which he measured in an unstamped measure. Fined 1s and costs.”

County Express 10/3/1883

“At the Dudley County Court, yesterday afternoon, George Willetts, Matthew Bennet, and Benjamin Cole, all of Deepfields, Sedgley, were sued by *Israel Worton*, licensed victualler, Cradley Heath, for £43, the value of a horse which was killed in the Eagle Road, Netherton, on the 30th of September last.

It was shown that the defendants, when driving up on the left hand side of the road, drove into the plaintiff's horse and killed it.

The defence was that they were on the right side of the road. The judge, however, held that the defendants were on the wrong side of the road, and gave a verdict for the plaintiff for the amount claimed with costs.”

Birmingham Mail 16/6/1883 - Advert

“Butcher Wanted for pork and beef trade; must understand the pork trade in all its branches.

Apply to Mr. J. *Worton*, CROWN HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 17/11/1883

“Alice Beasley, Cliff Street, Stourbridge, was charged with stealing 6s 6d the money of *Israel Worton*, landlord of the CROWN INN, Cradley Heath, on the 13th inst.

Mr. J. Wright prosecuted, and said that for some time past prosecutor had been missing money, and on Saturday last Mrs. *Worton* marked some coins and placed them in a till. On Tuesday she charged prisoner with stealing some of the coins, and on making her turn out her pockets found in a purse three of the marked coins – one half crown and two florins. The charge was pressed, as prisoner had been in a confidential position, and money had been so frequently missed.

Evidence to this effect was given by Mrs. *Worton*, who said when she charged prisoner she admitted taking the money, and asked to be forgiven.

Prisoner pleaded guilty, and was fined 40s or one month's imprisonment.”

County Advertiser 24/5/1884

“A Local Breach Of Promise Case.

The plaintiff in this case was Jane Jukes, a young woman (23), who brought an action against Ishmael *Worton*, to recover damages for alleged breach of promise of marriage. A writ was issued against defendant in February last, in answer to which he neglected

to appear, and in judgement was obtained by plaintiff by default. The plaintiff then took out a writ of inquiry to assess the damages payable by the defendant to her. This writ was executed before the under-sheriff and a jury of twelve at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Tuesday last. Mr. R. E. C. Kettle (instructed by Mr. W. Waldron, Brierley Hill) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Thomas Homer (Brierley Hill) for the defendant.

Mr. Kettle, in opening the case, said the plaintiff was a single woman, living with her parents at Oldbury, near Birmingham; and the defendant was a horse dealer, living with his parents at the CROWN HOTEL, Cradley Heath. The plaintiff claimed damages for the breach by the defendant of a promise to marry her. In the month of August, 1881, plaintiff was engaged as barmaid at the house of defendant's parents. After the plaintiff had been in their service for about a month, defendant began to pay her some attention, which very soon ripened into courtship. Defendant bought plaintiff an engagement ring which he presented to her, and he afterwards asked her to become his wife. Preparations were made for the wedding, and the banns were published at Rowley Church. It appeared, however, that the match was very distasteful to the defendant's parents, and plaintiff was suddenly dismissed by the defendant's mother. Plaintiff went to live with her parents, and defendant still continued to court her, but the marriage did not come off in accordance with the publication of the banns. In a letter, dated 5th March, 1882, which defendant wrote to the plaintiff on the eve of his going to Welshpool Fair, he told her he should like to have seen her that night, as he felt lost without her. He further told plaintiff in the letter that he did not care how soon the time came, as he thought the time was a long while going. He supposed it was not seeing her. The letter concluded by thrice wishing 'my love' good night, and by defendant telling plaintiff that he should think of her when he was in Wales. A number of crosses followed, and an intimation that defendant would be back the next night. The defendant, continued Mr. Kettle, last saw the plaintiff on the Friday night before last Christmas, and the next the plaintiff heard of the matter was that on the 25th January this year defendant had married some one else. Plaintiff was called and bore out the opening statement, and was cross-examined by Mr. Homer. The cross-examination was directed to show that plaintiff was not a barmaid but simply a domestic servant in the employ of defendant's parents, and that she knew defendant had no means of his own, and was wholly dependant upon his father. This, however, the plaintiff denied. Mr. Homer then addressed the jury in mitigation of damages. The smallest coin of the realm he argued, would be sufficient to give to plaintiff, inasmuch as it had not, as he contended, been proved that the defendant had means of his own. The Under Sheriff having summed up, the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff for £36."

County Advertiser 26/7/1884 - Advert

"Cradley Heath Grand Fete and Gala.

Will take place at Old Fields, near the New British Iron Company's Works, kindly lent by Mr. David Bridge (the best that has been seen for many years), on Bank Holiday, August 4th, 1884.

The Cradley Heath Brass and Reed Band, under the direction of Mr. Joseph Westwood, will be in attendance, and play some of the most popular Music of the day.

The Cradley Hand-Bell Ringers will be in attendance under the direction of Mr. C. Southall.

The Committee have engaged, regardless of expense, the following well known Artistes, under the management of Mr. Ishmael *Worton*: Great and costly engagement of Middle. Zazar and Bros. Vollino, in their astounding performances on the Flying Trapeze; also their Champion Triple Trapeze Act, Acrobats, French Clowns, and introducing marvellous flights of 70ft by Miss Zazar, the smartest Flying Trapeze Artiste extant.

New and Original Sensations. Misses Creswick and Rezin, the greatest of all Lady Duettists and Dancers. See them! A treat!

Special engagement of the great Pat Riley, one of the best Irish Comedians on the British Stage.

Expensive engagement of the great Miss May Tillan, the charming Burlesque Actress, from the London Music Halls; costly Wardrobe. This lady has never appeared in Staffordshire before.

Old English Sports, Games, Coconut Bowling, Old Aunt Sally, &c. An Efficient Band will be in attendance for Dancing on the Platform. In fact, one constant round of Amusement. Eight hours Genuine Fun.

100 Yards Foot Race – First Prize, Silver Watch; Second, Silver Cup.

Quarter Mile Foot Race – First Prize, a valuable Watch; Second, Silver Cup.

Pig Chase, open to children under 12 years of age. Winner to take the Pig. Entrance 3d each.

Refreshments will be provided by Mr. G. Chatham, of the usual good quality, at town prices.

Ground open at Two o'clock. Admission, Sixpence each; Children under 12, Half-price. Tickets may be had of the following:

Mr. Ishmael *Worton*, CROWN HOTEL; Mr. G. Chatham, ANCHOR INN; Mr. A. Griffith, Mr. J. Williams, Mr. T. Horton, Mr. Arthur Lane, and of the Secretary, Mr. E. M. Knott, Cradley Heath, to whom all entries and communications should be addressed."

County Advertiser 16/8/1884 - Advert

"£5 Reward – Whereas, some evil disposed Person or Persons did, on the Night of Thursday, August 14th or early on Friday, August 15th, 1884, Enter a Field at Coleman Hill, Cradley, called the Bath Meadow, and Killed a Sheep, the property of Mr. *Israel Worton*, of the CROWN HOTEL, Cradley Heath.

The above Reward will be paid to any Person who will give such information as will lead to the Apprehension and Conviction of the Offender or Offenders.

Information to be given to Sergeant Oakey, Police Station, Cradley; or to Mr. *Israel Worton*, CROWN HOTEL, Cradley Heath."

County Advertiser 15/11/1884

"John Parker, Quarry Bank, for being disorderly and refusing to quit the licensed premises of *Israel Worton*, was fined 5s and costs."

County Advertiser 29/8/1885 - Advert

“Wanted, a respectable Girl as General Servant, and to assist in the bar; good character required; none need apply under 21. Apply, Mrs. *Worton*, CROWN HOTEL, Five Ways, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 8/5/1886

“George Newton, 35, puddler, late of Providence Street, Old Hill, was charged with stealing a quantity of lead and a brass tap, the property of *Israel Worton*, publican, Cradley Heath, on the 11th April. Mr. J. Clark, of Brierley Hill, appeared for the prosecutor. It appears that the prisoner and another man, not in custody, were in the employ of the prosecutor, and whilst in the cellar they found 17lbs of lead and a brass tap. They then sent a lad named Smith to try and sell the lead, saying that Mrs. *Worton* had given it to them. The lad did not sell it, but went to Mrs. *Worton* and asked her if it was true he was to sell the lead. Prisoner was sent to prison for a month with hard labour.”

County Express 9/4/1887

“John Parker and Benjamin Parker, labourers, Beggar’s Row, Cradley Heath, were charged with stealing a copper kettle, the property of James Banks, hawker, 37, Hampton Street, Birmingham, on the 5th inst. Prosecutor said that on Tuesday night he went to the ANCHOR INN, Cradley Heath, where he found the prisoners, and offered a copper kettle for sale. Prisoners then took him to the CROWN INN, stating that the landlord wished to buy a kettle. While they were in the house the prisoners made him pay for a pint of beer, and as he was going out the prisoner Benjamin Parker knocked him down. When he got up he found that his kettle had been taken, and he gave information to Police-sergeant Hayward. On the way to the station the prisoner John ran away, but was caught again by the officer. The kettle was afterwards found concealed behind the door at the CROWN INN. The Bench thought there was not sufficient evidence to convict and believed the prisoners had been playing a practical joke on the prosecutor.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/12/1888

“Last night a well-attended meeting of chainmakers was held at the CROWN HOTEL, Five Ways, Cradley Heath, under the presidency of Mr. Thomas Homer.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/2/1889

“At a meeting of small-chain makers, held at the CROWN INN, Cradley Heath, it was stated that the workmen employed at a local factory had come out on strike in consequence of the manager enforcing a reduction in wages. A resolution was passed approving the action taken by the workmen, and also that each of them receive strike pay.”

County Express 8/2/1890

“Warwick Plant, fishmonger, Cradley, and George Mallen, blacksmith, Cradley Road, were charged with assaulting Mrs. Mack, described as a professional, on the 28th ult. It appeared from the evidence for the prosecution that the complainant, by invitation, went to the CROWN INN, Cradley Road, and sat behind the counter. The defendant Mallen made an improper remark about witness, which she resented, calling him a low blackguard, whereupon he took a pint of beer and threw it into her face. She took a glass off the counter and threw it at him, but Mallen dodged, and the glass struck Plant on the forehead, inflicting a wound. She immediately offered an apology, explaining that the glass was not intended for him, and told him to go to a doctor’s, and she would pay the expenses. Plant, however, struck her, and knocked her down. A witness for the defence said she saw Plant push the complainant, but she did not see him do any more. Mr. Goodman remarked that the witness saw what was convenient. Complainant asked for the Bench to order Plant to take off the plaister from the wound after he said that he had seven stitches in it. When the plaister was removed Plant said he had three or four stitches in. The Bench fined Mallen 20s and costs, Plant 40s and costs. They said that if Plant had not received any provocation he would have been sent to prison without the option of a fine.”

County Express 22/2/1890 - Advert

“Preliminary. Superior Household Furniture and Effects. CROWN HOTEL, Five Ways, Cradley Heath. Mr. H. Sidaway has been favoured with instructions to Sell by Auction, on Wednesday, March 12th, the whole of the Household Furniture, Linen and Effects, the property of a lady, lately residing at No.56, Hagley Road, Stourbridge, removed for convenience of Sale, as no Auction is allowed on the premises. Full particulars next week. Auctioneer’s Office, Five Ways, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 17/3/1890 - Advert

“Assembly Rooms, CROWN HOTEL, Five Ways, Cradley Heath. Peremptory, Unserved Sale, at Short Notice, of a Fresh and Well-selected Stock of Boots and Shoes, &c, under a Deed of Assignment, and removed for convenience of Sale.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/3/1891 - Advert

“General Servant (good) Wanted; one from the country preferred. Good character and references required. Apply, Mrs. *J. Jones*, CROWN HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

1891 Census

Graingers Lane – CROWN HOTEL

- [1] *John Jones* (30), manager public house, born Wednesbury;
- [2] *Martha Jones* (27), wife, born Wednesfield Heath;
- [3] *Esther Jones* (6), daughter, born Wednesbury;
- [4] *Mary A. Lawton* (12), servant, born Walsall;
- [5] *James Giddins* (70), boarder, widower, born Kidderminster:

County Advertiser 11/7/1891

“Edward Clarke, of High Street, Cradley Heath, was fined 2s 6d and costs for being drunk on the licensed premises of *John Jones*, landlord of the CROWN HOTEL, Cradley Heath, and refusing to quit the same on the 4th inst.”

County Advertiser 7/11/1891

“James Clarke and John Baker, both of Cradley Heath, were charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of *James Shalor*, landlord of the CROWN INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath, when request, on the 27th ult. Clarke was also charged with being drunk on the same date.

It appeared that Clarke came into the complainant’s house in a drunken condition and was asked by him to leave. The other defendant was making a row and also refused to leave. Both had to be put out. Clarke was afterwards seen in Tibbetts Gardens. Mr. Bassano said Clarke was a most troublesome man, and had a bad record. He would have to go to prison for a month, with hard labour, for refusing to quit, and he was fined 2s 6d and costs for being drunk and disorderly. Baker would be fined 20s and costs, or 21 days.

Joseph Homer, of New Street, Old Hill, was fined 2s 6d and costs for being drunk and disorderly in the CROWN INN on the 27th ult.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/12/1894 - Advert

“General (good) Wanted, also to assist in the bar. Good character indispensable. CROWN HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 5/1/1895 - Advert

“Wanted, a respectable Girl; one used to the public business preferred. Apply, Mrs. *Worton*, the CROWN, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 9/5/1896 - Advert

“Cradley Heath and Quarry Bank. Highly Important Sale of Valuable Freehold Premises & Building Land.

Mr. T. Pateshall is instructed by the Trustees of the late Mr. Benjamin Billingham, to Sell by Auction, at the House of Mr. *Israel Worton*, the CROWN HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on Tuesday, the 19th day of May, 1896, at Six for Seven o’clock in the Evening, subject to conditions.....”

County Advertiser 1/10/1898

“The adjourned licensing sessions for the Rowley petty sessional division were held on Wednesday.....

Mr. Clulow applied for the sanction of the Bench to alterations in respect to a music hall at the CROWN HOTEL, Five Ways. Mr. Bassano said the Bench could not see their way to permit such a flagrant transgression of the principle they had laid down, and the application would be refused.”

Tipton Herald 28/3/1903

“On Saturday evening the members of the Pride of the Garden Lodge held at the CROWN HOTEL, met together and partook of an excellent repast, the occasion being the presentation to Bro. Samuel H. Woodhouse for services rendered to the district in the capacity of District Master. Bro. J. Golding, DM, was voted to the chair, and Bro. W. Davenport to the vice chair.....”

County Advertiser 30/6/1906

“The Friendly Societies Committee.

This committee met on Wednesday evening at the REINDEER INN. Mr Parish presided over a full attendance of delegates. The Rev. F. R. Brunskill and J. W. Walker replied accepting the invitation of the committee to take part in the proceedings. The Rev. E. A. Cooke, who was away in America, was expected back next week, and would then write the committee. Several of the sick and draw clubs were present. A committee was appointed to visit on a number of the local gentry to solicit their patronage. The next meeting will be held at the CROWN INN, Five Ways.”

County Express 12/9/1908

“Friendly Societies’ Parade. On Wednesday evening the committee of the above met at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Mr. W. Coley presiding over a large attendance. The following was a complete list of those boxes which contained amounts of 1s and upwards.....

Mr. *J. Johnson*, CROWN INN, 5s 8½d.”

Indenture 28/10/1909

“All that piece or parcel of land situate at or near The Five Ways in the Parish of Rowley Regis in the County of Stafford containing by admeasurement 668 square yards or thereabouts.

And Also All That public-house known as The CROWN HOTEL and also the four shops and outbuildings thereon erected.....”

County Express 23/7/1910

“Dividend Clubs. Half-yearly Meetings CROWN (Cradley Heath).

On Monday evening the members held their half-yearly supper, about 30 enjoying the excellent catering of the host and hostess (Mr. and Mrs. *J. Johnson*). After the cloth was drawn Mr. Isaac Homer was voted to the chair. The report proved very satisfactory, only four lots of sick pay having been paid out. An appeal was made to all the members to assemble at tomorrow’s parade. An enjoyable programme was provided by the following artists: Messrs. F. Evans, H. Deeley, Barnbrook (comedians), F. Harris, J. Reenes (tenors), and J. Johnson (reciter). Mr. V. Dingley was an efficient accompanist.”

1911 Census

127, Graingers Lane

- [1] *James Johnson* (40), inn manager, born Cradley Heath;
- [2] *Hannah Pemila Johnson* (35), wife, married 12 years, born Dudley;
- [3] *Richard Henry Johnson* (11), son, school, born Cradley Heath;
- [4] *James William Johnson* (10), son, school, born Cradley Heath;
- [5] *Eliza Cutler* (16), general servant, born West Bromwich:

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on the grounds of redundancy.

Dudley Chronicle 13/2/1924

“The Adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Old Hill Petty Session Division was held at the Police Court on March 5.....

On the grounds of redundancy, the police objected to the renewal of the license of the CROWN INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath, kept by *Edward Gough* and owned by the Dudley and Wolverhampton Breweries Company.

Inspector Willetts said the structural condition of the house was bad. Within a distance of 500 yards there were 19 fully licensed houses and six beerhouse on licenses, and one wine and spirit license. The weekly sale of beer was five to six barrels, three or four cases of bottled beer and fair spirit trade. There were four houses in an open yard close to the public house.

Mr. Thompson, appearing for the owners and the licensee, said he offered no objection to the house being sent to the compensation authority, but he did not accept the statement made by the police in respect to the trade of the house.....

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 licenses of fifteen house on the ground of redundancy.....

The houses in respect of which the authority declined to renew the licenses were as follows.....

CROWN INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath, full license.”

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.....

CROWN INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath, a fully-licensed house.”

The house closed on 31st December 1924.

Lichfield Mercury 9/1/1925

“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.....

CROWN INN, Cradley Heath, £2,000.”

Dudley Herald 24/1/1925 - Advert

“For Sale – corner business property, formerly known as the CROWN INN.....”

Dudley Herald 7/2/1925

“.....closed on grounds of redundancy – bought by T. A. Harris, music dealer, March 1925.”

[Harris’ music and bicycle shop was still in existence in 1973.]

It later became a newsagent and off license. [2008]

CROWN

Station Road (Halesowen Road) / 96, Waterfall Lane, (Slack Hillock), OLD HILL

OWNERS

Jeremiah Laister, maltster and farmer [1834]
Walter Edward Broadbent
Thomas Cooksey
North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1896)
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1909)
Messrs. Sturman Ltd., Marlow Street, Blackheath (acquired on 7th June 1939)
Darby's Brewery Ltd. (acquired on 20th February 1942)
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.
The Black and White Pub Co. [2006] (until September 2007)

LICENSEES

Mrs. Lucy Tibbetts [1841] – [1859]
Jeremiah Laister [1860] – **1866**);
William Andrews (**1866 – 1897**)
William Meldrum McWhirter [1898] – **1900**)
George Perks [1900]
Walter Willetts [1901] – **1907**);
Mrs. Sarah Chatwin (**1907 – [1908]**)
Alice Williams (**1908 – 1909**);
Albert Humphries (**1909 – []**)
Albert Jeffs [] – **1910**);
Walter Edward Broadbent (**1910 – [1912]**)
Walter Edward Broadbent (**1913 – 1924**);
Elizabeth Smith (**1924 – 1926**);
Walter Edward Broadbent (**1926 – 1928**);
John Thomas Webb (**1928 – 1929**);
Edward Reynolds (**1929**);
William Thompson (**1929 – 1932**);
William Wellings (**1932 – 1935**);
George Booth (**1935 – 1936**);
Alfred Potter (**1936 – 1937**);
Bert Cooper (**1937 – 1941**);
John Henry Billingham (**1941 – 1948**);
Richard Albert Williams (**1948 – 1952**);
Sydney George Patrick (**1952 – 1954**);
Jeffrey Cooper Billingham (**1954**);
Caleb Hardwick (**1954 – [1965]**)
Eric Wakeman [1976]
Donald W J Parkes [1983] – [1990]
Ron Singh [2013]

NOTES

Slack Hillock [1851]
Waterfall Lane [1861], [1869], [1871], [1896]
96, Waterfall Lane [1881], [1891], [1901]
Station Road [1911], [1912], [1940]

Black Country Bugle (1972)

'Bugle Call At The Crown'

“Like most of its Black Country counterparts, the CROWN, in Station Road, Old Hill, was not a purpose built public house, but originally one of the many farms which belonged to the ancient Haden dynasty.
In its early days it was the home of the Wright family, from which a nearby road takes its name, and must have been a picturesque

building amidst the orchards and green pastureland which surrounded it during that era. A large pool at the rear of the house was known as Wright's Lake and was a famous fishing and boating centre of the local gentry The farm was hemmed in on all sides (by canal, Barr's Pit, and the railway), its acres diminished to a tiny proportion of its original holding and farming tradition which had carried on, undisturbed, for many centuries was wiped out in less than fifty years. . . .

A tremendous population explosion took place between 1840 and 1860. The workers who poured in from Wales and the country areas were desperate for accommodation Any local house, commodious enough for the purpose, was converted into a public house. The old farmhouse suited this purpose. . . .

The turn of the century saw the CROWN a popular and profitable tavern. It was then kept by *William Andrews*, a local sporting man, famous for his fighting fowl and by all accounts, the old stables block had its cock-pit where regular matches took place. In 1913 the *Broadbent* family took over the license. Previously they had kept the WHITE LION in Powke Lane and the OAK in Waterfall Lane. Mr. *Walter Broadbent* was also in the haulage business and kept close on a score of horses in the spacious stables At this time [1914] Mr. *Broadbent* went into the scrap metal business, which still survives today Their premises still occupy that part of the old farm not used by the CROWN."

Lucy Tibbetts = Lucey Tibbetts

1841 Census

Old Hill

- [1] *Lucey Tibbetts* (55), maltster, born Staffordshire;
- [2] Edwin Tibbetts (30), maltster, born Staffordshire;
- [3] Henry Williams (60), ind(ependant?), born Staffordshire;
- [4] Sarah Robbinson (25), fs:

Lucy Tibbetts was also a maltster. [1849], [1850], [1854]

1851 Census

Slack Hilllock

- [1] *Lucy Tibbetts* (65), widow, innkeeper, maltster and grocer, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Edwin Tibbetts (42), son, farmer, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Jane Raybold (14), niece, scholar, born Cradley;
- [4] Ann Witeeson (22), general servant, born Wednesbury;
- [5] John Mason (18), servant, agricultural labourer, born Bagins Hill, Worcestershire;
- [6] William Siviter (13), servant, agricultural labourer, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 19/9/1857

"Brierley Hill Petty Sessions.

Josiah Osbaldeston, 67 years of age, an itinerant dealer in certain articles from Birmingham, and who generally stayed at Mrs. *Tibbetts*, CROWN INN, Rowley Regis, when visiting the place, was indicted for stealing from that inn on Wednesday night, 5s. A relation of Mrs. *Tibbett's*, who appeared at the court in her place said that, on the night in question, prisoner came into the house and asked for something to drink. He afterwards fell asleep. Subsequently to that he watched his opportunity, and took from a bowl, in which the money was kept, the sum above mentioned. The loss was soon discovered, and from certain causes, suspicion fell on the prisoner. He (prisoner) was asked if the money missing had been got by him, but he denied all knowledge of the matter, and said he had never seen anything of the money at all. A search was made on him, but the sum was not discovered – he only had one shilling and two sixpences in his possession.

A witness named Ann Wilkinson was then called, who gave evidence to the effect that the 5s was put into the bowl by her a little after 11 o'clock, and that at 12 it was gone. She saw prisoner searched, and, contrary to the last witness, stated that 5s was found in his possession. Upon being questioned, witness was unable to state whether prisoner had really taken the sum found on him from the bowl – she did not see him steal the money.

Prisoner, in his defence, observed that he did not commit the theft; that he had been out travelling three days previous to the evening he was suspected, whereby he had realised above 20s; and that as a mark of his honesty, he had never been apprehended before on any charge. He was asked to give an account of the 5s which one witness said was taken out of his pockets whilst being searched. Prisoner could not; but still maintained that he was clear of the charge urged against him.

The Bench in deciding the matter said that there was no doubt that he had committed the robbery, though, through his having a very fair character, and the unsatisfactoriness of some of the evidence, he would, on this occasion, be discharged."

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. . . .

Lucy Tibbetts, maltster, three unjust weights and unjust scales, 6d and costs in each case."

Birmingham Journal 7/4/1860 - Died

"On the 13th ult, at Old Hill, Rowley Regis, aged 74 years, Mrs. *Lucy Tibbetts*. Also, on the 25th ult, at Waterfall Lane, Rowley Regis, aged 41 years, Mr. John William Tibbetts."

[John Williams Tibbetts – WATERFALL, Old Hill]

Birmingham Journal 17/4/1860 - Advert

“CROWN INN, Waterfall Lane, Rowley.

Sale of Farming Stock, Implements, Rick of Wheat, Malt, Casks, Brewing Utensils, Household and Chamber Furniture, and Sundry Other Effects.

Mr. Bateman begs to state that he has received instructions from the Executors to Arrange For Sale, on Monday, the 23rd day of April, 1860, upon the Premises at the CROWN INN, Waterfall Lane, in the parish of Rowley Regis – the Farming Stock, Household Furniture, Casks, Brewing Utensils, Stock of Malt and sundry other Effects of the late Mrs. *Lucy Tibbetts*, consisting of Four Cows, Three Horses, Two capital Fat Pigs, Fowls, Waggons, Carts, Ploughs, Harrows, and other Implements; upwards of Five Hundred Bushels of excellent Malt, Sacks, Malt Mills and Crushers, &c; upwards of twenty well-seasoned Casks; mahogany Dining and other Tables, Chairs, Easy Chairs, Clocks, Four-post and other Bedsteads, Feather Beds, &c; several Sides of Home-cured Bacon, and various other Effects; descriptive particulars of which are given in catalogues to be distributed, and which may now be had at the Place of Sale; and from the Auctioneer, Dudley.

In consequence of the large number of lots, the Sale will commence punctually at Eleven o'clock.”

Birmingham Journal 21/4/1860 - Notice

“*Lucy Tibbetts*, Deceased.....

All Creditors and other Persons having any Claims or Demands upon or against the Estate of *Lucy Tibbetts*, late of Waterfall Lane, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, Widow, deceased, who died on the 13th day of March, 1860, and whose Will was proved in the Lichfield District Registry of her Majesty’s Court of Probate on the 13th day of April, by Edwin Tibbetts, of Waterfall Lane aforesaid, Maltster, the surviving Executor named in the said Will, are hereby required, on or before the 18th day of June next, to Send in the Particulars of their Claims against the Estate of the said Testatrix to the said Edwin Tibbetts, at Waterfall Lane aforesaid, or to his Solicitors, Messrs. Bolton and Sanders, of Dudley, in the county of Worcester; and that after the said 18th day of June next the said Edwin Tibbetts will proceed to distribute the Assets of the said *Lucy Tibbetts* amongst the parties entitled thereto, having regard to the Claims of which he the said Edwin Tibbetts shall then have had notice, and will not be liable for the Assets so distributed to any Person of whose Claim he shall not have had notice at the time of such distribution.

Dated the 18th day of April, 1860.

Bolton and Sanders, Solicitors to the Executor.”

Jeremiah Laister = Jeremiah Lester

Birmingham Journal 16/6/1860 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Dwelling House, Malthouse, Garden Land and Premises, situate at Old Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford.

To Be Sold By Auction, by Mr. Bateman, on Wednesday, the 27th day of June, 1860, at Six o'clock in the evening, at the house of Mr. *Laister*, the CROWN INN, Waterfall Lane, Old Hill aforesaid, subject to conditions then to be produced, and either in one or such lots as may be agreed upon at the time of sale.....”

Jeremiah Laister was also a farmer. [1861]

1861 Census

Waterfall Lane – CROW [sic] INN

- [1] *Jeremiah Laister* (27), victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Eliza Laister (21), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Elizabeth Laister (1 week), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Edwin Tibbetts (52), uncle, maltster, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] William Berington (50), servant, born Belbroughton;
- [6] Edward Cooper (20), servant, birthplace not known;
- [7] Ann Wilkinson (34), general servant, born Wednesbury;
- [8] Lucy Budd (46), widow, nurse, born Chaddesley Corbet:

Birmingham Daily Post 3/10/1862

“At the weekly Petty Sessions, held on Wednesday, before Mr. Barrs, *Jeremiah Lester* charged George Darby with having shot his dog. Both the men are farmers’ sons, and appeared to be a little jealous of each other in some matters. A disagreement of a trivial nature having taken place, and complainant having discovered that his dog had been shot, he attributed the offence to the defendant. The evidence was to the effect that on Saturday last defendant was at Waterfall Lane, and that he was seen to go towards a coppice in which complainant’s dog was afterwards found dead. On the other side, evidence was brought forward to prove that defendant was at a distance from the place where the offence was committed. The case was dismissed.”

County Advertiser 14/4/1866 - Notice

“All persons who are Creditors of *Jeremiah Lester*, of the CROWN INN, Waterfall Lane, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Farmer, are requested to send in their Claims to Messrs. Shakespeare and Hartill, Solicitors, Oldbury, near Birmingham, without delay.”

William Andrews = William Andrew

County Advertiser 23/6/1866

“Thomas Tromans was charged with damaging grazing grass belonging to *William Andrews*, publican, Waterfall Lane. Fined 1s and costs.”

County Advertiser 22/12/1866

“Joseph Parkes was charged with assaulting *William Andrews*, landlord of the CROWN INN, Waterfall Lane. Complainant stated that he ordered the defendant to leave his house, late at night on the 11th inst; but, instead of complying with his request, defendant turned round and caught him by the legs, and he fell heavily on the grate. Fined 5s and costs, or fourteen days. There was a second charge against defendant, of refusing to leave the public house when requested to do so by the landlord. Ordered to pay costs.”

Stourbridge Observer 9/3/1867

“An inquest was held on Tuesday last, at the house of *William Andrews*, the CROWN INN, Waterfall Lane, before Mr. Hooper, Coroner, on the body of James Westwood, aged 42. From the evidence it appeared that deceased formerly worked at the Tump Pits, Blackheath, and on the 21st ult was at work down the pit with three others. Deceased, and two of the other men were burnt very badly. Deceased lingered until Friday last, when he died. As it was necessary to have further evidence, and the doggy being burnt at the same time, and unable to attend, the inquest was adjourned for a month for the attendance of the doggy.”
[At the adjourned inquest a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.]

County Express 27/4/1867 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant, with good character. Apply at the OLD CROWN INN, Waterfall Lane, Black Heath.”

County Express 6/7/1867 - Advert

“Wanted, a Strong Servant Girl, with good character. One used to the Public business preferred. Apply to Mrs. *Andrews*, CROWN INN, Waterfall Lane, near Old Hill Railway Station.”

County Express 31/7/1869

“Rowley Regis Association for the Prosecution of Felons. The annual dinner of the above society was held at the house of Mr. *Andrews*, CROWN INN, Old Hill, on Tuesday afternoon, when all the members, with a few exceptions, were present. Dinner was served up in an excellent style by the host, and was done ample justice to.....”

Stourbridge Observer 28/8/1869

“James Evans was charged with being drunk and riotous, and refusing to quit the CROWN INN, when requested, on the 21st inst. *William Andrews* said he was landlord of the house and resided at Old Hill. On the above date defendant came into his house at twenty minutes past eleven o'clock, drunk. He asked for some ale, but witness refused to fill him any, as he was quite drunk. Defendant refused to go away, and after some time witness put him out of the house. Defendant then went to the front window, and stood looking in for some time cursing and swearing and using filthy language to his wife and himself, but ultimately went away saying that he would burn the house down, and keep round the house until after one o'clock in the morning. Defendant had previously threatened to set fire to his house, and had found him lately on several occasions loitering about his premises. About a month since he had to send for Police-sergeant Powner to turn him out of the house. Defendant showed nothing in defence was fined 20s and costs; in default one month's imprisonment.”

County Advertiser 27/11/1869

“James Evans, Benjamin Armstrong, and Henry Armstrong were charged with damaging windows, a door, and a lamp, the property of Mr. *William Andrews*, of the CROWN INN, Waterfall Lane. The defendants went to complainant's house in a beastly state of intoxication. Complainant refused to supply them with ale, whereupon they created a most disgraceful disturbance, and damaged the articles in question. The damage was laid at 14s 6d. They were each fined 5s for the damage, and 1s and costs; in default twenty-one days' hard labour.”

County Express 2/7/1870

“Joseph Pugh, aged twelve, and Joseph Clift, eleven, were charged with damaging and injuring a quantity of cut grass, belonging to Mr. *William Andrews*, of Waterfall Lane, on the 20th June. They stated that there were about thirty other boys in the field, and they went and drove them out and sat under the hedge. Mr. *Andrews* said these two were ringleaders of a number of boys in the field. The mother of one of them said she had appeared to pay costs on Monday, but as they were then refused she would not pay anything now. They were fined 1s each and costs, or in default seven days' imprisonment with hard labour.”

County Advertiser 7/1/1871

“James Taylor, police-constable, was charged with having assaulted Joseph Hughes, on the 12th of December; and there was another charge of assault, alleged to have been committed at the same time and place, preferred against Police-constable George Robinson, by James Batty. Mr. Hayes appeared for complainants, and Mr. Addison defended.

The cases, which appeared to have created much excitement in the district, occupied the Court over four hours.

A number of witnesses were heard on each side, and, as is too often the case at this Court, flatly contradicted each others' statements. The evidence against the officers was, that about eleven o'clock on the night in question they went to the CROWN INN, Waterfall Lane, and stayed there a hour and a half. Taylor, who was the worse for liquor, assaulted Hughes without any provocation, both inside and outside of the house. Taylor was so overcome by drink that he fell asleep on the couch. Complainant and five or six companions left the CROWN about one o'clock, and they were followed out of the house by the defendants, when Robinson was said to have beaten Batty with his staff. For the defence, it was alleged that the men were disorderly, and that the officers did no more than their duty. Joseph Parkes, rate collector, swore that Taylor was the worse for drink, while Robinson swore that he (Taylor) was perfectly sober, and only had ginger beer in the house, and that they (the officers) were not in the house more than a quarter of an hour. On Taylor being examined, he said they remained in the house about an hour, and he had brandy and soda-water to drink. Parkes had previously sworn that Taylor was drinking ale. It was also sworn that complainant and their companions threatened to attack the officers, and that the latter were compelled to resort to force. In answer to Mr. Addison, too, both complainants admitted having been summoned six or seven times for assaults and drunkenness.

The Bench fined Taylor 1s and costs, and dismissed the case against Robinson. Charges of drunkenness against Hughes and Batty and their companions, and a counter charge of assault against Batty, were, at the suggestion of the Bench, withdrawn.”

County Advertiser 14/1/1871

“*William Andrews*, landlord of the CROWN INN, Waterfall Lane, was summoned for harbouring Police-constables Taylor and Robinson, on the 13th ult. The facts of the case were reported last week, when it will be recollected, the officers were charged with assaults. Rosannah Batty, a domestic in the employ of the defendant, and who was summoned at the instance of the prosecution, deposed that the two officers came to the CROWN INN, and were served with drink. They remained in the house over one hour and a half. In defence, *Andrews* said he was not at home at the time. The Magistrates Clerk explained that it was illegal to supply any policeman on duty with liquor, to be drunk on the premises. The Bench inflicted a fine of 1s and costs.”

Stourbridge Observer 1/4/1871

“A serious accident, by which two men were instantly killed and another badly injured, took place on Saturday last at Messrs. Swindell and Collis's colliery, Gorsty Hill. In a part of the workings of one of the pits, Thomas Pully, 42, and James Rollinson, 44, were employed in setting timber, when a ‘bump’ suddenly occurred, and they were immediately buried beneath a huge heap of fallen coal. Prompt steps to rescue them were taken, but when the coal which covered them was removed, they were found to be lifeless and sadly mangled. Their bodies, we are told, were crushed to pieces, and their bowels protruded. Close to the spot where the melancholy accident took place David Pully was engaged at work. He escaped with injuries which are not expected to terminate fatally.

An inquest was held on the bodies at the ROSE AND CROWN, Waterfall Lane, before Mr. Hooper, on Wednesday.

Mr. Baker, Government Inspector was in attendance, and also Mr. Collis junior.

Thomas Pully said that his father and Rollinson were setting ‘trees’ when a fall of coal took place, and they were instantly killed. He was loading in the ‘straight’ road, and he saw one of the doggies at six o'clock that morning coming back with a lamp, as if they had been examining the pit. He heard his father tell his mother that he never worked at a pit where more timber was used. He never heard anyone in the pit say there was not sufficient timber in the pit. (Mr. Collis here said that £1,200 was paid last year by the firm for timber.)

David Rilley, a bondsman, stated that at the time of the accident he was at work with the deceased. They were preparing to set a tree, when a large quantity of coal fell from the roof on to Pully and Rollinson, and caught him and knocked him against a ‘tub’, severely injuring him. Rollinson was ordered to set the tree in order to make the opening safe.

Pully said, however, there was not much fear of the coal coming, for it knocked very hard. There did not appear to be any indication that the coal was going to fall.

Rebecca Rollinson said that her deceased husband never complained of the want of timber at the colliery, and she had no reason to blame anyone for his death.

Benjamin Golding, one of the deputies of the pit, said that the accident happened in consequence of a ‘slip running off a rib.’

By Mr. Baker: He had examined the place at about half past eight o'clock that morning, and just before the accident he told Pully to ‘knock’ again, and it was said to be sound.

Mr. Baker: In future you will act more wisely if you do differently, and satisfy yourself as to the state of the pit, instead of taking another's word for it. It was your duty to examine and ascertain for yourself whether the place was safe or not.

By request of Mr. Collis, the Coroner put questions to witness which elicited the following answers. The deceased were paid a superior class of wages for doing nothing else but look after the safety of the men. They received 6s a day. He did not consider it safe to set timbers on the loose slack.

Mr. Collis then requested the Coroner to put the question, ‘Is a foundation required for a tree of loose slack?’

Mr. Hooper declined to put it, on the ground that it was too ridiculous to ask a collier.

Mr. Collis: Then kindly exonerate me from all blame. I will give up all management.

Mr. Hooper: I cannot allow my conduct to be commented upon. I certainly could not put that question, but will put any other, if I approve of it, which you may suggest.

The questions which were then named, witness replied that it was not possible for the company to do more to ensure the safety of the men. Everything possible was done in the way of providing timber and arranging for the overlooking of the miners whilst employed.

This concluded the evidence, and the Coroner, in summing up, said that it appeared every precaution had been taken to prevent accidents.

The jury at once returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

AND

“Pully’s remains were interred on Thursday, at St. Luke’s Church, and a number of children from Old Hill Wesleyan Sunday School, at which he was superintendent, followed in the cortege. Deceased was exceedingly well liked and his loss will be deeply deplored.”

1871 Census

Waterfall Lane

[1] *William Andrews* (33), licensed victualler, born Ditton Priors, Shropshire;

[2] *Georgina Andrews* (34), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *William T. Andrews* (10), son, scholar, born Kingswinford;

[4] *Mary E. Andrews* (8), daughter, scholar, born Kingswinford;

[5] *Rosa H. Batty* (16), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 7/10/1871

“*James Powell*, a boy fifteen years of age, was charged with stealing a quantity of potatoes, the property of *William Andrews*, of Waterfall Lane. *William Perry* stated that about seven o’clock on the morning of the 1st inst, he saw the prisoner go into a field belonging to the prosecutor, and pull up and put into his pocket a quantity of potatoes. Witness took him to the house of the prosecutor, where the potatoes were taken from the prisoner’s pockets. During the past year, the prisoner has been twice convicted for pigeon stealing. *Mr. Hingley* remarked that it would be advisable to send him to a Reformatory School. It was, however, decided to fine him 5s and costs, or, in default, one month’s imprisonment.”

Stourbridge Observer 13/1/1872

“*William Andrews*, landlord of the CROWN, Old Hill, was charged with keeping his house open for the sale of drink during prohibited hours; and further charged with permitting drunkenness in his house on the 24th ultimo. *Mr. W. Hayes* defended.

Police-sergeant Davis said he was stationed at Blackheath. On the above date he visited defendant’s house at 18 minutes past twelve on the night of the 23rd, or the morning of the 24th ult, and found about 30 men in the place – some in the tap room, some in the bar parlour, and others in the club room. He saw the defendant and the landlady inside sewing at the time. He went in with *Police-constable Jackson*. There was drink on the table, and some of the people were drunk. There was some singing going on. Witness spoke to the landlord, who said it was not twelve, and pointed to the clock, and it was five minutes past twelve by it. Witness pulled out his watch, and it was 23 minutes past twelve by it, and he told defendant he was a few minutes fast. Witness then went outside, and the men followed him out. Some of them took beer away with them. Four of them were drunk.

Cross-examined: There were over 30 men and women in the house. I went into all three of the rooms. I went into the bar, where the landlord was drawing spirits. A man named *Hughes* was one of the men that were drunk. I did not ask the defendant who the men were that were drunk. I was not told there was a colliers’ feast held at the house that night. I told the defendant it was after twelve o’clock, and he said it was not, and pointed at the clock. Do not know that the wind blows the fingers about on Rowley church clock, and my watch was a few minutes fast by that clock.

Sergeant Powner said that he had known the defendant for a long time, and he had always conducted his house well.

Police-constable Jackson corroborated *Davis*.

Mr. Hayes, in defence, said it was a question of time. There had been a colliers’ feast at the house, and as soon as the time was up defendant endeavoured to get the men out, but as there were about 70 men inside it was a matter of some difficulty to get them out. When the officers went into the house the defendant’s clock was only five minutes past twelve. There were several watches pulled out at the time to prove that the clock agreed with the railway times. As far as the charge of permitting drunkenness was concerned, he could call a number of witnesses to prove there was no drunkenness in the house.

The Bench said there was a doubt as to the time, and they should give defendant the benefit of it, and ordered him to pay the costs.”

Stourbridge Observer 27/7/1872

“*William Andrews*, landlord of the CROWN INN, Old Hill, was charged with assaulting *Joseph Hughes*, on the 15th inst. *Mr. Homfrey* appeared for complainant, and *Mr. Warrington* for the defendant.

Complainant said on the above date he went into defendant’s house for something to drink. He went into the bar, and defendant ordered him out. He did not go and defendant caught hold of him, knocked him down, and kicked him on the head very severely. Defendant then got a gun and said he would shoot complainant. He pulled the trigger, but it was a bad cap, and the gun did not explode.

Several witnesses were examined on both sides and after hearing the whole of the evidence, the Bench said the defendant had been guilty of a serious assault, and they fined him 40s and costs.

A summons against *Hughes* for refusing to leave the CROWN INN was dismissed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/2/1874

“The Election Riots at Dudley. At the Rowley Police Court, on Wednesday.....

Hezekiah Round (13) was charged with having committed a breach of the peace by throwing stones, on the 4th inst. Thomas Gould, butcher, Cradley Heath, and Police-constable Cooper, stated that they saw defendant throwing stones at the windows of a person named Harris, who keeps a public house opposite the polling station, at Reddall Hill. Defendant pleaded guilty, and was fined 40s and costs; in default six weeks' imprisonment.

John Priest was charged with assaulting *William Andrews*, landlord of the CROWN INN, Waterfall Lane, on the 4th inst. Complainant stated that he had been to record his vote at the polling station in Halesowen Road, Old Hill, and as he was returning home he had to pass under a bridge. As he was going under he saw the defendant with a lot of men on the bridge, throwing stones at the people. A stone, thrown by defendant, struck witness on the legs. Defendant denied the assault. Fined £5 and costs; in default two months' imprisonment.

Warwick Plant, fishmonger, was charged with creating a breach of the peace by stone-throwing at Old Hill, on the 4th inst. John Powell said he saw the defendant throwing stones in the direction of a cab that was going down the road towards the polling booth. Mr. William Cheese said he was in the cab with two voters, and when passing by defendant's house a lot of stones (produced) were thrown into the vehicle; the windows were both smashed. The defendant said he was throwing at some Dudley roughs. Fined 40s and costs; in default six weeks' imprisonment.”

Stourbridge Observer 13/6/1874

“At the Petty Sessions held on Wednesday last, before Messrs. F. W. G. Barrs and N. Hingley, Joseph James was charged with violently assaulting *William Andrews*, landlord of the CROWN INN, on the 1st inst. Mr. Stokes appeared for the complainant, and Mr. Homer for the defendant.

Mr. Stokes said before the case was proceeded with he had considered the interests of his client, who was very seriously injured, and he now proposed to withdraw the case, and take it to another court to ask for damages, which he had no doubt he should get. As regarding the case of refusing to quit, he proposed to go on with that case, and he should prove by witnesses that the defendant was drunk, and refused to quit the complainant's house.

Mr. Homer said the case ought to be dismissed, and he should ask the Bench to do so.

Mr. Stokes said he should offer no evidence; therefore, the Bench could not dismiss it, as it was withdrawn.

The Bench said they had no evidence before them; therefore, they could not dismiss it, and the case was withdrawn.

Joseph Jones was then charged with refusing to quit the CROWN INN, when requested. Mr. Stokes appeared for complainant, and Mr. Homer defended.

Complainant said he kept the CROWN INN. On the evening of the 1st inst he had been from home, and returned about ten o'clock. When he got home he found the defendant there, and heard him challenging any one in the house to fight, and making a great noise. Witness asked if defendant had had anything to drink, and found he had not. Witness went into the kitchen and asked him to leave. Defendant said he would not for such a — man as him. Witness told him if he did not he should have no alternative but to put him out. On witness attempting to put him out, defendant struck him several times, knocked him down, blackened his eyes, and inflicted serious injuries on his arm. Defendant was very tipsy.

Cross-examined: Defendant did not have any beer in my house. He asked for some. I was quite sober. John Boilston was in the room. Have not got him as a witness today. He came and asked me to....

After hearing the evidence, the Bench said there were discrepancies in it, and dismissed the case.”

County Express 30/9/1876

“Felons Prosecution Society. The annual dinner in connection with the above association took place on Tuesday evening, at Mr. *Andrews*'s, the CROWN INN, Old Hill, when upwards of sixty gentlemen sat down. Mr. E. Lowe who occupied the chair stated that in 1875 the balance in hand was £17 5s 4½d; this year it is £14 18s 4d.....”

County Advertiser 10/3/1877

“Charles Smith, a brickmaker, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of *William Andrews*, CROWN INN, Old Hill, and with refusing to quit. W. Hayes appeared for the prosecution. Two witnesses – Sarah Jones (assistant of the prosecutor) and Mary Ellen *Andrews*, his daughter, gave evidence to the effect that defendant came into the CROWN INN, while drunk, on the above date, and asked for some ale, which was refused. He then used disgusting language, and became very abusive, challenging the persons present to fight. The magistrates imposed a fine of 10s and costs, with the alternative of fourteen days' imprisonment.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/6/1877 - Advert

“Found, last week, at Dudley, a Scotch Sheep Dog. May be had by applying at the OLD CROWN, Old Hill, and paying expenses. If not claimed in Seven days will be Sold.”

Staffordshire Sentinel 4/7/1877

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Frederick Billingham, Mark Bannister, Jesse Billingham, Joseph Billingham, and Francis Northall (on bail) were indicted for unlawfully wounding the landlord of the CROWN INN, Old Hill, Rowley Regis – Mr. *William Andrews* – on the 21st May.

On the day of the disturbance the two first-named prisoners went to *Andrews*'s house, and asked for drink. *Andrews* declined to draw them any, however, as he said he thought they had already had sufficient. The men having left the house a short time returned with the other prisoner, when a disturbance of a somewhat ugly nature took place, in the course of which the landlord used some little violence in getting one or more of the prisoners out of the house. He appeared to have followed the prisoners off the premises, when stones were thrown at him. Bannister was seen to throw four stones, and Frederick Billingham threw one, which

broke prosecutor's jaw, and knocked three teeth out. The other prisoners were said to have incited the two men named to violence. The jury returned a verdict of guilty against all the prisoners. Frederick Billingham and Mark Bannister were sentenced to six months' imprisonment each; Jesse, Joseph Billingham, and Francis Northall were sentenced to three months' imprisonment each."

County Express 24/8/1878

"On Wednesday a large mass meeting of nailers on strike was held at the CROWN INN, Old Hill, and in the course of the day meetings were also held at Netherton, Darby Hand, Woodside, and Halesowen. The speakers were Mr. John Price (Chairman of the Nailers' Association) and Mr. Joseph Hackett, who inveighed bitterly against the men in Bromsgrove in 'running in' as they had done. They were, however, sanguine that the nailers would succeed in accomplishing their purpose if they kept together steadfastly without Bromsgrove's assistance, and they therefore counselled playing on. A statement which appeared on Wednesday in a contemporary to the effect that some of the nailers at Old Hill were taking out work was referred to and condemned as without foundation. The speakers contradicted the statement, and said they were assured the people of Old Hill were as firm as any in their resolve to remain out till the masters yielded. Eventually a resolution was passed to 'play' till the masters gave the '75 list less 10 per cent was passed."

County Express 9/11/1878

"Old Hill Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. R. L. Freer and H. Howard.....

Jesse Billingham, Joseph Billingham, and Mark Bannister were summoned on a charge of having committed an assault upon William Westwood.

Mr. W. S. Hayes, who had been instructed by Westwood to prosecute, stated that his client now refused to swear as to the assault against the Billinghams.

Complainant now asked to be allowed to withdraw the charge against the two defendants named, and proceeded to give evidence against the other defendant, Bannister. He was walking down Wagon Street when the defendant struck him and knocked him down. He was also kicked by others, but the defendants Billingham were not amongst the number.

Mr. Freer: We cannot believe this evidence of the complainant; he is evidently keeping something back.

Mr. Hayes (to Westwood): Have you not given evidence against the Billinghams at the Staffordshire Sessions in a charge of assault preferred by William Andrews?

Complainant: Yes.

Mr. Hayes informed the Bench that complainant had told him that he had been kicked by the Billinghams, but that his club had threatened to stop his sick pay if he did not make up the case in which the Billinghams were concerned.

The Magistrates ordered Bannister (who now pleaded guilty to the charge of assault) to pay the costs, and ordered complainant Westwood to pay the costs in the other cases."

County Express 15/2/1879

"*William Andrews*, landlord of the OLD CROWN INN, Waterfall Lane, was charged with keeping his house open during prohibited hours.

Two police officers found two men in the house after closing hours on the 8th inst.

Mr. Major, who defended, submitted that the men being travellers the defendant was not open to conviction.

He called the two men, Alred Baker and Benjamin Hancox and they bore out his statement.

The Bench considered the case had been very properly brought before them, but allowed it to be withdrawn on payment of costs by defendant.

The charge against the two men of being on licensed premises during prohibited hours was also withdrawn on payment of costs."

Dudley Herald 30/8/1879

"The annual licensing session for the Rowley Regis division was held on the 26th ult.....

The convictions against licensed victuallers during the past year were.....

William Andrew, CROWN INN, Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, house open during prohibited hours. Paid costs, February 12th, 1879."

County Advertiser 28/2/1880

"On Tuesday last Mr. E. Hooper held an inquest at the CROWN INN, Old Hill, touching the death of Joseph Hughes, blacksmith, Waterfall Lane, who died suddenly on the 21st inst. A verdict of Died from Natural Causes was returned."

1881 Census

96, Waterfall Lane – CROWN INN

[1] *William Andrews* (43), widower, licensed victualler, born Ditton Priors, Shropshire;

[2] William T. Andrews (20), son, railway porter, born Kingswinford;

[3] Mary E. Andrews (18), daughter, scholar, born Kingswinford;

[4] Sarah Jones (26), general servant, born Kingswinford;

[5] John Dalloway (40), general servant, born Bewdley;

[6] Agnes Grigg (39), visitor, dressmaker, born Kingswinford:

West Bromwich Weekly News 3/12/1881

"An inquest was held on Wednesday at the CROWN INN, touching the death of Samuel Moreton (4), whose parents reside in Waterfall Lane, who was drowned in the canal on Saturday last. The evidence was to the effect that on the day named deceased and

some companions were playing on the canal side, near Gosty Hill Tunnel, when by some means he fell in. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned by the jury.”

Dudley and District News 21/10/1882

“*William Andrews*, landlord of the CROWN INN, Old Hill, was summoned for assaulting Jeremiah Laister, a maltster of Blackheath, and his daughter, Elizabeth, on the 12th inst. Mr. Homer appeared for the complainants, and Mr. Wright defended. Mr. Homer said the assault was of a serious character. Defendant did not appear, and, upon the application of Mr. Wright, the case was adjourned for a week.”

Dudley and District News 28/10/1882

“*William Andrews*, publican, Old Hill, was charged on an adjourned summons with committing an assault upon Jeremiah Laister, retired maltster of Blackheath. Mr. Homer prosecuted, and Mr. Stokes (of Dudley) defended. The parties are brothers-in-law and for some time past some amount of ill-feeling has existed between them in relation to some money. On the 10th October complainant went into the CROWN INN, defendant’s house, and his daughter came in afterwards. At one particular time he stood at a window which looks into the room where his daughter and Miss *Andrews* were present with the defendant. Miss *Andrews* was sent out for whiskey, and complainant saw defendant kiss his daughter, which he considered very improper. In consequence of that, he went into the room and ordered her to go home with him. They then went out and about forty or fifty yards from the house and at the corner of Wrights Lane, the defendant overtook them, and going in front of complainant, struck him a violent blow between the eyes, knocking him down. Complainant no sooner got up again than he was knocked down by a blow from defendant in the same place. Complainant again got up only to be knocked down again. Upon regaining his feet once more, he ran home and succeeded in getting indoors before defendant came up. His face was terribly bruised, and his clothes covered with blood. Medical attention had to be called in, and his injuries were attended to. Elizabeth Laister, complainant’s daughter, gave evidence in support of the charge. She said she went into her uncle’s (the defendant’s) house at about seven o’clock, and found her father already there. She went into the parlour and found her cousin there. Soon afterwards defendant came in and entered into the conversation. After a time he sent his daughter out to get some whiskey, and during her absence he caught hold of witness by the waist and kissed her, pulling her towards him. Notwithstanding her relationship with defendant she treated this conduct as very offensive. She got up to go out, but he asked her not to go. Her father then came into the room, and he told her to go home. They both left the house together. Witness then corroborated the evidence of assault. On being cross-examined by Mr. Stokes, witness stated that her uncle had kissed her several times before, but not in the way he had on this occasion. When her father came into the room, he did not say to her, ‘Go out, you b— cat;’ and she did not remember him saying, ‘Come out of this w— shop.’ He seemed very excited, and his conduct put her about. She asked her cousin to go home with her, because she was afraid there would have been a fight. Mr. Stokes addressed the Bench for the defence, and whilst admitting that an assault had been committed by his client, contended that a considerable amount of provocation had been given. He called Thomas Griffiths, who stated that he was in the smoke room of the CROWN on the night of the assault. He heard the complainant say to some person, ‘Come out you b— cat; you shan’t stop in this w— shop.’ Mr. Stokes declined to call Miss *Andrews* to give evidence. She was at the present time on very friendly terms with her cousin and he did not care to cause a further breach. The Bench carefully considered the case, and said they did not think there was any great provocation to commit such an assault. Defendant was fined 20s and costs, or 14 days. A charge of assault preferred by Miss Laister against *Andrews* for kissing her was withdrawn.”

Dudley and District News 13/1/1883

“George Rivers, alias Smith (40), returned convict, and Thomas Warr, pensioner, who gave their addresses as Windsor Street, Birmingham, were charged on remand with uttering counterfeit coin at Old Hill and Blackheath. On the 5th inst, *William Andrews*, keeper of the CROWN INN, Old Hill, noticed the two prisoners stop in front of his house and then part, Warr going down the road and Rivers going into the house. Rivers called for half a pint of ale, which the servant girl brought him, and in payment of which he gave her a florin. *Andrews* looked at the coin and discovered it was a bad one. He asked the prisoner how many more he had like it, and he made no answer. A policeman was then sent for, and the prisoner was given into his custody. Evidence was then given by Martha Smith, whose father keeps the NAVIGATION INN, Old Hill, showing that Rivers called at the house on the same date and asked for half a pint of ale, tendering a two-shilling piece in payment. Upon sounding it she found it was a bad one, and she refused to take it in payment or to supply the ale. Eliza Wright, wife of John Wright, landlord of the SPORTSMAN INN, Old Hill, stated that Rivers called in the house on the 5th and asked for half a pint of ale, in payment of which he tendered a florin. She did not notice that it was a bad one, and she gave him change. The same prisoner also passed a coin at a public house at Gorsty Hill. The whole of the coins were examined by Mr. Henn, jeweller, of Cradley Heath, and were found to be composed chiefly of lead. Upon being apprehended 10½d of good money was found upon Warr, and eight bad two shilling pieces. About 9s good money was found upon Rivers. PC Varrily, of the Birmingham force, gave evidence showing that the prisoner Rivers was committed at the Northampton Assizes in 1877, and sentenced to five years penal servitude. The Bench remanded the prisoner for seven days.”

Birmingham Mail 29/1/1883

“Stafford Assizes.

George Rivers (35), labourer, and Thomas Warr (40), labourer, were charged with uttering several bad half-crowns at Old Hill. Mr. Todd prosecuted. It appeared that Rivers on the 5th of December went to the CROWN INN, Old Hill, and asked for a pint of ale, tendering half a crown. The servant, doubting its genuineness, went in search of the landlord, *William Andrews*, outside the door. *Andrews* seeing it was bad, gave prisoner in charge of a policeman. He then remembered seeing the prisoner Warr talking to Rivers before going into the house. With a policeman he followed Warr, and arrested him at Hales Owen Bridge. In his possession were found eight counterfeit half-crowns, which he said he had been given him to carry by Rivers. Prisoners were found guilty. Rivers was an old offender, and having on three previous occasions been convicted for uttering base coin, he was sentenced to ten years' penal servitude. Warr was ordered to be imprisoned for a month.”

Dudley and District News 10/5/1884

“*William Andrews*, landlord of the CROWN INN, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, was summoned for committing an assault upon William Gould, draper, Old Hill, by striking him with a red-hot poker, and was also charged with wilfully and maliciously damaging two coats, the property of the prosecutor, by burning them with the said poker, for which he claimed £2 16s, on the 17th ult. There was a cross summons taken out by the defendant, and the magistrates decided to hear them together. Mr. Homer appeared to prosecute, and Mr. Cooksey was for the defence.

Mr. Homer, in opening the case, said the defendant was the owner of a public house. The complainant called in for a glass of ale on his way home from Birmingham. He went into the smoke-room, and the defendant followed him. Defendant commenced to poke the fire, and after getting the poker hot he struck the complainant with it. He afterwards struck the complainant on the side of the face, knocking him down. As he endeavoured to get up the defendant went at him again, but was prevented from striking him by his daughter and the servant. Complainant then went out, and the defendant followed him, and was about to assault him again, when he was prevented by a man named Barnsley. The damages claimed by his client amounted to £2 16s, for injury done to his two coats by burning them.

William Gould said he was a draper and works at Old Hill. On the 17th ult he called at the defendant's public-house on his way from Birmingham. He ordered a glass of ale. It was brought to him in the smoke-room. As he went into the room, the defendant followed him. Defendant commenced to poke the fire. He poked it for five or six minutes. He then struck him across the back with the poker, which was red-hot, and afterwards drew it down his back. He asked him what he did it for, and he then struck him in the jaw, knocking him down. As he was getting up, the defendant came at him again, but was prevented from touching him by his daughter and servant coming between them. He then left the house and went towards Old Hill railway station. Defendant followed him out, and came after him. He was standing talking to a man named Barnsley when the defendant came up to him and was going to strike him again, when Barnsley would not let him do it. He did not say anything to the defendant that would cause him to commit the assault. Nothing was said that would justify him for the assault. He claimed £2 16s damages done to his clothes.

In cross-examination by Mr. Cooksey, he said he was standing by the table with his back to the fire. Did not see the defendant strike him but only felt the blow. He saw him with the poker in his hand afterwards. Did not know that the defendant was looking after a piece of iron in the fire. Never saw the hinge (produced) before.

This was the case for the prosecution, and Mr. Cooksey, for the defence, said his instructions were quite different to the evidence that had been given. He was informed that the assault was committed by the complainant upon receiving the damages complained of to his clothes. His client was charged with maliciously and wilfully damaging the complainant's coat, and unless he could convince them that the damage was not done wilfully, his case would be lost. The only cause the complainant could give them for the offence, was that he (the complainant) was a witness in a case against his client. He asked, then, was it likely, that a man would wilfully and deliberately go and strike the complainant with a hot poker, for a thing like that assigned, which occurred a few months back. Complainant had told them that he did not see the defendant strike him with the poker, but only saw defendant had the poker in his hand, and that he was poking in the fire, but he was after the piece of iron that had been in the fire for some time. It seems that while trying to get it out of the fire, it was accidentally thrown out, and struck the complainant. The complainant remonstrated with him for the damage he had received, and then struck him. He respectfully submitted that no assault took place. He would call the man Barnsley, who would tell them that the defendant made no attempt to assault the complainant. The summons for refusing to quit was taken out because the complainant refused to leave when requested to do so, but remained in the house, and was continually insulting the defendant.

William Andrews, the defendant, stated that on the 17th ult complainant came to his house. He was in the bar, standing with his back to the fire. He asked him to move, and he refused. He never struck the complainant at all, but he was struck accidentally by a piece of hot iron. He then became abusive, and he ordered him out, but he refused to go.

Cross-examined: I did not strike the complainant with the poker. I did not follow him into the yard. I followed him to the door. I did not strike him at all. My daughter and servant were not in the room. They never prevented me from striking the complainant. I did not send a solicitor to settle the case, but believe my daughter did.

Richard Barnsley said he was in defendant's house on the day named. He was in the tap-room. Complainant was in the bar. He heard defendant say to complainant, ‘Sit down, or go out.’ By request of the defendant's daughter he went out of the house soon after the complainant, and saw him standing in the yard. He heard the defendant ask him to go home. He did not see the defendant strike the complainant. Complainant did not make any complaint to him that the defendant had burned his jackets.

The Bench thought the case proved, and fined him 40s and costs for the assault, and he was also ordered to pay £2 16s, the amount claimed for damages. The case against the complainant, for not quitting the defendant's premises was dismissed.”

County Express 9/1/1886

“Inland Revenue Prosecution.

William Andrews, publican, Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, was summoned for keeping three carriages when he held licenses for only two.

Mr. B. Davis, supervisor, appeared to prosecute, and said he did not wish for a heavy penalty. Defendant let carriages for hire, and took out licenses for two in 1885. In October an officer found he had three vehicles, and on the 13th of the same month he saw the vehicle for which no license was taken out being used.

Thomas Cruikshank, an officer of inland revenue, deposed to visiting the defendant's premises and finding a four-wheel cab, a hansom cab and a waggonette. The latter, for which no license had been taken out, he saw being used near Old Hill station on the 13th October.

Defendant pleaded guilty, but said he had never used the waggonette before.

A fine of 60s including costs was imposed.”

County Advertiser 29/9/1888

“The adjourned licensing sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Rowley Regis were held at the Police Court.....

An application on behalf of Mr. Benjamin Darby, HORSE SHOE INN, Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, for a wine license, was made by Mr. T. Tanfield, who pointed out that applicant had kept the present inn for five years, and that he paid a rental of £30 yearly. The application, which was opposed by Mr. Waldron on behalf of Mr. *Andrews*, of the CROWN INN, was granted.”

Birmingham Post 25/4/1889

“Last night a meeting of the Midland Counties Trade Council was held at the CROWN INN, Old Hill, under the presidency of Mr. John Taylor.....”

1891 Census

96, Waterfall Lane – CROWN INN

[1] *William Andrews* (54), widower, licensed victualler, born Ditton Priors, Shropshire;

[2] Mary E. Andrews (28), daughter, born Brierley Hill;

[3] Hannah Nock (30), general servant, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Charles Mason (23), general servant, born West Bromwich:

Birmingham Daily Post 28/5/1892

“Yesterday afternoon Mr. F. W. Topham (deputy coroner) opened an inquest at the CROWN INN, Old Hill, concerning the death of Ann Maria Gill (28), widow, formerly residing at Harborne, who was found drowned in a pool at Old Hill on Thursday, under circumstances already reported. Mr. A. G. Tanfield appeared on behalf of the prisoner Harry Pugh, but the latter was not present, he having been detained at the Winson Green Gaol yesterday morning.

John Taylor, the father of the deceased, a boiler maker, residing at Rowley, said the deceased was the widow of a miner named Thomas Gill, who was formerly employed at Hamstead Colliery, and lived at Handsworth. He last saw deceased alive about nine months ago, and she visited his house at Rowley. He understood that since her husband's death she had been keeping company with the prisoner, but he (witness) did not know Pugh. He also understood they were to be married six months ago. Deceased was cheerful, and not at all a young woman likely to destroy herself. He did not know that she had any trouble on her mind, and he had no reason to suppose there was anything to cause her to commit suicide.

The Coroner said that was all the evidence he proposed to take on that occasion, and it would be necessary to adjourn the enquiry for a post-mortem examination of the body to be made. The enquiry was adjourned until next Friday.”

[At the adjourned inquest a verdict of manslaughter was returned against Harry Pugh, who was committed for trial. At the Staffordshire Assizes it was stated that Pugh and Gill had mutually agreed to commit suicide together, and as party to this agreement Pugh was charged with wilful murder. He was found not guilty. Charges of attempting suicide, and also the indictment found by the coroner's jury of manslaughter, were not proceeded with.]

County Advertiser 15/10/1892

“William Small, Eve Hill, Dudley, was charged with stealing a dog, the property of William Green, on the 3rd inst. It appeared that prosecutor left his dog under the charge of Mr. *Andrews*, landlord of the CROWN INN, Cradley Heath, in the afternoon of the day named. When he went for it the next day he was told that two boatmen had taken it away. Defendant said that *Andrews* said he might have it, and he offered to buy it from complainant. Ultimately the Bench ordered defendant to pay the costs.”

County Advertiser 18/8/1894

“On Wednesday night, a tobacconist named Robert James Ford, late of High Street, Cradley, committed suicide in Pig Lane Pool, Old Hill, belonging to the New British Iron Company. It appears that the deceased left home at 11.30 Wednesday morning, ostensibly to go to Birmingham, to pay some accounts. He, however, appears to have changed his mind, and went to Cradley Heath and Old Hill to solicit orders and receive accounts, and seemed to be in the best of spirits. Shortly before seven o'clock he was seen to go in the direction of Pig Lane Pool, and was observed by a girl named Lillie Emery to get over the fence, place his hat on the embankment, and immediately afterwards throw himself into the water, and she saw him rise to the surface three times. She raised an alarm, and information was given to the police. In the meantime a man named Mathew Morris, hearing of the occurrence, went to the pool and jumped into the water, and succeeded in recovering the body. Restoratives were applied, and everything possible done to restore consciousness, but all to no effect. The body was removed to the CROWN INN, Old Hill. De-

ceased was in a very good financial position, and, in addition to being a tobacconist, he held a good appointment as a chainmaker. Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest yesterday (Friday) morning, at the CROWN INN, Old Hill, on the body of deceased. Mary Ford, wife of deceased, said that about three years ago deceased had an attack of brain fever, and since that time he had not been in good health.

Lillie Emery said that on Wednesday she was walking near the reservoir belonging to the New British Iron Company in Pig Lane, when she saw deceased standing on the wall near the pool. When witness got nearly opposite deceased he took off his hat, walked a little way into the water, and afterwards took a dive. Witness shouted to three men, who were about thirty yards away, to rescue the deceased, and one went to fetch a rake from some houses a short distance away. The other two men stood by and watched deceased drown without making any attempt at rescue.

A man named Morris deposed to getting the body of deceased out of the water, which was only about four feet deep. Restoratives were applied by Inspector Given, but life was found to be extinct.

Police-constable Paling deposed to searching the deceased and finding £29 6s in his possession.

The Coroner said it seemed to him a most extraordinary thing that the man should be allowed to drown when assistance was so near at hand. The three men had certainly been guilty of gross negligence in not trying to save the man when they saw him jump into the water. Deceased had committed suicide in a most determined manner.

A verdict to the effect that deceased committed Suicide whilst Temporarily Insane was returned by the jury."

Birmingham Daily Post 18/8/1894

"Yesterday Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the CROWN INN, Old Hill, respecting the death of Caroline Dinah Jane Whitehouse (33), wife of James Whitehouse, of Cromwell Street, Saltley, who was killed on the Great Western Railway, in Old Hill Tunnel, on Wednesday.

Caroline Fox, mother of the deceased, said that about a fortnight ago deceased and her children visited her house at Cradley with the intention of staying during the holidays. For some time past deceased had been depressed in her mind. Early on Wednesday morning witness heard deceased's children crying, and upon going into the room found that their mother was missing. On several occasions lately Mrs. Whitehouse had said she wished she were dead.

Samuel Stacey, a foreman in the employ of the railway company, said that on Wednesday he found the body of deceased lying in the four foot on the down road.

James Whitehouse, husband of the deceased, said about six months ago his wife's mind became affected. On one occasion she attempted to strangle one of her children, and since then deceased had improved, and he did not see any necessity for her to be watched.

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

County Express 5/6/1897

"On Wednesday an inquest was held at the CROWN INN by Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) on *William Andrews*, aged 60, for 31 years landlord of the CROWN INN, who died from injuries through falling from a horse.

William Thomas Andrews, station-master at Daisy Bank, son of deceased, said his father was fairly well in health up to a few weeks ago, when he complained of gout in the head, which greatly affected his eyes. On the previous Wednesday, the deceased went round by Cradley Heath to Halesowen on horseback, and it was reported that on the way home he fell on his head into the street. The horse came galloping home by itself, and two men found his father stretched on his back. Deceased was accustomed to horses, and had frequently ridden with the hounds.

Rowland Barnsley, clerk for the Belle Vue Tube Company, said on the previous Wednesday night, when near the Haden Hill colliery, he heard the footsteps of a horse, and soon afterwards noticed deceased on horseback. He was riding on the footpath. On getting opposite him, he fell headlong into the street, but he could not account for the accident in any way. He ran for assistance, and Joseph Rudge returned with him to the place, but they then found that the deceased was standing on his feet along with two other men. There was nothing to lead him to believe that the deceased was intoxicated. He did not say how the accident happened.

Joseph W. Sadler, nail and chain manufacturer, said he was in the CROWN on the Wednesday night in question, when the deceased's horse came galloping home without a rider. He immediately proceeded along the lane, and met Mr. *Andrews* walking side by side with the ostler, they being then about three hundred yards from home. He said, 'Hallo, *Andrews*, are you hurt?' to which question he replied, 'Not much.' He asked him to take his arm, but he did not do so, saying he could manage. On getting home, he appeared as right as if no accident had happened. He was perfectly sober and conscious. He afterwards called to see the deceased, and he rambled in his speech.

Inspector Given deposed that he made enquiries into the matter, and several witnesses who saw deceased said he was perfectly sober. Over a year ago deceased had a bad attack of influenza, which affected his health considerably. Deceased was attended by three doctors. He had seen two of them and they agreed that death was due to concussion, caused by falling from the horse.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

Deceased was one of the oldest publicans at Old Hill, and was widely known and respected."

County Express 26/6/1897 - Advert

"CROWN INN, Old Hill, Staffs. (One Minute's Walk from Old Hill Railway Station, Great Western Railway).

E. H. Boilstone has received instructions from the Representatives of the late Mr. *William Andrews*, to Sell by Auction, on the Premises, on Wednesday, June 30th, 1897, the whole of the Household Furniture & Effects, Live & Dead Farming Stock, comprising, Two New Milch Cows, Berkshire Brawn, Capital Sow (in Pig), Sow and 8 Pigs, Sow and 10 Pigs, Two Brown Mares, 7 years old 15½ hands high; Two Capital Cart Colts, 4 years old; Capital Brougham (shafts and pole complete), Dog Cart, with lamps and

cushions complete, equal to new; Dennet Gig, with lamps and cushions complete; Capital Single and Double Harness, silver-plated, equal to new; Cart Tackle, Strong Cart, with Thripples; Chaff Machines, Weighing Machines (by Avery), Large Quantity of Tools, Carpenter's Bench, Old Iron and Timber, as detailed in Catalogue, which may be had from the Auctioneer. Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock sharp. Auctioneer's Office: Od Hill, Staffs."

London Gazette 13/7/1897 - Notice

"Notice to Creditors. Re *William Andrews* Deceased.

Notice is hereby given that all persons having any claims against the estate of *William Andrews* late of the CROWN INN Waterfall-lane Old Hill in the county of Stafford Licensed Victualler who died on the 1st day of June 1897 and to whose estate letters of administration were granted out of the Lichfield District Registry of the Probate Division of Her Majesty's High Court of Justice on the 1st day of July 1897 are hereby required to send particulars in writing of such claims to me the undersigned Solicitor for the administrator on or before the 24th day of July 1897 after which date the said administrator will proceed to distribute the assets of the said deceased having regard only to the claims of which they shall then have had notice.

Dated this 9th day of July 1897.

Thomas Cooksey Old Hill Staffordshire."

County Advertiser 1/10/1898

"The adjourned licensing sessions for the Rowley petty sessional division were held on Wednesday.....

Mr. Cartland, of Birmingham, applied for a full license on behalf of Mr. Gadd, in respect of the HORSE SHOE INN The tenant of the house, Frank Gadd, was then called, and said The CROWN INN was separated from him by Waterfall Lane The CROWN INN, kept by Mr. *McWhirter*, was more than fifty yards away. There were six fully-licensed houses within 400 yards. He thought they had more callers from the station than the other six had....."

County Advertiser 28/4/1900 - Advert

"CROWN INN, Old Hill.

E. H. Boilstone is instructed by Mr. *W. M. McWhirter* (who is removing to COOKSEYS HOTEL, Old Hill) to Sell by Auction, on the above Premises, on Monday, April 30th, 1900, a quantity of Live and Dead Farming Stock, including Fat Pigs, White Yorkshire Sow and Pigs (pedigree bred), Tamworth Boar (pedigree bred), Cow and Calf, Turkeys, Geese, Fowls, Ducks, Roan Cob, 14.3, rising 7 years, quiet to ride and drive, fast; Black Cob, 15 hands, 5 years old, quiet to ride and drive; Two Pony Carts, in perfect order; Cart and Thripples, Brass-mounted and other Harness, Cart Tackle, Swede Pulper, Weighing Machine, Churn, Butter Tub, Trays, &c; quantity of Casks, Grindstone, Garden Tools, Wash Boilers; also a Lady's Rudge Whitworth Bicycle, Pneumatic Tyres, &c.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.

Other Entries may be made on application to the Auctioneer, not later than Saturday, April 28th.

Auctioneer's Office: Old Hill."

William Meldrum McWhirter – see also CROSS, COOKSEY'S HOTEL, WIZARD AND GLASS and CORNGREAVES HOTEL.

West Bromwich Weekly News 23/6/1900

"On Wednesday, at Rowley Regis, *George Perks*, landlord of the CROWN HOTEL, Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, and underground manager of the Fly Colliery, Old Hill, was charged with obtaining £1 16s 4d by false pretences from Mr. Robert Fellowes, the proprietor of the colliery, and also with attempting to obtain by similar pretences £1 4s 0d. It was alleged that prisoner made a false entry in the wage book.

Mr. S. Ward, who defended, said prisoner, who was not guilty, would reserve his defence, and he was committed for trial."

[At the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions *George Perks* was found guilty and sent to prison.]

1901 Census

96, Waterfall Lane

[1] *Walter Willetts* (29), licensed victualler's manager, born Blackheath;

[2] Clara J. Willetts (28), wife, born Blackheath;

[3] Reginald Willetts (5), son, born Blackheath;

[4] Herbert W. Willetts (3), son, born Blackheath;

[5] Mary Willetts (1), daughter, born Blackheath:

Smethwick Weekly News 25/5/1901

"On Sunday evening, between five and six o'clock, a boy named Joseph Priest (4), whose parents reside in Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, was drowned in the Birmingham Canal, near the Great Western Railway Station. It appears the boy was playing on the towing path, when he accidentally fell into the water. Help was at hand, and he was got out immediately, and artificial respiration resorted to by Police Constable Orme, but without effect.

Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest on the body, at the CROWN INN, on Tuesday, and the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

County Advertiser 1/8/1903

“An occasional license was granted to *Walter Willetts*, of the CROWN INN, Old Hill, on the occasion of the Old Hill Cricket Club’s annual fetes at Haden Park on the 4th of August.”

County Advertiser 30/1/1904

“Mr. Thompson, of Dudley, supported an application on behalf of the North Worcestershire Brewery Company, for permission to alter licensed premises of the CROWN HOTEL, Old Hill. Superintendent Johnson said the alterations were very desirable, but asked for an undertaking to be given that the premises would be put into a thorough state of repair. They were at present in a wretched state and almost uninhabitable. Mr. Thompson said that the alterations would be carried out as soon as the justices sanctioned them. The application was then approved.”

County Advertiser 24/8/1907

“Applications for the temporary transfer of licenses were made for the CHAINMAKERS ARMS, Cradley Heath, from *Sarah Chatwin* to Frederick Marris Mason; and the CROWN INN, Old Hill, from *Walter Willetts* to *Sarah Chatwin*.

Inspector Gibbs: Are you the licensee of the CHAINMAKERS ARMS? – Mrs. *Chatwin*: Yes.

How long is it since you left? – Twelve weeks.

Not more? – Not more.

It is more than twelve weeks, is it not? – No.

You have not had charge of the house although it has been in your name? You left the business entirely in the hands of Mason? – I have attended there when I could. My health failed.

Are you going to be the tenant of the CROWN INN? – Yes.

Are you going to reside there? – Yes.

And look after the business yourself? – Yes, with my father.

The applications were granted.”

Tipton Herald 10/7/1909

“At a well-attended meeting of colliers from the New Hawne and Timberwell collieries, held on Monday in the OLD CROWN INN, Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, a resolution was unanimously passed condemning the actions of those miners who has circulated the base and contemptible rumours that Mr. Winwood, the agent, was in league with the mine owners to the disadvantage of the colliers. They also passed a note of confidence in Mr. Winwood and thanked him for his untiring efforts he had put forward at all time on behalf of the colliers.”

Indenture 28/10/1909

“All that message or dwelling-house with the land in front thereof together with the brewhouse stabling coach-house piggeries gardens outbuildings and appurtenances thereto belonging which house and premises are used as a public-house and known as the CROWN INN and are situate at Waterfall Lane.....”

1911 Census

Station Road – CROWN INN

[1] *Walter Edward Broadbent* (33), publican, born Rowley;

[2] *Hannah Elizabeth Broadbent* (33), wife, married 11 years, born Ansley;

[3] *Edward L. F. Broadbent* (6), son, born Old Hill;

[4] *Edna May Broadbent* (2), daughter, born Old Hill;

[5] *Mary Weaver* (20), general servant, born Old Hill:

Dudley Chronicle 26/8/1911

“On Saturday the members of the Sick and Draw Club at the CROWN INN, Station Road Old Hill, partook of dinner in the club room. A jovial evening was afterwards spent, and at the close the host and hostess (Mr. and Mrs. *Broadbent*) were heartily thanked for the manner in which they had served the meal.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 20/5/1915

“Award Awaited! Fresh Trouble With Engine Winders (by our Special Correspondent).

Complications have arisen in connection with the miners’ strike in the Black Country. The men at a meeting last night decided to return to work today pending the award of Lord Coleridge on the war bonus. On the other hand, the colliery engine winders (or driver) at a meeting at Dudley yesterday refused the employers’ war bonus and decided to cease work.

The strike of miners came to a stop last night as suddenly and unexpected as it began on Monday morning.

At a mass meeting held behind the CROWN HOTEL, Old Hill, in the morning, Mr. William Johnson MP, Mr. Latham, from Salop (members of the Miners’ Federation), Mr. Sam Edwards (the local representative), and the Rev. J. H. Hirst (a local Nonconformist minister) appealed to some 2,000 strikers to return to work. But the men by an overwhelming vote decided to go on ‘playing.’

The union leaders, did not give up hope. They announced an evening meeting, and then went off to reconfer at the Priory Office, Dudley, with Mr Tyron, Lord Dudley’s agent, and representatives of several other prominent colliery owners.

Meanwhile the men spent an idle afternoon, and the temper of the general body of strikers at six o’clock, when Mr. Edwards and Mr. Latham and the Rev. Hirst again met them at Old Hill, did not appear favourable to a settlement.....

The meeting was by no means harmonious, but on this occasion the stirring appeals of the would-be strike settlers were not made in vain. The decision to resume work was by no means unanimous, and some doubt was afterwards expressed as to whether the

whole of the strikers would descend the pit shafts today.....

According to Mr. Edwards, last night's decision came only just in time to avoid an unpleasant sequel in the police courts. The colliery owners had decided to take proceedings against the majority, if not all, of the men leaving work without notice. Indeed a few summonses had been issued, but, Mr. Edwards said, it was quite likely that these would now be withdrawn."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/10/1915

"Rod and Line.

CROWN INN (Old Hill) closed their season with a contest at Holt Fleet....."

Walter Edward Broadbent – see also WATERFALL.

William Thompson = Walter William Thomson

Evening Despatch 25/3/1936

"When William Sidney Hyde, licensee of the STAR VAULTS, Bilston, applied at Old Hill today for a temporary transfer to him of the CROWN INN, Old Hill, Supt. Elliott secured from him the promise that he would give up the employment hitherto followed by him and devote his whole time to the supervision of the public house. The application was granted."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/6/1936

"A police objection to the full transfer of a public house license on the ground that the applicant was following other employment was upheld at Old Hill yesterday when Mr. O. L. Bergendorff asked for the full transfer of the license of the CROWN INN, Old Hill, from *George Booth* to Sydney Hyde.

When the temporary transfer was granted, he said, Mr. Hyde gave an undertaking that he would give up the employment he was then following in order to devote the whole of his time to the house. He gave that undertaking in perfectly good faith, but had only gone into the house that morning and had no knowledge of the conditions. He had, however, since found that it was quite impossible to give up his employment. If the full transfer were granted Hyde would undertake to get out of the house at the earliest possible moment.

Supt. Elliott objected. 'The undertaking was given to the magistrates when the temporary transfer was granted that Mr. Hyde would give up his employment and that undertaking has not been fulfilled,' he said.

When the application was refused Mr. Bergendorff asked for a Protection Order, and when the Clerk (Mr. T. T. Dineen) pointed out that the owner should be present for such an application, Mr. Bergendorff suggested that the licensee could do so in the absence of the owner.

The Chairman (Mr. A. H. Bassano): There is no reason why the magistrates should study the owner's convenience if he disregards the court by failing to appear.

The owner was thereupon called by telephone and when he arrived at court the application was renewed and the Protection Order granted."

1939 Register

Station Road – CROWN INN

[1] *Bert Cooper*, date of birth 23/10/1895, licensed victualler, married;

[2] *Ethel Cooper*, dob 27/11/1891, licensed victualler, married:

John Henry Billingham – see also ROYAL EXCHANGE.

Jeffrey Cooper Billingham – see also BEEHIVE, Tipton.

Birmingham Daily Post 24/12/1962

"A Cheque for £101, raised by the licensee and the customers, was presented at the CROWN INN, Old Hill, on Saturday, to Mr. G. Burton, an official of the Midlands Spastic Association."

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.....

CROWN INN, Station Road."

[2020]

CROWN AND ANCHOR

7, Providence Street, (Foxoak Street), (Union Street), CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1896)
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1909) [1928]

LICENSEES

William Morgan [1864] – [1868]
Felix R Hingley [1871] – **1873**);
Benjamin Woodhall (**1873** – []
John Tibbetts [] – **1877**);
Joseph Price (**1877** – **1878**);
David Bridge (**1878** – **1882**);
Thomas Harris (**1882** – **1885**);
Edwin Harris (**1885** – []
John Parker [1889]
John Henry Stafford [1891] – [1896]
John Perry [1900] – [1901]
John Gregory [1904] – **1905**);
James Hiram Robins* (**1905**)
James William Robins* (**1905**);
Daniel Homer (**1905** – **1911**);
Joseph Roberts (**1911** – [1912]
John Denning (**1913** – **1914**);
Edwin Crump (**1914** – []
Rose Elizabeth Crump [] – **1919**);
Edwin Crump (**1919** – **1922**);
Henry Insley (**1922** – **1928**);

NOTES

It had an ante '69 beerhouse license.

County Advertiser 27/8/1864

“Yesterday, the annual licensing of the Rowley division was held at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill.....
There were nine applications by beerhouse keepers for licenses, only one of which was granted.....
William Morgan, CROWN AND ANCHOR, Newtown (refused).”

Stourbridge Observer 7/1/1865

“Cradley Heath. On Wednesday evening last, at about half past nine o’clock, Mr. *William Morgan*, of the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, at the above place, attempted to destroy himself by the popular method of hanging. The unfortunate man was in a very depressed and troubled state. He fastened a chain to the brewhouse door, and hung himself upon it. After he had hung about two minutes, he was discovered, and immediately taken down. Consciousness was restored in about ten minutes. We hope the next time Mr. *Morgan* attempts to escape the troubles of life, he will adopt other means than self destruction.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/1/1865 - Advert

“CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Cradley Heath.
Clearing Out Of The Brewing Plant.

1-strike Mash Tub, 160-gallon wrought-iron and other Furnaces, pair of deal Ale Vats, 120-gallon and smaller seasoned Ale Casks, Stock of about 350 gallons of prime Fresh Ale, Tubs, excellent four-pull Ale Machine, Drinking Tables, rail-back Chairs, Sign, portion of the neat Household Furniture, eight-day Spring Clock, and other valuable Effects, at the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Cradley Heath aforesaid.

To Be Sold By Auction, by Mr. Chandler, on Monday Next, January 16, at Eleven o’clock, by direction of Mr. *W. Morgan*, who is declining business and leaving.

The House and Premises to be Let, with immediate possession.

The Plant and Stock may be taken to by the in-coming Tenant at a fair valuation, any time prior to the Sale, on application to the Auctioneer, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 14/1/1865 - Advert

“CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Cradley Heath.

To be Let, with early possession, the above House and Premises, which are situate near to large chain and other works. Coming-in can be reduced to about £80.

Apply to Mr. Chandler, Auctioneer, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 13/10/1866 - Advert

“CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Cradley Heath.

To Let, with immediate possession, the above well-frequented House of Business, commandingly situated in a populous neighbourhood, and near to large iron and chain works and a land-sale colliery, which is being re-opened. The premises are roomy and convenient, having been built expressly for this trade. Coming-in about £40.

Apply to Mr. Chandler, Publicans' Valuer, &c, Cradley Heath.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/9/1867 - Advert

“CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Cradley Heath, to be Disposed Of, near large Ironworks. In-coming about £40.

Apply to Mr. Chandler, Publicans' Valuer, &c, Cradley Heath.”

Stourbridge Observer 26/9/1868

“At the Public Office, on Wednesday last, before F. W. G. Barrs, Esq, *William Morgan*, landlord of the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Cradley Heath, was charged by Superintendent Mills with keeping his house open for the sale of beer on the night of the 21st ult, after lawful hours. Mr. Ponton defended.

Police-constable Johnson proved that he visited the defendant's house at 11.35. He found two men in the house, drinking.

Defendant, in answer to the charge, said that a man drove up with a horse and trap, and that he had nothing to drink.

Ordered to pay costs.”

1871 Census

Union Street – CROWN AND ANCHOR

[1] *Felix Hingley* (26), widower, publican, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Blanche Hingley* (5), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *Bertram Hingley* (4), son, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Mary Waples* (18), domestic servant, born Netherton:

County Advertiser 26/5/1877 - Advert

“For Sale, the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Providence Street, Cradley Heath, with four large Kitchens, Three Bed Rooms, large Club Room, Two good Cellars, Brewhouse, Stable, Pigstye, &c, comprising 595 yards.

Apply, Joseph Holt, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 9/3/1878

“Joseph Foxhall, miner, was charged with having assaulted *Lucretia Bissell*, a young woman of respectable appearance. It appeared from the evidence of the complainant that on the above-mentioned date while she was conversing with her uncle at the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Providence Street, Cradley Heath, the defendant entered the room and began to use improper language. She put up her hand and requested defendant to go away, and he then struck her a violent blow on the eye, and with a second blow knocked her down.

Joseph Price, who gave corroborative evidence, said that defendant was not provoked in any way.

For the defence the defendant called a witness who swore that complainant struck the first blow.

A fine of 5s and costs was imposed, with an alternative of twenty-eight days' imprisonment.”

County Express 5/10/1878

“A meeting of the members of the Conservative Association was held on Tuesday evening last, at Mr. *David Bridge*'s, New Town. There was a capital attendance, and several members were enrolled.....”

1881 Census

7, Providence Street – CROWN AND ANCHOR

[1] *David Bridge* (35), publican, born Dudley;

[2] *Mary Bridge* (33), wife, born Dudley;

[3] *James Bridge* (8), son, scholar, born Dudley;

[4] *Sarah E. Bridge* (7), daughter, scholar, born Dudley;

[5] *Mary H. Bridge* (4), daughter, born Dudley;

[6] *David Bridge* (1), son, born Rowley Regis;

[7] *Leonora E. Bridge* (1 month), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[8] *Sarah A. Witchly* (19), domestic servant, born Dudley:

Dudley and District News 13/5/1882

“At the Old Hill Police Court on Wednesday, before Messrs. W. Bassano and C. Holcroft, William Ball, alias George Keel, Poplar Place, Bridge Street, West Hockley, Birmingham, pearl and stud turner, and John Johnson, 12, Eaton Street, Hockley, pearl turner, were charged with uttering and putting off counterfeit coins representing half-crowns, and one florin, at Old Hill and Cradley Heath, on the 8th inst. On the prisoner Ball was found 8s 9d and five coins, and on Johnson 29s 7½d and two coins.

Joseph Manning, QUEENS HEAD, Corngreaves Road, said on Monday evening last the prisoners came to his house while he was sitting at tea. Ball called for two drinks, and was served by his wife, who called him to look at the half-crown they had tendered for the drink. He looked at the coin and broke it in two. It was bad, and he sent for a police officer, and detained Ball, but Johnson would not stay, and went out because he said he had nothing to do with Ball.

Aquilla Parkes, landlord of the BIRD IN HAND, Spinners End, said Ball came to his house on Monday afternoon about 4.30 and called for a glass of ale, tendering the base half-crown produced, he filled the glass of ale and gave him 2s 4½d back. It rang well on the counter. Ball drank the ale and went out. The next morning a police officer came and asked if he had taken any bad money, and his wife examined the money they took on Monday and picked the half-crown out, it being the only one they took that day. He identified Ball next day.

Susan Harris, wife of Thomas Harris, licensed victualler, CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Providence Street, New Town, said on Monday Ball came to her house and asked for a bottle of soda water, she had none and gave him a bottle of ginger beer, he tendered her half-a-crown, she gave him 2s 4½d in change and he went out. Next day she found that the coin was bad.

Louisa Nicklin said she was servant to Priscilla Foley, who kept the BRITISH OAK, High Street. On Monday afternoon both the prisoners came to the house and Ball called for a pint of ale. She filled it and Ball gave her half-a-crown which she took to her mistress who gave her change. She was quite sure that Johnson was with Ball. Priscilla Foley said when her servant brought the half-crown and she had given her the change she went into the shop and saw the prisoners standing by the counter. Two more men were with them. When she went into the bar Ball asked for the cup to be filled, and gave her a two shilling piece, she gave him 1s 9½d in change, they did not wait to empty their cup but said they must go so as not to be caught in the rain. Ball and Johnson then left the other men and went out. The two coins she received were bad, and she gave them to the police.

Emma Johnson (14), daughter of Samuel Johnson, the HEARTY GOOD FELLOW, King Street, Old Hill, said she saw the prisoners come into the house on Monday afternoon. Ball called for a quart of ale, she supplied it and Ball gave her half-a-crown in payment. She gave the change, Ball threw the drink down and both went out. Her father wanted some change and she took it to Chances for sixpences.

Hanna Webb, barmaid at Mr. John Foley's, the SWAN INN, Old Hill, said the prisoner came into the house and Ball asked for some ale and tendered her half-a-crown, she took the coin to Mrs. Foley and gave Ball the change. Hannah Foley said Hannah Webb brought her a half-crown which she put in her pocket with the other money. The same night she gave it to a police officer. PC Litherley said he was sent for to the QUEENS HEAD, Corngreaves Road, on Monday and received the half-crown produced, from Mr. Manning, who said in the presence of Ball, that he had received it from him. He took Ball into custody, and he at first gave the name of George Keel, Hart Yard, Hatton Garden, London, and said it was not half-a-crown but a two shilling piece which he gave. PCs Litherley and Lawrence proved receiving the base coins produced from the witnesses.

Inspector Walters said on Monday the prisoner Ball was brought to the station and gave the name of George Keel, Hart Yard, Hatton Garden, London. He declined to give any reference, and said witness might enquire about it. He took him to Birmingham to the detective department, where he saw detective Baker, who called Keel by his right name, and said, ‘How do William Ball.’ He then went to Ball's address in Bridge Street, West Hockley, and on going into the house he found the prisoner Johnson lying on a screen, he then gave the name of George William Hobson, No.13, Eaton Street, Abbey Fields, Hockley. He told him he would be charged with being in company with Ball the previous day at Old Hill, and passing counterfeit coins. He replied, ‘I know nothing at all about it.’ He searched him and found £1 9s 7½d all in small coins. He told him he would have to go with him to Old Hill, when he became very violent, and rushed to the table to get a knife, but he put the handcuffs on him and brought him to Old Hill. He was present in the office when Ball was identified, and he might add that he went to Eaton Street, Hockley, but no such person as the prisoner Johnson was known there.

Honor Chance, wife of John Chance, 2, King Street, underground manager for Messrs. Hingley, said she changed half-a-crown for Emma Johnson on Monday afternoon. Emma came and told her that it was a bad half-crown, and took it back.

Eliza Johnson, wife of George Johnson, publican, KINGS HEAD, Elbow Street, said four men came to her house on Monday, and Ball asked for half-an-ounce of tobacco and a pipe, and gave her half-a-crown which she changed. PC Rowlands came at night, and she found the coin was a bad one.

Mr. Henn, Cradley Heath, said PC Litherley showed him three half-crowns which he examined and found to be bad. They were made principally of lead. PC Rowlands also showed him four half-crowns, and one two shilling piece which were counterfeit. The half-crowns were all from the same mould, dated 1875, and plated.

Prisoners were remanded to Stafford to appear on Wednesday.”

[At the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions, William Ball (32) and John Johnson (27), both button makers, were each sentenced to twelve months, Ball pleading guilty.]

Dudley and District News 5/1/1884

“Thomas Harris, landlord of the CROWN AND ANCHOR, Providence Street, Cradley Heath, was summoned for permitting drunkenness. Mr. Waldron appeared to prosecute, and Mr. Wright to defend. Mr. Waldron intimated that the police seemed satisfied with the explanation given by Mr. Wright, and had agreed to withdraw the summons on payment of costs. The Bench allowed that course to be taken.”

Dudley Mercury 16/2/1889

“John Parker, landlord of the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Providence Street, Cradley Heath, was charged with permitting

drunkenness on his licensed premises, on the 6th inst. Police-constable Wallace said he visited the defendant's house at ten minutes to three on the afternoon of the date named, when he found two men named William Woodhouse and Joseph Wright in the house. On again going to defendant's house, about two hours later, he saw these two men in the kitchen, and both of them were in a drunken state. There were a quart jug and two glasses on the table before them. He afterwards saw Woodhouse, who asked him not to say anything about the affair. Police-constable Rowbottom spoke to seeing the two men on the defendant's premises, and also to seeing defendant lead Wright off the premises. Inspector Walters deposed that when he served the defendant with the summons he remarked, 'Well, there was only one boozed up, and that was Wright, but he had no drink that I filled. He was drunk when he came to my house.'

William Woodhouse and Joseph Wright, both of Cradley Heath, were charged with being drunk on licensed premises on the 6th inst, and the former, who had previously been convicted for drunkenness on licensed premises, was fined 5s and costs, and Wright 2s 6d and costs. The landlord was fined 20s and costs."

County Advertiser 5/4/1890 - Advert

"CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Providence Street, New Town, Cradley Heath.

To Publicans, Brokers, and Others.

Mr. W. Hackett has received instructions to Sell by Auction, on Wednesday Next, April 9th, 1890, the whole of the excellent Brewing Plant and other Effects, as above, comprising 170 gallon nearly-new Copper Boiler, Cast Iron Boiler, Mash Tub, Wort Vats, Collecting Square, Oval, and Round Tubs, Hogshead and Half-hogshead Casks, Wort, Sieves, Mash Rules, and numerous other Effects.

A Four-Wheel Carriage, in good condition.

Sale to commence at Two o'clock.

Auctioneer's Offices, 78, High Street, Blackheath, and 303, Oldbury Road, West Smethwick."

1891 Census

7, Providence Street

- [1] *John H. Stafford* (50), cooper and publican, born Dudley;
- [2] *Ambrose Stafford* (47), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *John J. Stafford* (24), son, journeyman cooper, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Prudence Stafford* (18), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Alfred Stafford* (11), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Martha Stafford* (9), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *George H. Stafford* (7), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] *Mary A. Stafford* (30), daughter in law, born Stourbridge;
- [9] *Alfred Stafford* (8 months), grandson, born Stourbridge:

County Express 29/8/1891

"*John Brooks*, Foxoak Street, Cradley Heath, chainmaker, was charged with unlawfully wounding *Ephraim Wood*, of the Halesowen Road, Old Hill. Inspector *Bishop* said that on the 23rd the prosecutor and the defendant and others were in the STAR [sic] AND ANCHOR INN, Providence Street, Cradley Heath, when an altercation took place about their wives. During the row the defendant took up a pint cup and struck complainant a violent blow on the face with it.

Dr. Keay, Cradley Heath, said when he examined the complainant shortly after the occurrence he found him to be suffering from an incised wound on the face, and a cut on the lip. He was under the influence of drink at the time.

The Bench considered it a most disgraceful assault, and sentenced defendant to one month's imprisonment with hard labour, and ordered him to pay the costs, £1 12s, or another fourteen days."

Birmingham Daily Post 15/12/1892

"At the Police Court, yesterday – before Messrs. *W. Bassano*, *J. Walker* and *A. H. Bassano* (magistrates) – *John Henry Stafford*, landlord of the CROWN AND ANCHOR, Providence Street, Cradley Heath, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 28th ult. *Mr. Thompson* defended.

Police-sergeant *Newman* and Police-constable *Bennett* gave evidence that they visited defendant's house, and saw a man named *Naaman Cole* drunk, and with a pint cup of ale before him. They spoke to the landlord, who seemed surprised, and he said he had not been there long, and added that he had ordered the man out several times, but he had refused to go.

For the defence, evidence was given that *Cole* was drunk when he entered the house, and being in that condition he was not served with any beer.

Mr. W. Bassano said the Bench had decided to dismiss the case, but at the same time they felt bound to say that the manner in which that class of cases were defended was nothing short of a public scandal. There had been undoubtedly perjury committed in the case. Cases of that kind, which he considered were of a moderate character, were bolstered up by wholesale perjury, and if it continued the Bench would feel it their duty to take severe steps in the matter.

Cole was fined 5s and costs for being drunk on the premises."

County Advertiser 3/10/1896

"Rowley Annual Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The following adjourned applications were granted *John Henry Stafford* Structural alterations were required by the police in these cases, and these had been complied with."

On 3rd July 1899 delegates of the Midland Counties Trades Federation Conference were entertained at dinner here.

County Advertiser 10/11/1900

“James Sidaway, Pear Tree Street, was charged with refusing to quit the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Cradley Heath, when requested by the landlord on the 30th ult.

John Perry, landlord, stated that defendant would persist in singing in his house against his wishes, because it was annoying to his customers. He refused to supply him with drink, and requested him to leave, and he refused to do so. When the police were sent for, defendant left the house.

Defendant said he did not know that singing in a public house was being guilty of disorderly conduct.

The Bench fined defendant 10s and costs.”

1901 Census

Providence Street

- [1] *John Perry* (36), publican, born Dudley;
- [2] Sarah A. Perry (33), wife, born Cradley Heath;
- [3] Reginald Perry (5), son, born Cradley Heath;
- [4] Claud Perry (3), son, born Cradley Heath;
- [5] Charles Perry (1), son, born Cradley Heath:

County Advertiser 20/4/1901 - Advert

“Sale of Household Furniture, Harness, and Other Effects, at the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Providence Street, Cradley Heath.....”

John Gregory, beer retailer, 7, Providence Street. [1904]

*possibly the same person

County Advertiser 27/7/1907

“The annual Friendly Societies’ service at Cradley Heath took place on Sunday last in St. Luke’s Church, Four Ways. Prior to the service, a grand procession was formed in a field in King Street (kindly lent by Mrs. Burley) and paraded the principal streets. The order of the procession was as follows: Patrons, Committee, Salvation Army Band, HEATH TAVERN Good Samaritan, CROWN AND ANCHOR Pride of Cradley Heath, HOPE AND ANCHOR Pride of the Garden, Quarry Bank Silver Band, Pride of the Heath, Foresters’ Home, Robin Hood’s Merry Rangers, Church Benefit Society, Rechabites, Cable and Anchor, Cradley Heath town prize band, Police, Fire Brigade.....

The proceeds will be distributed between the Dispensary, Guest, and Eye Hospitals, Dudley; Eye, Ear and Throat, and General Hospitals, Birmingham; and the Local Sick Room and Nursing Fund.”

County Express 21/1/1911

“At the Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday.....

In the course of an application for the transfer of the license of the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Providence Street, from *Daniel Homer* to *Joseph Roberts*, it was stated that the outgoing tenant was reluctant to attend the Court and consent to the transfer. Mr. T. Cooksey (justices’ clerk) explained that under the Act it was the applicant’s duty to see that *Homer* was present. Applicant said he could not say why *Homer* was not there. He had been requested to be present.

Mr. Cooksey: It is your duty to bring him. I believe that this man *Homer* is very stupid about coming here.

Applicant: Yes, sir.

The Bench granted a temporary transfer, and Mr. Cooksey told applicant that he would have to take out a summons and compel *Homer* to appear at the Court.”

Birmingham Mail 8/2/1911

“The annual general Licensing Sessions for the Old Hill Petty Sessional Division were held today.....

The whole of the licenses were renewed excepting the OLD LION INN, Old Hill, BEEHIVE INN, Hawes Lane, Rowley, and the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Cradley Heath, which were deferred until the adjourned licensing sessions in order that notices of objection can be served upon the owners on the ground of redundancy.”

1911 Census

Providence Street – CROWN AND ANCHOR

- [1] *Joseph Roberts* (28), licensed victualler, born Halesowen;
- [2] Ann Louisa Roberts (26), wife, married 3 years, born Cradley Heath;
- [3] Carl Eric Joseph Roberts (1), son, born Cradley Heath;
- [4] Edwin Wherley (46), visitor, theatrical manager, born Stockton on Tees; British by parentage;
- [5] Una Wherley (36), visitor, actress, born South Shields; British by parentage;
- [6] Lucia Wherley (4), visitor, born Kingston on Thames:

Joseph Roberts, beer retailer, 7, Providence Street. [1912]

Joseph Roberts – check PLOUGH AND HARROW.

John Denning – see also ANCHOR.

Henry Insley, beer retailer, 7, Providence Street. [1924]

Dudley Chronicle 13/2/1924

“The Adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Old Hill Petty Session Division was held at the Police Court on March 5..... The licenses of the CROWN AND ANCHOR, Cradley Heath which had been adjourned from the annual sessions, would be renewed.”

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..... CROWN AND ANCHOR, Cradley Heath, on the ground of redundancy.”

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 7th March 1928.

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/7/1928

“The principal meeting of the Licensing Compensation Authority for the county was held at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Monday, when 14 licences which had been scheduled by the licensing justices, mostly from the South Staffordshire area, came under consideration. Of these three were renewed and the remainder were referred for compensation..... The licence of the CROWN AND ANCHOR, Cradley Heath, an ante '69 beerhouse, was referred for compensation.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/8/1928 - Notice

“The Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910. County Of Stafford.
Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 16th day of July, 1928, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below, all persons claiming to be interested in the said premises for the purpose of the payment of Compensation under the said Act (other than the Licensee, and the Registered Owner of the said Premises) are required to send to the Compensation Authority notice of their Claims before the 14th day of September, 1928, for the purpose of enabling the Compensation Authority to ascertain in manner provided by the Licensing Rules, 1910, the persons entitled to Compensation under the said Act in respect of the said Premises.....
CROWN AND ANCHOR, Providence Street, Cradley Heath. Beerhouse ante 1869. Licensee, *Henry Insley*. Registered Owners, The Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.”

Compensation was paid on 22nd December 1928.

The house closed on 29th December 1928.

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/1/1929

“County Quarter Sessions. Licensing Compensation Awards.
At the Supplemental meeting the committee awarded a total sum of £15,230 in compensation, and considered that the amounts agreed upon were satisfactory both from the point of view of the parties interested and the Compensation Fund. The amounts approved were as follows.....
CROWN AND ANCHOR, Cradley Heath, beerhouse, ante 1869, £1,825.
The amounts awarded had been apportioned between the interested parties and paid.”

CYDER AND COBB

167, Halesowen Street, BLACKHEATH

OWNERS

LICENSEES

NOTES

A micropub which opened in May 2021.
The building was a former shoe shop.

Dudley & South Staffordshire CAMRA Cider Pub of the Year 2023.

[2023]

DUKE WILLIAM

27, Highgate Street, (27, (100), High Street), (100, Garratts Lane), OLD HILL

OWNERS

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.
Albert Eland Sidaway [1921]
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. (acquired on 14th August 1947)

LICENSEES

James Green [1841] – [1843]
Joseph Foley [1844] – [1854]
Samuel Williams [1860]
Miles Bladen [1861]
Joseph Foley [1861]
John Foley [1862] – [1887]
Albert Chapman [1890] – [1892]
Edward Foley [1893] – [1908]
Mrs. Annie Foley (1908 – [1916]
Albert Eland Sidaway [] – 1919);
Albert John Sidaway (1919 – 1947);
Lawrence Reginald Hackett (1947 – 1949);
Joseph Thomas Hardwick (1949 – 1964);
John Henry Taylor (1964 – [1965]
F Les Meese [1976]

NOTES

Garratts Lane [1849], [1854], [1860], [1861], [1877]
100, Garratts Lane [1896]
100, High Street [1904], [1908]
27, High Street [1912], [1916], [1924], [1932], [1940]
27, Highgate Street

It was a home brew house.
It had a brewery at the rear.

It had a bowling club.

Flower and vegetable shows were held here.

1841 Census

Garratts Lane
[1] *James Green* (44), publican, born Staffordshire;
[2] *Sophia Green* (44), born Staffordshire;
[3] *John Green* (24), nailer, born Staffordshire;
[4] *Sophia Green* (14), born Staffordshire;
[5] *Thomas Green* (12), born Staffordshire;
[6] *Rebecka Green* (10), born Staffordshire:

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 24/4/1843 - Advert

“Freehold Premises at Reddall Hill.

To be Sold by Auction by Jesse Wright, Tomorrow (Tuesday), April 25, at six o'clock in the evening, at the house of Mr. *James Green*, the DUKE WILLIAM, Garratts Lane, in the parish of Rowley Regis, under such conditions as will then be produced, and either together or in the following lots, as may be then determined, two newly-erected Freehold Dwelling Houses, Shopping, and about seven hundred yards of Garden Land.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/6/1844

“*Joseph Foley*, a licensed victualler, at Old Hill, was convicted in the penalty of 40s and costs, for allowing card-playing in his house.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/10/1844 - Notice

“Insolvent Debtor, to be heard at the Court House, at Shrewsbury, in the county of Salop, on the 29th day of November, 1844, at ten o'clock in the morning.

James Green, late of Oldbury, near Hales Owen, Shropshire, out of business, living with my Son-in-law, James Appleby; previously of the DUKE WILLIAM, Old Hill, Rowley Regis, Staffordshire, near Dudley, Worcestershire, Licensed Victualler and Innholder, Nail-maker and Dealer, and Hay-dealer, Grocer and Shopkeeper, at the same time trading under the firm of James Green and Son, as Nail-makers and Dealers only; and formerly of the DUKE WILLIAM, Old Hill, Rowley Regis aforesaid, Licensed Victualler, Innholder, Nail-maker and Dealer, and Hay-dealer, Grocer and Shopkeeper.
C. B. Wilson, 13, Furnival's Inn, for Henry Jones, Shrewsbury.”

Eddowes's Journal 4/12/1844

“A Court for the Relief of Insolvent Debtors was held on Friday last at the Shirehall.....

James Green, of Oldbury, publican, was unopposed, declared entitled to the benefit of the act, and ordered to be discharged forthwith.”

Joseph Foley was also a saddler. [1849], [1850], [1854]

1851 Census

Garratts Lane

- [1] *Joseph Foley* (44), victualler, born Dudley;
- [2] *Mary Foley* (45), wife, born Rowley;
- [3] *Edward Foley* (18), wife's son, sadler, born Dudley;
- [4] *Joseph Foley* (16), son, wheelwright, born Rowley;
- [5] *John Foley* (11), son, scholar, born Rowley;
- [6] *William Foley* (2), son, born Rowley:

1861 Census

Garratts Lane

- [1] *Joseph Foley* (26), publican, born Rowley;
- [2] *Elizabeth Foley* (30), wife, born Rowley;
- [3] *Mary Foley* (1), daughter, born Rowley;
- [4] *Ann Unett* (17), house servant, born Rowley:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/5/1861

“On Friday last an inquest was held at the DUKE WILLIAM INN, before Edwin Hooper Esq, on the bodies of *Mary Selina Danks*, aged nine years, and her infant brother *William Danks*, three months old. It appeared the elder child was blind, and strolling into the yard went to sit down on the covering of a draw well. Unfortunately, the wood lid had been removed, and the poor girl, who had her little brother in her arms, fell headlong with the child into the water, which was nine feet deep. Assistance was quickly rendered, and the children were alive when rescued, but died soon after. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

John Foley, retailer of beer, Old Hill. [1862]

1871 Census

Garratts Lane – DUKE WILLIAM

- [1] *John Foley* (34), publican, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Sarah Foley* (34), wife, born Clee Hill, Shropshire;
- [3] *Joseph Foley* (10), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Mary Ann Foley* (7), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *William Foley* (5), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *John Foley* (3), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *Sarah Foley* (9 months), daughter, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 15/7/1871

“On Monday last, at the house of Mr. *John Foley*, the DUKE WILLIAM INN, the members of Court Robin Hood’s Tent, No.4255, held their anniversary. The chair was ably filled by Mr. Gilbert Attwood, PCR, and the vice-chair by Mr. W. Taylor, SCR. The auditors read over the report of the year, showing that the court was in a very prosperous condition. The proceedings throughout were most satisfactory.”

Stourbridge Observer 19/10/1872

“At the Police Court, on Wednesday, before Messrs. Barrs, Clarke, and Hingley, Henry Pugh jnr. was summoned by *John Foley* with refusing to quit his house, when requested, on the 12th inst, at Garratts Lane. Complainant said he was landlord of the DUKE WILLIAM, Garratts Lane. On the above date defendant was drunk in his house, and set about a man that was in the house. Witness ordered him out and he refused to go, and he ultimately put him out. Defendant was ordered to pay the costs.”

Stourbridge Observer 5/7/1873

“Joseph Williams was charged by *John Foley* with being drunk and refusing to quit when requested, on the 31st ult. Mr. Addison appeared for complainant. Complainant said he kept the DUKE WILLIAM INN, Old Hill. Defendant came into the house on the above date. He was drunk, and witness ordered him out and he refused to go. He ultimately got defendant out and he came back with several others, and broke the door in.

Defendant said he went to see complainant respecting a house. He called a witness who said defendant was in the house. He was rather muddled, and when complainant ordered him out he refused to go. Defendant was fined 5s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/12/1873 - Advert

“Wanted, for Liquor Vaults, a first-class Self-acting Organ, playing sacred and secular music. Apply, with full particulars and lowest price, to *John Foley*, DUKE WILLIAM INN, Old Hill, near Dudley.”

County Advertiser 20/12/1873 - Advert

“Important to Brick Manufacturers and Others.

For Sale, by Private Contract, all that very excellent Brickyard and Premises, situate at Old Hill, near Dudley, belonging to and now worked by Mr. *Joseph Foley*. There is a capital Steam Engine, Mill and Stoves, Kilns, &c, together with a first-class Mine of Clay. Being disposed of solely on account of illness of proprietor.

To treat, apply, Mr. *John Foley*, DUKE WILLIAM INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, Dudley.”

Joseph Foley died on 29th December 1873.

County Advertiser 28/2/1874 - Notice

“In Re *Joseph Foley* The Elder (Deceased).

Pursuant to Act of Parliament, 22 and 23 Vict, cap.35, intituled, Law of Property and Trustees Amendment Act, Notice is Hereby Given, that all Creditors and other Persons having any Debt or Claim upon the Estate of *Joseph Foley* the elder, late of Garratts Lane, Old Hill, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, Wheelwright, (who died on the 29th day of December, 1873, and whose will was proved on the 13th day of February, 1874, by *John Foley*, *Joseph Foley*, William Foley, and Edward Harley, the executors therein named), are hereby required to send the particulars, in writing, of such Debts or Claims, to *Joseph Foley*, of Old Hill aforesaid, Saddler, one of the said Executors, on or before the 21st day of March Next, at the expiration of such time the said Executors will proceed to distribute the assets of the said Testator among the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which the said *Joseph Foley* shall have had notice; and the said Executors will not be answerable or liable for the assets or any part thereof so distributed to any person of whose claim the said *Joseph Foley* shall not then have had notice. And I hereby further give notice, that all Debts due to the Estate of the said Testator must be paid forthwith to the said *Joseph Foley*.

Dated this 20th day of February, 1874.

William Waldron, Brierley Hill, Solicitor to the said Executors.”

County Advertiser 7/3/1874

“William Westwood, chainmaker, was charged with stealing a quantity of ale and cigars, the property of *John Foley*, the DUKE WILLIAM INN, Garratts Lane. It appeared from the evidence that the defendant, with some others, was in the prosecutor’s house on the 2nd inst, and that the prisoner took three pints of ale out of the machine and drank it. He also took some cigars in the absence of the landlord. Prisoner pleaded guilty to the charge of stealing the ale. He was sentenced to two months’ hard labour.”

Stourbridge Observer 13/6/1874

“A large meeting of miners was held on Wednesday evening, at Mr. *Foley*’s, the DUKE WILLIAM INN, Old Hill. Mr. Tomlinson in the chair. It was publicly announced that the meeting was to have been held in the open air, but in consequence of a telegram received from Mr. Gething of Darlaston, and from Mr. Juggins, it was decided to hold the meeting at the above inn. Representatives of the press were excluded from the meeting, but it was resolved by the men ‘That we stand out until the masters give us the old rate of wages, or submit the matter to arbitration’. The meeting was addressed by Messrs. J. Watts and E. Haden.”

County Advertiser 25/9/1875

“A conference of miners was held on Monday morning last, at the house of Mr. *John Foley*, the DUKE WILLIAM INN, Old Hill. A number of lodges in the district were represented by delegates. The conference was called for the purpose of discussing the

wages question and other matters of importance.....”

County Advertiser 15/7/1876

“On Monday last the members of court Robin Hood’s Tent, No.4255, Ancient Order of Foresters, assembled at their club house, DUKE WILLIAM INN, to celebrate their anniversary. After the transaction of the business they attended divine service in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, where a very appropriate sermon was preached. At the conclusion of the service, the members, headed by the Cradley Heath Band, formed a procession, and returned to the DUKE WILLIAM to dinner. One hundred and fifty were present.....”

County Advertiser 24/2/1877

“On Monday night, a dinner was provided at the DUKE WILLIAM INN, Old Hill, in connection with the Miners’ Association held there. A statement of accounts was read afterwards, showing the number of members to be twenty-four, and the balance in hand £20.”

County Advertiser 13/10/1877

“On Thursday night, a large meeting of miners was held at the DUKE WILLIAM INN, Old Hill, to consider the advisability of having a sliding scale in the future, as has formerly been the case.....

A resolution was passed unanimously, ‘That it is the opinion of this meeting that our agent do not sign any agreement until we know what the scale is.’ The meeting concluded in the usual way.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 3/11/1877

“A meeting was held on Thursday evening at the DUKE WILLIAM INN, Old Hill, at which was explained to the men the action taken at the Birmingham Conference of the agents and delegates, when the agents from West Bromwich and Darlaston agreed to the masters’ terms.

A resolution was proposed and carried unanimously endorsing and supporting the action of the agents for Brierley Hill, Dudley, and Old Hill in declining to accept any scale on the terms proposed. A second resolution was also come to, pledging all present to give notice on Saturday next for an advance of 1s per day.”

County Advertiser 20/7/1878

“On Monday last the members of the Knights of the Wood Lodge, Friendly Society, assembled at the lodge house, the DUKE WILLIAM INN, to hold their anniversary. An excellent dinner was provided by the host, Mr. *John Foley*, and over 100 members sat down. Mr. Edward Marsh was called to the chair, and Mr. Thomas Tromans to the vice-chair. The secretary’s report showed the society to be in a flourishing condition. Votes of thanks were passed to the surgeon, Mr. Standish, and the secretary, Mr. Joseph Smith; also the host and hostess, for the efficient manner in which they had discharged their duties during the past year. After the business was concluded, the members enjoyed themselves in singing and other ways, and a pleasant evening was spent.”

County Advertiser 26/10/1878

“On Wednesday evening the local miners held a meeting at the DUKE WILLIAM INN, Old Hill.....

At the close of the meeting the following resolution was unanimously adopted: That, in the opinion of this meeting, it is not desirable to accept the masters’ conditions, proposing to increase the number of working hours, and we pledge ourselves to unite in resisting any attempt to increase the working time of miners, at any cost.”

Dudley Herald 25/1/1879

“On Tuesday a crowded meeting of the miners of the district was held at the DUKE WILLIAM INN, Old Hill, to discuss what action should be taken relative to the New British Iron Company. This company employ about 500 colliers at their different pits, and all these, with the exception of those at the Wagon Colliery, were dismissed on a fortnight’s notice about three weeks before Christmas. The coal raised at the Wagon Colliery was chiefly used for fire coal instead of smelting purposes, and this is said to be the reason the men there were employed a fortnight longer than the others. They also were discharged the Friday before Christmas. The general impression was that bad trade was the cause of this action on the part of the company, but the men now allege that it arose from a desire to increase the working hours.....”

Dudley Herald 8/2/1879

“The difficulty between the New British Iron Company and their miners with regard to the proposed increase of working hours is still unsettled The strike – for it is now regarded as such – is telling with disastrous effect upon a large proportion of the population of the district. As a consequence of the dispute the whole of the Corngreaves Ironworks are at a standstill, and hundreds of the workmen engaged at these extensive works are thrown out of employment. A great strain has thus been put upon the local relief committees, as the distress and poverty of the poorer classes has been increased to an alarming extent.”

County Advertiser 12/4/1879

“George Hickman, miner, Old Hill, was charged with being drunk and disorderly, and also with assaulting Police-constable Farnell, while executing his duty. According to the evidence of Police-constables Farnell and Wickstead, they were called to the DUKE WILLIAM INN, Old Hill, on Saturday night, and found there a fight going on inside the house. Defendant was drunk, and behaving himself in a disgraceful manner, and he became most violent when the officers interfered. He struck and otherwise assaulted Farnell. There was a most disgraceful ‘row’ amongst the crowd, Farnell being assaulted also by Samuel Smart, miner,

who was summoned for that offence.

Hickman was fined 10s and costs for the assault, and 5s and costs for being drunk; in default twenty-eight days' imprisonment. Smart was fined 20s and costs for the assault, with a similar alternative, as he had been convicted before."

County Advertiser 19/4/1879

"On Easter Monday, the Miners' Independent Order, Knights of the Wood Lodge, held their 35th anniversary at the house of Mr. *John Foley*, DUKE WILLIAM INN, Old Hill. After dinner Mr. W. Smith, PG, occupied the chair and Mr. R. Buttery, VG, the vice-chair. The evening was enlivened with songs and instrumental music."

County Advertiser 9/8/1879

"Moses Martin, no occupation, and James Yardley, chainmaker, both of Cradley Heath, were brought up charged with unlawfully assaulting Matthew Evans, and stealing from him a gold watch, silver chain, and 6s in money. Mr. W. S. Hayes appeared to prosecute.

Prosecutor, who is an engineer, of Old Hill, gave evidence that on the night of the 14th June he was at the DUKE WILLIAM INN, Old Hill, and left scarcely sober. In Powke Lane he met three men and a woman. The woman and one of the men walked on, and one of the others then knocked him down, and while one held his mouth the other searched his pockets and took his watch and chain along with some silver. After taking the articles the men went away. He overheard one say, 'Let's go back and kill the b—'; but the other saying, 'No, don't let's kill him,' they ran away. Subsequently he went to Walsall to try and recover his watch from Yardley, having received certain information which led him to think that he was one of the men. Yardley admitted that he was one of the two who robbed him. He was in custody, and witness afterwards saw him along with Martin, who also was in the hands of the police. In Yardley's presence Martin said he (Yardley) broke the chain and stole the watch. Yardley then asserted that Martin wanted to stab prosecutor, and he prevented it. Yardley offered to let him (prosecutor) have the watch back for 50s; but contradicting himself afterwards he said he had sold it to 'Yeddy.' The watch was worth £16.

Harry Dodds, a forgerman, Cradley Heath, said that on the day in question he was at the SHOULDER OF MUTTON, Blackheath, in company with Elizabeth Prosser, who lived close to the prisoner Martin. Martin and Yardley were also with them. They left about eleven o'clock, and went down Powke Lane, where witness saw Evans lying in the road. The two prisoners lifted prosecutor up as he and Prosser walked on, and shortly afterwards they (prisoners) ran by him without speaking.

Elizabeth Prosser gave evidence similar to that of the foregoing witness, and said that the prisoner Martin admitted to her that he took prosecutor's money. She had never been in his company before the night in question. It was a dark night, and when the two prisoners stopped behind with prosecutor she could not see what was going on.

Police-constable Salt spoke to arresting Martin on the 1st ult, and to receiving Yardley from the custody of the Walsall police. When charged with the robbery Martin made a statement to the effect that as he and Yardley were walking home they found prosecutor lying drunk by the roadside, and picked him up. Yardley broke the watch chain while he (Martin) stole the watch and money. With 3s 6d of the money he fetched a pair of boots out of pawn, part he gave to Yardley, and 6d to Harry Dodds that he (Dodds) should not 'round' on them. Yardley told witness he saved prosecutor's life, for Martin asked him for a knife that he might stab him, when he asked him to take back the watch to prosecutor. He (Yardley) had none of the money. At this point Martin turned to Yardley and said, 'Why don't you tell the truth? You know you broke the chain, and I took his watch and money while you held his arm.'

At the conclusion of the case against them, the prisoners were asked in the usual way if they had any statement to make. Yardley said that he and Martin saw Evans in the road, and he said to Martin, 'Let's help him up.' Martin then went to Evans and they wrestled together for some time, at last falling against a wall. Martin said, 'I've got hold of his chain,' and added, 'He don't wear a chain without a watch.' Afterwards Martin joined him (Yardley) down the lane, and showed him the watch. He said to Martin, 'Why don't you take it back? I'll have nothing to do with it.' Martin said, 'I'll sooner stab him than I'll take it back.'

Martin had no statement to make, and this completing the case, both prisoners were committed to the Assizes for trial. Bail was refused."

[At Stafford, Martin pleaded guilty; and the jury convicted Yardley. Martin, who had been previously convicted, was sentenced to twelve months' hard labour, with three years' police supervision; and Yardley to three months' hard labour.]

County Advertiser 19/6/1880

"John Levett, butcher, Old Hill, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of *John Foley*, DUKE WILLIAM INN, Old Hill. Police-inspector Walters and Police-constable Rowlands gave evidence in the case. Defendant said he had been agitated, but was not drunk. As there was no previous conviction the case was withdrawn on defendant's paying costs."

AND

Dudley Herald 19/6/1880

"John Levett, butcher, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of *John Foley*, Old Hill. PC Rowlands said on the 11th inst he visited the DUKE WILLIAM INN, High Street, Old Hill. The defendant was there drunk, and was cursing and swearing.

Defendant denied the charge.

Inspector Walters said on the night in question he was met by the witness Rowlands, and both went to the DUKE WILLIAM INN, where he saw the defendant come out drunk. He watched him, and saw he was that drunk that he could not put up the shutters of his own shop.

Defendant was ordered to pay costs."

1881 Census

100, Garratts Lane

- [1] *John Foley* (41), publican, born Old Hill;
- [2] Sarah Foley (44), wife, born Old Hill;
- [3] Joseph Foley (20), son, born Old Hill;
- [4] Mary A. Foley (17), daughter, born Old Hill;
- [5] William Foley (15), son, painter's apprentice, born Old Hill;
- [6] John Foley (12), son, scholar, born Old Hill;
- [7] Sarah Foley (10), daughter, scholar, born Old Hill;
- [8] *Edward Foley* (8), son, scholar, born Old Hill;
- [9] Richard Priest (44), boarder, colliery labourer, born Old Hill;
- [10] Sarah J. Priest (15), daughter, domestic servant, born Old Hill:

Dudley and District News 30/7/1881

"Benjamin Parkes was charged with being drunk and threatening the police, on Friday week.

PC Rowe said he saw him drunk and using bad language in Garretts Lane. He afterwards went into the DUKE WILLIAM INN, but was ejected. The constable followed, and prisoner, who had then met some companions, tried to set them on him, and used very violent language.

Prisoner said he had a drop too much; but as it was his first offence, he hoped he would be leniently dealt with.

Fined 2s 6d and costs, or seven days' imprisonment."

County Advertiser 20/8/1881

"Thomas Bryan, miner, Old Hill, was summoned for being drunk and refusing to quit the DUKE WILLIAM INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, on the 8th inst. On the date in question the defendant went to the house, and upon being asked to go behaved, according to the description of the landlord, 'like a madman,' and had to be ejected.

A fine of 10s and costs was inflicted; in default of payment 21 days."

County Advertiser 25/2/1882

"Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the DUKE WILLIAM INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, on Thursday afternoon, touching the death of James Clarke (46), lately residing at 4, Garratts Lane, who met with his death on Monday last whilst engaged at the Fly Pits, Old Hill, belonging to the New British Iron Company. Mr. B. Scott, assistant Government Mines Inspector, was present. The evidence showed that deceased was employed as a cager and horse fettle at the pits in question, and about ten o'clock on Monday morning last was crossing the bottom of the pit, when he was struck by the descending cage. John Walker, a loader, who was near at hand, heard Clarke shout, and on going to the place found the man under the cage. Walker gave a signal, and the cage was pulled up, and the injured man was taken to a stable. He was then alive, but did not speak. Shortly afterwards the man was sent up the shaft, but died before he reached the top.

In answer to Mr. Scott, the witness Walker said there was a road at the side by which deceased could have crossed the bottom.

Mr. Scott, in reply to the Coroner, said he was satisfied there was no negligence except upon the part of the man himself.

The Coroner: If he wanted to cross the bottom for any purpose there was a safe road?

Mr. Scott: A perfectly safe road.

It was stated that the relatives of the deceased would receive £25, of which £20 would come from the Prudential Society, and £5 from a club.

The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

County Express 19/1/1884

"Noah Allport, miner, Old Hill, an old offender, was charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of *John Foley*, DUKE WILLIAM INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, on the 2nd inst. The landlord of the house proved the charge, after which Mr. Bassano said the defendant's record filled one page, but they would treat him as if he were only a beginner, and fine him 2s 6d and costs to start the next page with."

County Advertiser 28/3/1885

"Thomas Bryant, Cockshed Lane, was charged with being drunk and disorderly, and also with being drunk and disorderly and refusing to quit the licensed premises of *John Foley*, DUKE WILLIAM INN, High Street, Old Hill, on the 21st inst.

Police-constable Bradbury proved the case of drunkenness.

Mr. *Foley* said the defendant came into his house drunk and created a disturbance. When asked to leave he refused, and he had to be put out.

For being drunk and disorderly defendant was fined 5s and costs, and for refusing to quit he was fined 2s 6d and costs."

Birmingham Daily Post 25/10/1886 - Advert

"To Manufacturers, Wire-nail Makers, Investors, and Others. Important Freehold Works at Old Hill.

Mr. Herbert Humphries begs to announce instructions from the Mortgagees to Sell by Auction, at the DUKE WILLIAM INN, High Street, Old Hill, Tomorrow (Tuesday), October 26, at 6 o'clock in the evening prompt (subject to conditions).

Lot 1. All those Extensive and Substantially-built Works known as Crews, Wrights Lane, Old Hill; with Manager's Dwelling House, and the whole of the Valuable Wire-nail and Shoe-tip Plant, comprising horizontal Engine, Boiler, Shoe-tip Brighten-

ing Machine, ditto Bending, ditto Stamping, ditto Punching Presses, Shaking Barrels, Drilling Machine, Screw-cutting Lathe, Wire-winding Machines, twenty-four newly-patented Wire-nail and Shoe-tip Making Machines, Turned Shafting, with twenty-six pulleys, couplers, and carriages; 16ft ditto, the whole of the Driving Belts, and Fixed Plant. The Factory is two storeys high, measures 75ft by 30ft, and the Wrought-nail Shop 48 yards by 16ft, containing ten Hearths; forming the most complete and desirable investment in the district. There is ample room for the introduction of the galvanising or kindred trades. Total area, 830 square yards or thereabouts.

Further particulars may be obtained from J. Walter Clulow, Esq, Solicitor; or of the Auctioneer, Brierley Hill.”
[Biddings commenced at £500 and ultimately the lot was withdrawn, the highest offer being £675.]

County Advertiser 12/11/1887 - Advert

“Inland Revenue Office, Dudley, 29th October, 1887.

Sir, With reference to your letter of the 27th instant informing me that a rumour is in circulation to the effect that I recently seized on your premises a bucket containing a filthy substance which you intended to add to your beer, and asking me to contradict the rumour, I now beg to say that the report is untrue.

You may, if you think fit, publish the contents of this letter.

Yours obediently, John B. Davies, Supervisor, Dudley.

Mr. *John Foley*, Publican, Old Hill.”

Dudley Mercury 24/12/1887

“*John Foley*, landlord of the DUKE WILLIAM INN, Garratts Lane, was charged with adding sugar to beer to increase the gravity thereof after an account had been taken by the Inland Revenue officers. Mr. Davies prosecuted, and Mr. Jackson (West Bromwich) defended.

Mr. Davies remarked that an absurd rumour had been circulated in the district to the effect that the Inland Revenue officers had found a filthy substance on defendant’s premises. This was wholly untrue. Everything found on the premises might legally have been used if entered in the brewing book.

It appeared that in September an Inland Revenue officer visited defendant’s brewery and took samples of two hogsheads of beer. The analysis of the samples showed that 5lbs of sugar had been used in each hogshead in addition to the quantity entered.

Mr. Jackson admitted the offence, but pleaded in extenuation that it was committed without the defendant’s knowledge. The sugar was added by a working brewer, who had since been discharged and had gone to Australia. Defendant had kept the house twenty-six years and had never before had any charge against him.

Defendant was fined £10.”

County Advertiser 7/9/1889 - Deaths

“On the 3rd inst, very suddenly, Sarah, the beloved wife of *John Foley*, of the DUKE WILLIAM INN, Old Hill; aged 53 years. Deeply lamented.”

AND

County Express 7/9/1889

“On Tuesday morning Sarah *Foley* (52), the wife of Mr. *John Foley*, the landlord of the DUKE WILLIAM INN, High Street, Old Hill, was found dead in bed. The deceased had supper and went to bed on Monday night in apparent good health. At seven o’clock on Tuesday morning Mr. *Foley* found his wife dead, and in the opinion of Dr. Standish death was due to heart disease.”

County Express 22/3/1890

“Henry Price, Oliver Street, Cradley Heath, was charged with assaulting *Edward Foley*, the DUKE WILLIAM INN, on the 8th inst. Complainant said the defendant’s brother came into the house and made a disturbance. As he was turning him out the defendant struck him several times. Defendant was further charged with fighting on the same night. In the first case defendant was fined 5s and costs, and in the last case he was bound over to keep the peace for three months, and was ordered to pay the costs.”

John Foley – see also THREE FURNACES.

Albert Chapman = Albert Chatwin

County Express 9/8/1890

“Benjamin Nock, currier, Peartree Lane, was charged with refusing to quit the DUKE WILLIAM INN, Garratts Lane, and also with assaulting the landlord, *Albert Chatwin*. On Monday night the defendant went into the house in a drunken state and caused two dogs to fight. He refused to leave, and became very violent and assaulted *Chatwin* and also a man named Halford, who went to his assistance.

Prisoner was fined 10s and costs for the assault, and 2s 6d and costs for refusing to quit.”

County Advertiser 4/10/1890

“An interesting presentation to Bro. F. Tromans took place at the quarterly meeting of Court Robin Hood’s Tent, No.4255, A.O.F., held at the house of Bro. *A. Chapman*, the DUKE WILLIAM, Old Hill. The presentation consisted of a valuable rosewood writing desk, with a silver plate bearing the inscription ‘Ancient Order of Foresters. Presented to Bro. F. Tromans, PCR, by the members of Court Robin Hood’s Tent, No.4255, as a slight token of their esteem for his valuable services as trustee for twenty-six years. September 27th, 1890’.....”

County Express 21/3/1891

“John Manley, Church Street, Cradley Heath, was charged with stealing a pipe, value 1s 6d, the property of Enoch Simcox, grocer. Inspector Bishop, in applying for a remand, said on the previous Thursday Mr. Simcox went into the DUKE WILLIAM INN, Garratts Lane, and put his pipe on the table. The prisoner came in and put some theatrical bills on the table near to prosecutor’s pipe. The pipe was subsequently missed, and Police-constable Insley found it in his possession. Prisoner was remanded for a week, bail being allowed, himself in £20, and one surety of £10.”

County Advertiser 28/3/1891

“John Ducane, alias Manley, of Church Road, Cradley Heath, was charged on remand with stealing a pipe, value 1s, the property of Enoch Simcox, grocer, of Rowley Regis.

Prosecutor went into the DUKE WILLIAM INN between two and three o’clock on the 16th inst, and while he was reading the paper defendant came into the room. He brought a parcel of bills with him and unfolded them on the table where witness’s pipe was lying. After the defendant had gone away the pipe was not to be found.

Albert Chapman, landlord, corroborated.

Police-constable Insley gave evidence as to defendant’s arrest at the theatre, defendant after a good deal of parleying producing the pipe, saying that someone had put it in his pocket.

Defendant said he took the pipe in mistake, because he was smoking a similar pipe at the time he went into the inn. He didn’t know that the pipe was in his pocket when arrested.

The Bench decided to give defendant the benefit of the doubt and dismissed the case.”

1891 Census

100, Garratts Lane

- [1] *Albert Chapman* (24), licensed victualler, publican, born Dudley;
- [2] Sarah Chapman (21), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Blanche M. Chapman (2), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Amelia Poole (19), general servant, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Edward Foley (17), boarder, brewer’s assistant, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 13/6/1891

“George Hadley, Wagon Street, Old Hill, was charged with being disorderly on the licensed premises of *Albert Chapman*, and also with being drunk and disorderly. Mrs. *Chapman* and Police-constable Wickstead proved the cases. Defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs on the first charge, the second charge being struck out.”

County Express 5/9/1891

“A branch of the Operative Stonemasons’ Society of England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales has been re-opened at Mr. *Albert Chapman*’s, DUKE WILLIAM INN, High Street, Old Hill, after an interval of several years. A numerous company assembled, including some of the olders masons (and previous members) of the district After business, a very convivial evening was spent, including the usual toasts, and several appropriate speeches, the National Anthem bringing the proceedings to a close.”

County Advertiser 12/8/1893

“James Bannister, Wagon Street, Old Hill, was fined 20s, including costs, for being drunk and disorderly on the licensed premises of *Edward Foley*, landlord of the DUKE WILLIAM INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, and refusing to leave the same when requested, on the 7th inst.”

County Advertiser 2/2/1895

“On Saturday last, Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the DUKE WILLIAM INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, concerning the death of George Johnson (13), of 62, Wagon Street, Old Hill, who met with his death on Wednesday, the 24th ult, by being buried alive in a mound at the Pig and Whistle Colliery, Old Hill. Mr. Jarvis represented the owners of the colliery.

Caroline Johnson, mother of deceased, identified the body, and said that he lived with her. On Wednesday morning, soon after eight o’clock, deceased went to the mound at the colliery to pick coal. Witness afterwards heard that he had been killed at the mound. Witness did not attach any blame to anybody for deceased’s death. In answer to the coroner, witness said she had cautioned him not to go there that morning. She admitted, however, having sent deceased several times before to the colliery to pick coal, when they had had very hard times through the depression of trade in the district. She had made a mistake in sending him there, knowing he was on trespass.

Samuel Willetts, ironworker, said he was on the bank of the Pig and Whistle Colliery, at about ten o’clock on the day in question, when the deceased came. Deceased dug a hole out, and witness told him to knock the top in as he went on, and deceased replied that he was doing so. Deceased came up to witness, who was digging a similar mound, and told him that he was getting plenty of coal. He went back again, and soon afterwards deceased’s brother came up to witness and asked where deceased was. Witness replied that he was digging in the hole. Deceased’s brother went and looked, and upon returning told witness that he was not there. Witness then replied that he must be buried, and they went to extricate him. He was found after about six minutes work, covered by about a foot of the earth. Deceased was lying on his stomach, and the shovel which he had been working with was across his neck. When got out he was quite dead, his neck having been broken. The police were called, and the body removed to his home in Wagon Street.

In answer to the Coroner, witness said there was a notice board up on the mound which was a disused one. There was also a road across the mound. He admitted having been cautioned, but he did not know that they were on trespass because he could not read. The Coroner said he believed the colliery belonged to Mr. C. Holcroft. There were a good many people who visited the colliery for the purpose of picking coal. He did not think all the precautions needed had been made. The owners should have summoned some of the older persons, so that it might serve as a caution to the younger ones. It would be a serious thing for the owners of the colliery if another death occurred there.

Mr. Jarvis said when the coal-pickers saw him coming they ran away.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

Mr. Jarvis promised to communicate with the owners on the matters, with a view to summoning some of the older persons who visit the mound for the purpose of picking coal in the hope of stopping the practice.

The Coroner: I feel sure that if that is done it will be a caution to the younger ones.”

County Advertiser 18/4/1896 - Advert

“High Street, Old Hill, Staffs.

Highly Important Sale of Freehold Dwelling Houses and Building Land.

E. H. Boilstone has been favoured with instructions from the Representatives of the late Mr. *John Foley*, to Sell by Auction, at the House of Mr. *Edward Foley*, the DUKE WILLIAM INN, Old Hill, on Tuesday, the 21st day of April, 1896, at Six for Seven o'clock in the Evening.....”

County Advertiser 2/5/1896

“A dinner in connection with the Old Hill Wanderers Football Club, to celebrate the winning of the Old Hill Challenge Cup, was held at the headquarters, Mr. *E. Foley's*, DUKE WILLIAM INN.....”

County Advertiser 20/3/1897

“On Monday morning an inquest was held at the DUKE WILLIAM INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, concerning the death of Alfred George Foxall (42), blacksmith, of Bank Street, Old Hill, who died suddenly on Sunday morning. On Saturday night deceased returned home from the KINGS HEAD INN, where he had been playing the piano. He ate a good supper, and at 2-40 the next morning he was taken suddenly ill. Dr. Mitchell was called in, but deceased expired before his arrival. He was described by Inspector Given as a steady and sober man, and a verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned by the jury.”

County Express 19/6/1897

“A meeting in connection with the Old Hill and District Cricket League was held on Saturday night at the DUKE WILLIAM INN, Old Hill.....”

County Express 21/8/1897

“The first of what is intended to be an annual demonstration of the friendly societies in the Old Hill district, was held on Sunday, the object in view being to help the funds of the Dudley Guest Hospital, Dudley Dispensary, and Birmingham Eye Hospital the day was bright and promising, and there were large numbers of people all along the route.

At one o'clock the 1st Worcestershire Volunteer Band started from the CROSS INN, proceeded across Halesowen Road, calling at Trinity Schools and GEORGE HOTEL; then across Lawrence Lane into Reddal Hill Road, calling at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, and proceeding to the Cross, where the final procession was formed. Meanwhile the Old Hill Brass and Red Band started from the WHITE LION INN, proceeded by way of Powke Lane and Garratts Lane to Wrights Lane (as far as the PRINCE OF WALES INN), and returned to Garratts Lane, calling for lodges at the BRITISH OAK INN, FOX HUNT INN, Tabernacle, DUKE WILLIAM INN, VINE INN, to the Cross. On the arrival of this contingent a huge line was formed, and very pretty it looked. Members of the various lodges wore their regalia, and these being interspersed with the more elaborate honorary members' scarves, gave the line a very bright appearance.....”

County Advertiser 9/4/1898 - Advert

“Garratts Lane, Old Hill, Staffs.

E. H. Boilstone will Sell by Auction, on the premises adjoining the DUKE WILLIAM INN, Old Hill, on Monday, April 18th, 1898, a large quantity of Timber, Doors and Door Cases, Window Frames, Grates, Tiles, Quarries, taken out of property belonging to Mr. *A. E. Sidaway*.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.

Auction Offices: Old Hill, Staffordshire.”

County Advertiser 27/8/1898

“On Sunday afternoon the annual hospital parade and open-air service, arranged by the various friendly societies in Old Hill and the surrounding district took place. Processions were formed at different points of members of the Foresters, the Free Gardeners, and provident societies, numbering altogether about 1,000, and these, accompanied by the Blackheath, Halesowen Temperance, and Old Hill Bands, paraded the principal streets of the locality, after which they marched to a field in Garratts Lane, lent for the occasion by Mr. *A. Sidaway*, where a special service was held. Addresses were delivered by the Revs. *E. Brewer*, MA (vicar of Old Hill), and *W. B. Cheshire* (Primitive Methodist). A collection was made along the route and at the service in aid of the Guest Hospital, Dudley Dispensary, and Birmingham Eye Hospital, this realising £25 14s 5³/₄d.

The following was the order of procession issued by the committee. The Blackheath Village Band will start from the WHITE

LION INN, Powke Lane, at 1-45 prompt, proceed down Garratts Lane, calling for societies at the BRITISH OAK INN, Tabernacle, DUKE WILLIAM INN, and VINE INN, turning across Queen Street on to the old football ground (by kind permission of Mr. W. H. Jarvis). The Halesowen Temperance Band will start from the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Wrights Lane, at 1-45 prompt, proceed round Cherry Orchard Street, into Wrights Lane, turning down Wagon Street, calling at the OLD ENGINE INN, proceeding down Elbow Street and King Street, across Halesowen Road, to the old football ground. The Old Hill Band will start from the CROSS INN at 1-45 prompt, calling for societies at Trinity Schools and GEORGE HOTEL, proceed across Lawrence Lane, turning up New Street, Ridding Street, Pear Tree Street, Pear Tree Lane, thence into Reddal Hill Road, calling at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, and proceeding to the old football ground. A grand procession will be formed as follows.....”

County Advertiser 20/5/1899

“Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest at the DUKE WILLIAM INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, on Wednesday morning, concerning the death of Moses Danks (68), formerly residing in lodgings at Wagon Street, Old Hill, who died suddenly on Wednesday morning.

James Johnson, miner, stated that deceased resided with him, and at 7-30 on Wednesday morning he heard him coughing violently. Witness went into deceased’s room, and saw that he was sitting on the bed. He assisted him to get into bed, and called to his wife to fetch him some water, but before she could do so deceased expired.

Dr. de Denne stated that in his opinion death was due to apoplexy.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

AND

“On Wednesday morning, Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest at the DUKE WILLIAM INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, on the body of Elizabeth Stringer (40), single woman, residing with her mother in Wagon Street, Old Hill, who died on Sunday last. Maria Stringer, mother, stated that deceased had suffered from birth from paralysis of the lower part of the body. On the 2nd inst she left deceased in the house whilst she went to a shop opposite, but before she was served she heard a scream, and upon going home saw deceased’s clothing all in flames. She extinguished the flames, and Dr. Tibbetts was called in the same evening. Dr. de Denne was called in the following morning, and attended deceased until her death on Sunday night. Deceased told witness that a spark fled out of the fire and ignited her clothing.

Dr. de Denne stated that deceased had been an idiot from birth, and had also suffered from paralysis. She died from exhaustion caused by burns.

Inspector Given said he had made inquiries, and found that there was nothing to show that it was not a pure accident.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

County Advertiser 7/10/1899

“Harry Skitt, of Blackheath, was charged with being disorderly and refusing to quit the licensed premises of the DUKE WILLIAM INN, Old Hill, kept by Mr. *Foley*, on the 30th ult, and also with assaulting Ambrose Hill, on the same date.

Complainant said that defendant came to his house on Saturday, and created a disturbance, and upon being requested to leave he refused to do so.

Ambrose Hill deposed to being in the public house on the date named. The landlord, at closing time, said ‘Time’s up,’ and witness was walking towards the door to go out when defendant struck him in the face, drawing blood.

Defendant alleged that complainant struck him first.

Defendant was fined 20s and costs for the assault, and 10s and costs for being disorderly on the licensed premises.”

County Advertiser 17/3/1900

“On Friday last week Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest at the DUKE WILLIAM INN, Garratts Lane, on the body of Annie Whitfield, aged fifteen months, the daughter of Samuel and Esther Whitfield, of Best Street, who died on the Wednesday from the effects of shocking burns received on the previous day.

Mary Ann Hill, residing in Best Street, stated that on the Tuesday morning she was in the brewhouse, when she heard the children crying in Mrs. Whitfield’s house. She went into the house, and found deceased lying on the rug, her clothing all in flames. She called the mother, who came from a brewhouse and extinguished the flames. Witness found some cinders on the floor, which she supposed had fallen from the fire and ignited deceased’s clothing.

Dr. de Denne stated that he was called to see deceased, who was suffering from serious burns to the face, neck, arms, and legs.

Death took place on the following day from shock following the burns.

Inspector Given also gave evidence, and a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

1901 Census

100, Garratts Lane

[1] *Edward Foley* (28), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Caroline Foley* (27), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *Thomas Foley* (5), son, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Phoebe A. Rollinson* (17), general servant, born Rowley Regis;

[5] *Eliza Adams* (16), general servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 12/4/1902 - Advert

“Good General Servant, age 18 to 20, with character.

Apply, Mrs. *E. Foley*, DUKE WILLIAM INN, Old Hill.”

County Advertiser 1/8/1903

“An occasional license was granted to *Edward Foley*, of the DUKE WILLIAM INN, Old Hill, for the Cradley Heath St. Luke’s Football Ground on the occasion of a brass band contest promoted by the Cradley Heath Town Band today.”

County Advertiser 20/8/1904

“On Saturday last a meeting of court Robin Hood’s Tent, A.O.F. was held at the DUKE WILLIAM, High Street, Old Hill, when a presentation was made to Bro. R. Cooksey, who had served the court for twenty years as secretary. The presentation consisted of a handsome writing cabinet suitably inscribed.....”

County Advertiser 27/8/1904

“On Sunday afternoon the eighth annual parade and service arranged by the various friendly societies in the Old Hill district took place under favourable circumstances. The proceedings commenced with a large procession.....

The Cradley Heath Town Prize Band started from COOKSEY’S HOTEL and proceeded along Halesowen Road, calling at the VICTORIA HOTEL for societies. Afterwards they marched to High Street, where they called at the DUKE WILLIAM INN for societies and afterwards went on to the field.....

Upon arrival at the field a grand procession was formed This paraded the principal streets of the locality for some time, after which they proceeded to a field in High Street, kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. A. E. Sidaway. Here a service was held, the chair being occupied by Dr. T. E. Mitchell. Notwithstanding the threatening state of the weather there was a large attendance..... A collection was made upon the route, and at the service, on behalf of the Dudley Guest Hospital, Dudley Dispensary, Birmingham Eye Hospital, Birmingham General Hospital, Birmingham Ear and Throat Hospital, and the Old Hill Nurses Fund.”

County Advertiser 30/12/1905

“On Wednesday morning Mr. A. A. Betham (acting coroner) held an inquest at the DUKE WILLIAM INN, High Street, Old Hill, concerning the death of Sarah Priest (12), formerly residing at High Street, Old Hill, who died under singular circumstances on the 24th inst.

Hagar Priest, a widow, residing at High Street, Old Hill, stated that deceased was a strong and healthy child. On the 12th inst she was playing with other girls in the street after school time. She returned home at 6-30, and complained that another girl named Eliza Jane Knight had thrown her over her head when they were playing ‘butter and sugar.’ She complained of having fallen upon her stomach, and of being hurt. Deceased complained of pains in the abdomen. Deceased went to bed and remained there until she died. Witness rubbed the child with camphorated oil, but she was never able to work again. Deceased was in great pain and grew worse. On the 18th inst witness sent for Dr. Mitchell, but the girl died on the 24th inst. Asked by the coroner why she did not call in a doctor earlier, witness said she did not think the deceased was so badly injured.

Eliza Jane Knight, a girl, living at High Street, Old Hill, deposed that on the 12th inst she was playing with the deceased at a game known as ‘butter and sugar.’ This consisted of the girls standing back to back with their arms interlocked and rocking each other. Whilst deceased was raising witness she fell on the footpath, on her stomach, and witness fell upon the top of her. Deceased made no complaint of being injured, but got up and commenced to play the same game.

Dr. T. E. Mitchell stated that he was called in to see the deceased on the 18th inst, when he found her to be in a dangerous condition. The child was suffering from two swellings upon the body, in which abscesses were forming. Blood poisoning developed and the child died. The swellings would probably be due to internal injuries which the deceased sustained.

The Coroner remarked that it was a pity the mother failed to call in a medical man before. It was also a matter of regret that children should play such a foolish game in the streets.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

At the close of the inquiry the mother of deceased created a scene by declaring that the girl Knight had wilfully killed her child, but the coroner informed her that it was the result of a pure accident. She, however, became more excited, and the police had to persuade her to keep quiet.”

County Advertiser 30/3/1907

“On Tuesday night a well-attended gathering, under the auspices of the Old Hill and district branch of the Miners Federation of Great Britain, was held at the DUKE WILLIAM INN, Old Hill, for the purpose of considering the Eight Hours’ Bill..... A resolution deciding to petition Parliament in favour of the bill was carried unanimously.”

County Advertiser 6/7/1907

“The annual dinner in connection with the Old Hill Unity Football Club was held on Thursday night at the DUKE WILLIAM INN, High Street, Old Hill The Chairman congratulated the club upon their success in winning the championship of the West Midland League.....”

Old Hill Cricket Club held their first annual dinner here in January 1908.

Tipton Herald 20/3/1909

“A meeting of miners was held at the DUKE WILLIAM INN, High Street, on Tuesday night, at which an address was delivered by Mr. B. Winwood (agent).

Referring to the proposed reduction of 5 per cent in wages, the agent advised the men to loyally abide by the decision of Lord James. They belonged to the Miners’ Federation, which took an active part in securing the agreement between the masters and

men. He was greatly surprised with the decision, because they had already suffered one reduction of 5 per cent in the winter months. The miners could rest assured that when a boom in trade arose the leaders would use every effort to recover that which had been lost (applause).

It was decided to accept the decision of Lord James, and Mr. Winwood was also instructed to oppose any proposal to alter the present constitution of the South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire Mining Accident Fund.”

County Express 10/4/1909

“On Monday a public auction was held at the DUKE WILLIAM INN, Old Hill, when the freehold shop and premises, used as a pawnbroker’s business, situated in High Street, Old Hill, were sold for £587. A freehold house in Wrights Lane, Old Hill, let at £14 6s per annum, was knocked down for £159. Messrs. Thomas Cooksey and Co. were the solicitors for the vendors; auctioneers Messrs. Flemings and Son.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/6/1909

“The principal meeting of the Staffordshire County Compensation Authority, adjourned from the 11th inst.

The decision of the local licensing magistrates to refuse the renewal of the FOX HUNT alehouse, Old Hill, tenant, Arthur E. Jew, was opposed.

In opening the case, Mr. Lawrence said that the house was fully licensed, and he thought the main fact to be borne in mind in coming to a decision was the situation of the adjoining licensed houses the DUKE WILLIAM (another fully-licensed house only 206 yards away).....”

County Express 29/10/1910

“Football Notices.

Old Hill Junior Cup and Medals. Open to non-Association clubs; entrance fee 2s 6d. Entries close and draw takes place at the DUKE WILLIAM INN, High Street, Old Hill, on Tuesday, November 1st, at 7.30pm.

Apply John W. Powis, 20, Best Street, Old Hill.”

1911 Census

High Street

[1] John Foley (42), born Old Hill;

[2] *Annie Foley* (46), wife, married 23 years, licensed victualler, born Dudley;

[3] Lorrie Foley (21), daughter, born Dudley;

[4] Alice Foley (19), daughter, milliner’s apprentice, born Dudley;

[5] Sidney Foley (16), son, brewer’s clerk, born Dudley;

[6] Frederick Foley (15), son, born Dudley;

[7] Jack Foley (7), son, school, born Dudley;

[8] William Thomas (21), nephew, shipping clerk, edge tool manufacturer, born Dudley:

County Express 17/8/1912

“The Bowling Green.

The BLUE BALL, Old Hill, received a visit from the DUKE WILLIAM. Rain spoilt a close contest when the visiting team were leading by 4 points. It was hard lines for the BLUE BALL, as their best bowlers had not bowled.”

Evening Despatch 20/7/1914

“The members of the Old Hill Branch of the National Federation of Miners had their annual dinner on Saturday, the club rooms at the DUKE WILLIAM, High Street; the SPRING MEADOW, Halesowen Road; and the KINGS HEAD, Elbow Street, being used for the occasion.”

Albert Eland Sidaway – see also BRITISH OAK.

Albert Eland Sidaway died in the 1st quarter of 1922 and was buried at St. Luke’s Church, Cradley Heath.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/5/1922

“Mr. *Albert Eland Sidaway*, of Old Hill, brewer, left £31,743.”

Albert John Sidaway was the son of *Albert Eland Sidaway*.

It was the headquarters of Old Hill Pigeon Club. [1930]

It had pigeon lofts at the rear. [1930]

Dudley Herald 25/4/1931

“At a meeting of the Court Robin Hood’s Tent of the Dudley and Cradley Heath District of the Ancient Order of Foresters, held at the DUKE WILLIAM INN, Old Hill, on Saturday night last, a presentation was made to Bro. James Watkins (senior trustee of the Court). Bro. Joseph Haynes (chief ranger) was in the chair.”

Dudley Herald 23/5/1931 - Advert

“Auctions, &c, by J. Albert Abel, AAI, High Street, Stourbridge.

By Order of the Executors of *A. E. Sidaway*. Friday Next, May 29th, 1931.

DUKE WILLIAM INN, High Street, Old Hill.

J. Albert Abel, AAI, has received instructions to dismantle the Brewery and Sell by Auction the whole of the capital Brewery Effects and Utensils, including Three Quarter Mash with copper false bottom, copper and iron Boilers, Fermenting Vessels and Coolers, unfixed new copper Boiler (50 barrel capacity), Two Avery sack Weighing Machines, Pulley Blocks and Chains, Copper Refrigerator, about 140 Ale Casks of various sizes all in excellent condition, quantity of Hops, two 1hp Dynamos with shafting and belting, ¾hp Electric Motor by N.E. Co., Wince, two brewery drays, stone Spirit Jars, quantity iron hoops, iron Wheelbarrow, scrap iron, galvanised iron tank, iron stove, numerous tubs, ladders, tools, etc.

Sale will commence at 12 o'clock prompt.

Auctioneers Office: 88, High Street, Stourbridge. Tel.57218.”

It was the headquarters of the Hot Pot Fund (secretary Samuel Edwards JP), founded in 1933, to provide for pensioners.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/10/1934

“Prizes won in connection with the Sidaway Bowling League were presented at a smoking concert held at the DUKE WILLIAM, Old Hill, on Saturday, and at which Mr. F. J. Sidaway presided.....”

1939 Register

27, High Street

[1] *Albert J. Sidaway*, date of birth 13/3/1893, licensed victualler, married;

[2] *Mary M. Sidaway*, dob 15/8/1897, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Mary R. (Sidaway) Glennon*, dob 21/3/1920, unpaid assistant, single;

[4] *Albert J. Sidaway*, dob 17/04/1922, assistant tool maker, heavy, drop forge trade, single:

Lawrence Reginald Hackett – see also OLD HOUSE AT HOME.

[1990]

Closed

Demolished

FIVE WAYS

90+91, (90), High Street / St. Annes Road, CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

Joseph Edmonds [1878]

North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd. [1897], [1907]

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1909)

Union Pub Co. [2003]

LICENSEES

Jesse Edmonds [1833] – [1845]

Mrs. Leah Edmonds [1847] – [1850]

William Cox [1851] – [1855]

John Cox [1852]

William Cox [1856] – [1862]

Mrs. Ann Cox [1864] – [1870]

Henry Humphries [1871]

Joseph Edmunds [] – **1871**);

Joseph Heeley Whitmore (**1871 – 1880**);

William Henry Hickton (**1880 – 1885**);

Albert Lovatt (**1885** – [1887]

Roberts [1887] manager

Samuel Mobberley [1891] – **1896**)

John Richard Downes [1896] – [1897]

William Nathaniel Cotterell [] – **1897**) manager

Henry ‘Harry’ Letts (**1897**);

Stephen Deeley (**1897 – 1905**);

Benjamin Alfred Hill (**1905 – 1907**);

John Pillow (**1907 – [1908]**)

Edward Slinn [1908] – [1912]

William Woolley Rice [1916] – **1922**);

Clarence Bertram ‘Bert’ Dingley (**1922 – 1927**);

Charles ‘Charlie’ Wright (**1927 – 1939**);

Thomas Preece (**1939 – [1965]**)

Beattie Wright [late 1950s] ?

George Willetts [1976]

Patrick Joseph Carroll (**1983**);

Alan Raymond Davis (**1983 – 1984**);

Robert Edward Riley (**1984 – 1987**);

John Melvyn ‘Mel’ Butt (**1987 – 1990**)

Michael Cole (**1990**);

Winston Thomas Churchill (**1990 – []**)

Mel Butt [1992]

Reginald Lewis Hollows [2002]

Louis Lloyd and Peter Matthews (**2003 – []**)

NOTES

90, High Street [1881], [1901], [1904], [1908], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1924], [1932]

90+91, High Street [1940]

OLD FIVE WAYS [1860]

COMMERCIAL HOTEL [1873]

FIVE WAYS HOTEL [1874], [1896], [1904], [1908], [1912], [1932], [1940], [1996]

It was known locally as “Charlie Wright’s”.

1841 Census

Five Ways

[1] *Jesse Edmonds* (50), publican, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Leah Edmonds* (55), born Staffordshire;

[3] David Edmonds (15):

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/3/1844 - Advert

“Freehold Property.

To be Sold by Auction, by Matthews and Son, at the house of *Jesse Edmonds*, the FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, in the parish of Rowley Regis, three miles from Dudley, on Thursday, the 28th of March, 1844, at three o’clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions then to be produced.

All those two newly erected Dwelling-Houses, with brewhouse and shopping at the back of the same; together with a Plot of Building Land, adjoining the aforesaid, fronting the turnpike road leading from thence to Rowley Regis, having a frontage of 72 feet, and containing, in the whole, 590 yards or thereabouts, and now in the occupation of Willetts and another.”

Jesse Edmonds died in the 4th quarter of 1845.

Leah Edmonds = Leah Edmons

Worcestershire Chronicle 24/3/1847

“On Thursday last an inquest was held at the FIVE WAYS INN, Rowley, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, on the body of a girl named Sarah Raybold, daughter of Jeremiah Raybold, who met her death in the following melancholy manner. On the previous day she was sitting asleep in a chair, when, by some means or other, her clothes accidentally caught fire, and before they could be extinguished she was so severely burned in different parts of the body that she died the following morning. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/5/1847

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

On Saturday last, at the FIVEWAY INN, Cradley Heath, on the body of Richard Kendall, aged 19 years, who was killed on Friday last, whilst working in an ironstone pit belonging to Mr. John Fursers, in consequence of a quantity of mine and rock suddenly

giving way and falling on him. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Journal 5/6/1847

“On Tuesday last, an occurrence took place at Mr. Purser’s coalpit, Cradley Heath, which terminated in the death of a youth of nineteen years of age, named Benjamin Weaver, and caused some excitement, as the manner in which the event was represented to have taken place was considered rather unsatisfactory.

At an inquest held on the body, at the house of Mrs. *Edmonds*, the FIVE WAYS INN, before George Hinchliffe, Esq, on Wednesday, the circumstances of the case were fully gone into. It appeared from the evidence of several of the miners, that fire-damp having been apprehended, they thought it prudent to leave off work and ascend. Accordingly six or seven of them, amongst whom was the unfortunate young man, got into the skip for that purpose. When about 240 feet up the shaft, from some unexplained cause, the deceased suddenly fell back out of the skip. A man named Joseph Perry endeavoured to prevent his falling, and caught hold of part of his dress, but his hold gave way, and the youth was precipitated to the bottom of the shaft. Immediately on the skip reaching the top, it was sent down again, when, as might have been anticipated, the unfortunate lad was found to be dead. He was lying on his face, in a pool of blood. After several witnesses had been examined the Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1851 Census

Cradley Heath

[1] *William Cox* (32), licensed victualler, born Rugby, Warwickshire;

[2] *Ann Cox* (30), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] James Cox (8), son, scholar, born Tipton;

[4] Betsey Morris (26), house servant, born Bilston:

Worcestershire Chronicle 31/12/1851

“*William Cox*, of the FIVE WAYS INN, was fined 5s and costs for permitting drunkenness and disorderly conduct in his house on the night of Saturday, the 20th instant.”

Birmingham Journal 25/6/1853 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Property, Cradley Heath, in the Parish of Rowley, in the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Hawkins, on Tuesday, the 12th of July next, at the house of Mr. Noah Fellows, the TALBOT INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath aforesaid, at Five o’clock in the evening, and subject to conditions.

Lot 1. All that valuable Old Licensed House and Premises, known by the sign of the OLD FIVE WAYS INN, situate at the Five Ways, Cradley Heath aforesaid, and now in the occupation of Mr. *William Cox*. It is a corner Property, and has extensive frontages on two sides to the highways leading from Hales Owen and Cradley to Dudley, and from Quarry Bank and Brierley Hill to Redall Hill and Rowley Regis. This lot contains 862 square yards, and there is ample frontage Land for the creation of twelve Houses. This lot is sold subject to a lease, of which nineteen years are unexpired.....”

Birmingham Journal 15/9/1855 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale at the FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Hawkins, on Monday Next, the 17th day of September.

The whole of the neat and clean Household Furniture, French, tent, and other Bedsteads, feather and flock Beds, Mattresses, mahogany and deal Tables, Windsor and other Chairs, Mashing Tubs and Casks, four neat spring Traps, set of light Harness, four-year-old Horse, seven Store Pigs, and other useful Effects, belonging to Mr. *William Cox*, who is giving up the business.

Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock.”

Brierley Hill Advertiser 12/1/1856

“Reuben Buxton was charged with an indecent assault on Ann Horton, servant at the FIVE WAYS Public House, Cradley Heath, on the 27th of December.

Committed to six weeks to hard labour.”

County Advertiser 14/6/1856

“Mary Billingham and Rosannah Davies, were charged by Mrs. *Cox*, landlady of the FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, with an assault on the 3rd inst. After a great deal of crimination and re-crimination the case was dismissed.”

County Advertiser 28/6/1856

“*William Cox*, landlord of the FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, charged James Billingham with an assault, on the 17th instant.

This quarrel appeared to arise out of some old quarrels. Fined 1s and costs.

The same person then charged Benjamin Billingham with an assault, on the 14th, but as he said Billingham was tipsy at the time, he did not wish to press the charge. Dismissed.

James Henry *Cox*, a boy, and son of the above *William Cox*, then charged Thomas Garret with assaulting him, on the 17th. Fined 1s and expenses.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/2/1858 - Advert

“Stolen, last Saturday evening, about Seven o’clock, from a Horse’s back, in Flood Street, Dudley, a light plaid Horse Cloth, with red stripe, belonging to Mr. *Cox*, FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley. Whoever will give information to James Whitehouse, Town Crier,

Dudley, shall receive £5 Reward.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 17/4/1858

“An inquest was, on Monday, held at the FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, on the body of an underhand puddler, named John Bunn, who died on the previous Friday, from injuries received on the 2nd instant by the bursting of a boiler at the works of the New British Iron Company. The boiler, a low-pressure one, had been in use for several years, and was worked, in connection with several others, at a moderate pressure. It had frequently undergone repairs, and been examined on the Monday prior to the sad occurrence, when it appeared to be quite safe. The explosion was attributed to one of the stays having become detached. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 21/4/1858

“On Monday night week, several articles of wearing apparel and a concertina, were stolen from the dwelling of Samuel Coley, at Hasbury, entrance having been effected by forcing a window. About twelve o’clock on the same night, at the FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley, two of the Staffordshire police met a man carrying a bundle, which, on being interrogated, he threw down, and made off. The bundle contained the whole of the stolen property, but the thief was not captured.”

Brierley Hill Advertiser 14/8/1858

“Isaiah Edmonds and Edward Garvey were charged with committing a breach of the peace. PC Turner stated that on the 31st of July he was on duty at Cradley Heath when he was sent for to quell a disturbance at Mr. Cox’s public house. He went, and then found the two defendants fighting, Garvey being rather the worse for drink. As Edwards did not appear to have been the aggressor he was dismissed; and Garvey was bound over in £5 to keep the peace for six months.”

1861 Census

High Street – FIVE WAYS INN

- [1] *William Cox* (45), victualler, born Coventry;
- [2] *Ann Cox* (40), wife, born Rowley;
- [3] James Henry Cox (16), son, born Tipton;
- [4] Ann Cox (9), daughter, scholar, born Rowley;
- [5] William Cox (5), son, scholar, born Rowley;
- [6] Ann Maria Billingham (21), general servant, born Rowley:

Birmingham Daily Post 20/11/1862

“At the Petty Sessions, held at Old Hill, *William Cox*, FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, was charged with having allowed disorderly conduct in his house on Saturday, the 8th instant. The case was proved by Police-sergeant Smith, and defendant having been previously convicted, he was fined £3 and costs.”

Stourbridge Observer 18/2/1865

“At the Police Office on Wednesday last, *Ann Cox*, of the FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, was charged with keeping unlawful hours.

Police-constable Fox stated he visited the house at half past eight on Sunday morning last, and found seven or eight men in the kitchen.

She was ordered to pay the costs, and ordered not to offend again.”

County Advertiser 18/3/1865 - Advert

“Five Ways, Cradley Heath.

Mr. Chandler will Sell by Auction, on Tuesday Next, March 21st, 1865, at Three o’clock in the afternoon, useful Household Furniture, including Beds, Bedsteads, Chairs, Tables, Sofa, capital Eight-day Clock, in Mahogany Case; Thirty-hour Clock, Railway Trip, Pair of Smiths’ Bellows, quantity of Blacksmiths’ Tools, Child’s Carriage, and Effects, removed for convenience of Sale to Mrs. Cox’s, FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath aforesaid, for Rent &c.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/7/1870 - Advert

“To Be Sold By Auction.

By Mr. Homer, Tomorrow (Wednesday), the 13th of July, at the FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath.

A Travelling Theatre, 20 feet by 40 feet; two Carriages, forming Stage, 14 feet by 30 feet; and Stage Front, with canvas, all complete; a Travelling Carriage, fitted with Drawers, Cupboards, folding Bedstead, Fire Grate, &c; also a first-rate Carriage, forming Stage, with Frontispiece, Poles, Footboards, &c.

Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock.

Auctioneer’s Residence, Five Ways, Cradley Heath.”

Stourbridge Observer 30/7/1870

“At the Old Hill Petty Sessions, on Wednesday last, before E. Moore and F. W. G. Barrs, Esqrs, *Ann Cox*, landlady of the FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, was charged by Superintendent Mills with selling ale on the 17th instant, during prohibited hours. Police-sergeant Powner proved that he visited the defendant’s house at half past five in the morning, and found six men in the house, and two cups full of ale. Another man had a glass of liquors. Spoke to Mrs. Cox about it. She said they had been in the

house but a short time.
Fined 20s and costs.”

Stourbridge Observer 6/8/1870

“Noah Allport, Thomas Riddaway, John Johnson, James Buckley, Thomas Stanley, George Drew, William Gregory, and James Hayward, were charged with drinking in the FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, on the 17th of July, during prohibited hours. Police-sergeant Powner said: On the above date at 5.30am, I visited Mrs. *Cox*’s public house, in company with Police-constable Craddock. Saw all defendants in the house drinking. They were all drunk. Defendants were fined 1s and costs each; in default 14 days.”

Stourbridge Observer 13/8/1870

“At the Petty Sessions held on Wednesday, before E. Moore and F. W. G. Barrs, Esqrs, *Ann Cox*, landlady of the FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, was charged by Superintendent Mills with having her house open for the sale of ale, on the 31st ult, during prohibited hours, and was fined 20s and costs on the 27th of July. Mr. Hayes defended. Police-constable Craddock said he visited the defendant’s house at a quarter to six in the morning, and saw defendant run out of the house with two glasses of rum. Saw a man, named Gregory, run outside with a glass. Went into another room, and saw a man lying under the piano, trying to conceal himself. Police-constable Dix also corroborated. Mr. Hayes addressed the Bench for the defence, and called *Ann Cox*, who said that on Saturday night two men came into the house for two glasses of rum. A quarrel ensued as to which should pay for it, and she took it back; and swore that the men in the house did not have anything to drink; that Craddock picked up the rum and tasted it, and drank nearly all of it; that a young man named Gregory, who was there, came to ask her to take a walk in the evening, and that he had nothing to drink. William Smith was called, and swore that he saw the rum drawn last thing at night, that he carried them up at a quarter to five to clean the house; that the rum was still on the shelf; and that *Ann Cox* did not have it in her hands, and run with it. Adjourned for a week.”

Stourbridge Observer 20/8/1870

“At the Old Hill Petty Sessions, on Wednesday last, before F. W. G. Barrs and N. Hingley, *Ann Cox*, landlady of the FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, was brought up on remand and charged with havng her house open during prohibited hours, on the 31st ultimo. Mr. Hayes defended. Most of the evidence had already appeared. Mr. Hayes called William Gregory, who said he went to Mrs. *Cox*’s on the above date, at six o’clock in the morning. Went to ask the daughter to go a walk in the evening. Cross-examined by Mr. Mills: Did not see any rum drunk. Did not see any one under the pianoforte. The Magistrates could not agree in the case.”

County Express 27/8/1870

“The annual licensing meeting for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division was held yesterday..... The licenses of *Ann Cox*, FIVE WAYS, Cradley Heath, licensed victualler; Joseph Westwood, SWAN WITH TWO NECKS, Cradley Heath, beerhouse keeper, were suspended..... It was decided for the charge against Mrs. *Cox*, of the FIVE WAYS, Cradley Heath, to be heard on the 7th of next month before another bench of Magistrates.”

Stourbridge Observer 10/9/1870

“*Ann Cox* was again summoned for allowing her house to be open for the sale of ale during prohibited hours, on the 31st July, at Cradley Heath. Mr. Hayes defended. The evidence has already appeared in our columns, and our readers will recollect the magistrates (Messrs. F. W. G. Barrs and N. Hingley) could not come to a decision. On the present occasion the Bench considered the case proved, and fined defendant £3 and costs. Mr. Hayes said he should appeal against the verdict at the next Quarter Sessions.”

1871 Census

High Street – FIVE WAYS

- [1] *Henry Humphries* (46), house painter, born Kidderminster;
- [2] *Margaret Humphries* (40), wife, born Stourbridge;
- [3] *George Humphries* (9), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Sarah Humphries* (6), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Elenor Humphries* (1), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Sarah J. Cook* (16), domestic servant, born Netherton:

Joseph Heeley Whitmore = Joseph Healey Whitmore

Joseph Healey Whitmore was also a cab proprietor. [1873]

Stourbridge Observer 25/4/1874

“John Woodhouse and Richard Johnson were charged by *Joseph Whitmore*, landlord of the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath, with being drunk and refusing to quit when requested. The case was not proved, and defendants were discharged on payment of costs.”

County Advertiser 7/11/1874

“Thomas Massey and John Willetts were each charged with having, on the 12th ult, played at chance with certain instruments of game in a public house, kept by *Joseph Whitmore*, at Five Ways. It was proved that on the evening of the above date the defendants were in prosecutor’s house, and they commenced gambling. They were requested to leave by the manager. Massey had previously been summoned. The defendant’s were each fined 1s and costs.”

AND

“Joseph Whitehouse and Daniel Round were charged with refusing to quit a public-house kept by *Joseph Whitmore*, at Five Ways. The case against Whitehouse was adjourned for a week, he having refused to quit the house, and became violent, but the charge against Round was withdrawn.”

Stourbridge Observer 14/11/1874

“At the Police Court, on Wednesday, before Messrs. F. W. G. Barrs and L. Freer, Joseph Woodhouse was charged with committing a breach of the peace, by fighting at the FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, and refusing to quit when requested, on the 15th ult. A young woman named Porter stated that defendant was fighting with another man in the house. She requested him to leave and he refused to go. He was ejected three times and he came back again.

Police-constable Cooper gave corroborative evidence. Defendant was fined 5s and costs.”

County Advertiser 17/3/1877 - Advert

“Wagonettes, Breaks, Cabs, Cars, and every description of Vehicle for Pleasure Parties, at *Joseph Whitmore*’s, Cradley Heath, and FIVE WAYS INN, Stafford Street, Dudley.

J. W. begs to thank the Gentry and Public generally for past favours received while at the CROSS INN, Old Hill, and at the same time, wishes to inform them that all Orders left at the FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, will as usual receive his prompt attention.”

County Express 25/8/1877

“After the business of the Petty Sessions had been disposed of the Annual Licensing Sessions were held.

Mr. Superintendent Woollaston, addressing the Bench, said he had been instructed to oppose a renewal of *Joseph Whitmore*’s certificate in respect of a licensed house at Five Ways, Cradley Heath, on the ground that Mr. *Whitmore* was keeping another licensed house at Dudley, and did not reside upon the premises at Cradley Heath.

Mr. Hayes (who appeared for Mr. *Whitmore*) said it was merely a legal question as to what constituted residence. It had been held quite sufficient if a man visited his place of business and took an active part in it, and it was unnecessary that he should sleep there. Many respectable publicans in Birmingham resided away from their places of business, and two similar cases instituted last week at Tipton failed, one being dismissed and the other withdrawn. His client’s family resided at Cradley Heath, and he had a daughter there who managed the business for him. The license was renewed.”

County Express 2/2/1878

“Joseph Homer was charged with refusing to quit the FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, kept by *Joseph Whitmore*. Complainant stated that on the night of the 26th ult defendant came into the house and asked for a glass of ale, but as he was already drunk he was not served with it. He then commenced swearing and would not go out until a policeman arrived. Police-constable Sylvester said that on Saturday night about half-past ten o’clock, he was sent for to complainant’s house, and there found defendant seated on a bench, cursing and swearing. He requested a man who knew defendant to take him from the house, and he did as requested, but defendant returned soon afterwards and had to be forcibly ejected. Defendant was fined 5s and costs or fourteen days.”

County Advertiser 24/8/1878

“*Edmonds v The Whitehall Colliery Company*.

This was an action bought by Mr. *Joseph Edmonds*, the owner of the FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, to recover damages caused to the FIVE WAYS INN by the mining operations of the Whitehall Colliery Company. The defendants disputed, under the Rowley Enclosure Act, their liability to pay for damages, but the question of law was decided in the plaintiff’s favour. The amount of damage was referred to Mr. Robert Griffiths, county surveyor of Staffordshire, who has now given his award in favour of plaintiff for £266. Mr. Nathan (instructed by Mr. Collis, of Stourbridge) was for the plaintiff, and Mr. Underhill (instructed by Mr. Homer, Brierley Hill) for defendants.”

County Advertiser 18/1/1879

“*Joseph Whitmore*, landlord of the FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, was charged with supplying ale at an illegal hour. Mr. Hayes defended.

Police-constable Sylvester stated that at 11.50 on the night of the 4th inst, he saw a car stop opposite the defendant’s house at the Five Ways, Cradley Heath, and three men descend. They went to the back of the premises, and on his proceeding there he found the men inside the house along with the driver of the car, ale being before them. The car was from Dudley, but he knew that the three men lived at Cradley Heath.

Mr. Hayes did not dispute the facts, but explained that the man who demanded ale asserted to Mr. *Whitmore*’s daughter that he was

a traveller; and she had no knowledge to the contrary. She saw the other men afterwards; and knowing them refused to supply any ale. The first man then said he was a traveller, and would fetch a policeman if she would not supply him with refreshment. Upon that, as he admitted, she did draw some liquor.

Miss *Whitmore* was called, and supported this statement on oath.

The case was adjourned for seven days that the men spoken of might be summoned.”

Dudley Herald 1/2/1879

“*Joseph Whitmore*, landlord of the FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, was charged with selling ale after hours to Giles Bloomer, David Morgan, and Lewis Morgan. Mr. Hayes defended; Mr. Waldron appeared for the three men who were charged with being on the premises. The Bench thought defendant did not intend to break the law, but as he did not take sufficient trouble to ascertain whether the men were bona fide travellers, they fined him 5s and costs. The three men were fined 1s and costs each.”

County Advertiser 10/5/1879

“Samuel Stevens, chainmaker, was charged with refusing to quit the FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, kept by *Joseph Whitmore*. On the 3rd inst defendant began fighting while in the house, and when ordered to leave by the person in charge, refused to comply. Police-constable Sylvester was sent for, and defendant then left. Fined 2s 6d and costs.”

County Advertiser 6/8/1879 - Advert

“J. E. Whitmore, FIVE WAYS INN, Stafford Street, Dudley.

J. E. Whitmore, Omnibus, Brakes, Wagonettes, Drags, Cabs, Cars, Dog Carts, and Private Carriages, and Vehicles of every description on short notice.

Pleasure Parties or Workmen’s Outings, with superior Four-horse Brakes, Omnibuses, &c, Contracted for, cheaper than any House in the trade.

Weddings conducted in first-class style with Modern Carriages and splendid Grey Horses. Postillions with Livery if required.

And FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath.”

AND

“J. E. Whitmore.

The Largest and Cheapest Combined Establishments in the District.

Splendid Black Entire Horses Equipped in the best style at the shortest notice.

Orders by Post punctually attended to.

Hearses and Mourning Coaches in the most Modern Style.

Cheaper than any other Establishment within 50 miles.

Undertakers and Coffin Makers treated with on the most limited terms.

119, Stafford Street, Dudley, and Five Ways Cradley Heath.”

Dudley Herald 30/8/1879

“The annual licensing session for the Rowley Regis division was held on the 26th ult.....

The convictions against licensed victuallers during the past year were.....

Joseph Whitmore, FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, house open during prohibited hours. Fined 10s and costs, January 29th, 1879.”

County Advertiser 9/10/1880

“Philip Willetts, chainmaker, Cradley Heath, was charged with refusing to quit licensed premises. *William Henry Hickton*, landlord of the FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, said the defendant had been to him and apologised, and he now asked to have the case withdrawn. The Bench did not think fit to allow this and defendant was fined 5s and costs.”

1881 Census

90, High Street

[1] *William Henry Hickton* (21), licensed victualler, born Cradley Heath;

[2] Emily Hickton (22), wife, born Dudley;

[3] Fanny Louisa Annie Hickton (3 months), daughter, born Cradley Heath;

[4] Florence Hickton (2), sister, born Halesowen;

[5] Elizabeth Lea (23), domestic servant, born Stoke on Trent:

Evening Star 20/2/1882

“A large representative meeting of chainmakers was held this morning at the FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, to look into considering the wages question. Delegates were present from the Old Hill, Rowley, Cradley Heath, Reddal Hill, Gornal, Tipton, and Netherton districts.

Mr. B. Billingham said at the meeting nearly 3,000 chainmakers were represented, and he trusted that all would be united to demanding their rights. A little more than twelve months ago the chainmakers were working at what was known as the 2s 6d list, which was nothing more or less than the starvation list, for men, although they worked hard from morning until night, were unable to provide themselves and families with food.....

After a lengthy discussion it was resolved that the operatives who are unsuccessful in securing the advance be called out on strike.....”

Dudley and District News 25/2/1882 - Deaths

“On the 21st, Emily, the beloved wife of *William Henry Hickton* of the FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, and eldest daughter of J. E. Whitmore, Cab and Car Proprietor, Dudley. Aged 23 years.”

County Express 17/10/1882 - Advert

“J. E. Whitmore, FIVE WAYS INN, Stafford Street, Dudley.

J. E. Whitmore, Omnibus, Brakes, Wagonettes, Drags, Cabs, Cars, Dog Carts, and Private Carriages, and Vehicles of every description on short notice.

Pleasure Parties or Workmen’s Outings, with superior Four-horse Brakes, Omnibuses, &c, Contracted for, Cheaper than any House in the trade.

Weddings conducted in first-class style with Modern Carriages and splendid Grey Horses. Postillions with Livery if required. And FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath.

J. E. Whitmore has added to his Establishment a Glass Sided Patent Hearse, which is a decided improvement upon the Hearses we have been accustomed to see. Its appearance is elegant, and with a pair of first-class Horses, would do no discredit to the funeral rites of the upper classes.

The Largest and Cheapest Combined Establishments in the District.

Splendid Black Entire Horses Equipped in the best style at the shortest notice.

Orders by Post punctually attended to. Hearse and Mourning Coaches in the most Modern Style.

Cheaper than any other Establishment within 50 miles.

Undertakers and Coffin Makers treated with on the most liberal terms.

119, Stafford Street, Dudley, and Five Ways, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 16/12/1882

“Philip Willetts, chainmaker, Cradley Heath, was charged with creating a disturbance at the FIVE WAYS INN, and he was further charged with assaulting Police-constable Mountford. The officer was sent for to eject defendant, and outside the house Willetts struck the officer on the face and chest. In the scuffle they both came to the ground, and defendant kicked complainant. The Bench fined the defendant 5s and costs.”

Dudley and District News 8/12/1883

“Matthew Billingham and Charles Billingham, chainmakers, of Cradley Heath, were charged with assaulting *William Henry Hickton*, landlord of the FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath; and Emmanuel Billingham, also of Cradley Heath, was summoned for refusing to quit the licensed premises of Mr. *Hickton*.

On the night of the 26th ult the whole of the defendants were in the complainant’s house, and the last named defendant began to quarrel. The landlord requested him to leave, but he refused; whereupon the landlord took hold of him for the purpose of putting him out. Whilst the landlord was attempting to carry out his purpose, the other two defendants assaulted him.

Superintendent Woollaston said it was a very disgraceful disturbance and carried on for some considerable time.

Defendants were each fined 5s and costs, or 14 days.”

County Advertiser 14/6/1884 - Advert

“Wanted, an honest and industrious Girl. None but of good character need apply.

Mrs. *Hickton*, FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath.”

Dudley and District News 5/7/1884

“William Clinton (50), Bridgnorth, Abel Homer (17), and Joseph Homer, chainmakers, Lomey Town, Joseph Billingham (18), were charged with sleeping out at Cradley Heath, on Sunday the 29th ult.

Abel Homer was further charged with assaulting PC Tytherleigh. PCs Peake and Tytherleigh found the defendants sleeping in an outhouse on the licensed premises of Mr. *Hickton*, the FIVE WAYS INN. They were found covered with straw. When they were ordered away Abel Homer kicked Tytherleigh.

The charges of vagrancy were dismissed, and for the assault Homer was committed for seven days.”

County Express 29/11/1884 - Advert

“FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath.

For Sale by Private Treaty, this well-known Full-Licensed Public House and Premises, with Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession. Capital corner position, doing a good in and out-door trade; also a lucrative Posting Business is carried on.

The Premises comprise Spacious Liquor Vaults, Smoke Room, Kitchen, good Cellaring, Four Bed Rooms, Store Room, Brew-house, Stables, and large Enclosed Yard.

A portion of purchase money may remain.

Apply, Mr. Geo. Edmonds, 76, High Street, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 5/9/1885 - Advert

“Cab, Car, and Wagonette Establishment, FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath.

W. H. Hickton, having to quit the above Inn, begs to inform his Patrons and the Public at large that he will continue to carry on the Posting Business at the Yard of the FIVE WAYS INN, as usual; and he hopes by keeping good Horses and steady Drivers to meet

with a continuance of that fair share of public support hitherto accorded to him.

Wagonettes, Brakes, Omnibuses, Cabs & Cars, on the Shortest Notice.

Pleasure Parties requiring either Two or Four-Horse Brakes will find the above one of the Best Establishments in the Country. Mourning Department. Hearses and Mourning Coaches of every description. Orders promptly attended to at reasonable prices. Orders may be left at the FIVE WAYS INN, or at private residence, opposite yard.”

County Advertiser 17/10/1885

“George Homes, Graingers Lane, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of *Albert Lovatt*, FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, on the 10th inst. Police-sergeant White found the defendant drunk in the yard at the back of Mr. *Lovatt*’s house. Defendant was fined 1s and costs, or seven days’ imprisonment.”

County Advertiser 22/5/1886 - Advert

“.....J. E. Whitmore has added to his Establishment a Glass-Sided Patent Hearse, which is a decided improvement upon the Hearses we have been accustomed to see. Its appearance is elegant, and with a pair of first-class Horses, would do no discredit to the funeral rites of the upper classes.....

119, Stafford Street, Dudley, and Five Ways Cradley Heath.”

[This advert appeared for several years.]

Birmingham Daily Post 23/7/1886

“At the Police Court, on Wednesday, Benjamin Allwood (55), greengrocer, Cradley Heath, was charged with stealing a purse, containing £1 0s 4d and nine pawn-tickets, the property of Mary Shaw, Lye Waste.

Prosecutrix dropped the purse at the FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, and a man saw the prisoner pick it up and hurry away. When arrested he admitted to Police-constable White that he had the purse, and showed the officer where he had concealed it amongst the rafters of an outhouse.

Prisoner was fined £5 and costs, or in default two months’ imprisonment.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 4/6/1887

“*Albert Lovatt*, landlord of the FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, was charged with keeping open during prohibited hours on the 26th and 27th ult.

PS Hayward stated that he visited the FIVE WAYS, Cradley Heath, which was managed by *Roberts* about 11.15. There were about 30 men in the tap room being supplied with drink. He turned them out, and about 11.30 he saw a number of the same people in again. He visited the house at 12.15, and saw about 10 persons in the smoke room. Among the number were several well-known pugilists from Birmingham.

Defendant pleaded that there were 11 persons and only one wagonette, and they were simply waiting while they could get another conveyance.

PC Peake and PC Wallace corroborated.

The Bench said they considered it a very bad case, and defendant was fined £10 and costs in the first case, and 1s and costs in the second case.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/6/1887

“At the Old Hill Police Court, yesterday, Alfred Greenfield, of Birmingham, William Hickton, of Cradley Heath, and William Stevens, of Quarry Bank, were charged with being on the licensed premises of the FIVE WAYS INN during prohibited hours on the night of the 26th ult.

Police-sergeant Hayward deposed to seeing the defendants upon the premises above named after 11.30 on the date in question. Mr. Hebbert, for the defence, said that a boxing competition took place at the inn on the date named, and as they were aware that the competition could not have any refreshments during the competition, it was necessary that they should have some before starting on their journey to Birmingham.

Alfred Greenfield said he came to assist in Westerfields’s benefit at Cradley heath. After the competition had closed at eleven o’clock they partook of refreshments. He did not think they were doing any harm. He should take great care he did not come into that part of the country again.

The Bench dismissed the case against Greenfield, and fined the other defendants 10s and costs each.”

County Advertiser 18/6/1887

“*Albert Lovatt*, landlord of the FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, was charged with keeping his house open during prohibited hours, on the 8th inst, and further with permitting drunkenness on the same date. Mr. Whitehouse, of Dudley, appeared to defend. Police-sergeant Hayward was on duty with Police-constables Peake and Wallace, on FIVE WAYS INN, and saw a light in the house at twenty minutes past one am on the morning of the 8th inst. Hayward looked through the letter box and saw a man named Hickton come out of the smoke room, and heard him saying, ‘Wake the — up.’ He then looked through the smoke room window and saw *Roberts*, the manager of the house, trying to awake a man who was lying on a bench. Upon going into the house the officer asked who the man was lying on the bench, and *Roberts* replied, ‘It’s Tom Whitmore, of Dudley. He’s been out with Will Hickton, and got a little too much.’ Two women were present, and the defendant said one was Mrs. Whitmore and the other Mrs. Hickton. On the table was a glass containing whiskey. Hayward saw two vehicles waiting outside the house, both in charge of grooms in the employ of Mr. Hickton. Outside the house the manager went to Hayward and said, ‘That fellow is awfully bad, I think I shall fetch the doctor.’ The officer told him that the man was helplessly drunk, and he should report the case. *Roberts* then

asked the officer to overlook the case that time as he was only manager there.

Mr. Whitehouse, in defence, urged that no case had been made out, because the man had not got drunk upon the premises. *Lovatt* had now no interest in the house as it had been sold, and notice of transfer had been given. *Lovatt* had, however, no knowledge of the case, as he had a manager at the house.

Roberts, the manager, was then called, and swore that at about a quarter to eleven o'clock Whitmore came to his house to meet his wife and Mrs. Hickton. He was taken ill, and witness took Whitmore into the house and laid him upon a bench, where he went to sleep. Witness did not supply Whitmore or any of the other people with anything to drink.

William Hickton and Louise Hickton, of Cradley, and Thomas Whitmore and Louise Whitmore, of Dudley, were charged with being upon the licensed premises as above. Mr. Jackson defended. The Bench decided not to take any evidence against the women. Police-sergeant Hayward was called, and repeated his evidence.

Mr. Jackson, in defence, contended that there was no evidence to convict the defendant. The men were friends of *Roberts*, and they only stayed at the house to wait for their wives.

After hearing the evidence of the defendants, the Bench said they did not think there was any doubt which they could give the defendants the benefit of.

Lovatt was fined £10 and costs in the first case, and £1 and costs in the second case. Hickton and Whitmore were also fined 20s and costs each."

Dudley Mercury 6/4/1889

"Thomas Baker, no fixed abode, was charged with being drunk and disorderly, on the 1st of May, 1888, and also with assaulting Police-constable Wynne, on the 2nd inst. The officer stated that on the 1st of May, last year, he saw the prisoner drunk, at the FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath. He had been turned out of a public house, had broken several jugs, and had thrown a jug at the landlord and a customer. Prisoner had since absconded. On Tuesday afternoon he arrested the prisoner in the HOLLY BUSH INN, Cradley Heath. He had to drag and carry the prisoner, who kicked him several times. Prisoner was fined 2s 6d and costs, or seven days' imprisonment for the drunkenness, and 5s and costs, or fourteen days' imprisonment for the assault.

John Stinton, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, was charged with attempting to rescue the last prisoner from the police, on the 2nd inst, and was fined 2s 6d and costs, or fourteen days' imprisonment."

1891 Census

90, High Street – FIVE WAYS INN

[1] *Samuel Mobberley* (38), publican, born Brierley Hill;

[2] Elizabeth Mobberley (35), wife, born Brierley Hill;

[3] Thomas Mobberley (15), son, auctioneer's apprentice, born Brierley Hill;

[4] Florence Mobberley (14), daughter, born Brierley Hill;

[5] Gerty Boddington (14), visitor, born Birmingham:

County Advertiser 28/1/1893 - Advert

"FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath.

Within Three Minutes' Walk of Cradley Station, on Great Western Railway.

First-Class Family and Commercial Hotel.

Large Commercial Room, Capable of Dining One Hundred and Fifty Persons.

Coffee and Private Sitting Rooms.

Large Airy Bed Rooms.

Moderate Charges.

The Finest Billiard Room in the District.

An Ordinary Daily at 1-15.

Simpkiss's Famous Home-Brewed Ales, from Round Oak Brewery, Brierley Hill.

Mild, Running, and Bitter Beers, Brewed from the Choicest Malt and Hops.

The Finest Irish and Scotch Whiskeys; and Wines direct from bond, and the choicest Brands of Cigars always in stock.

First-Class Posting Establishment.

Weddings and Funeral Parties promptly attended to.

Cabs and Cars attend all trains.

Christmas Parties and Clubs, on giving timely notice to the landlord, can be properly catered for.

Samuel Mobberley, Proprietor."

[This advert takes up a whole column in the newspaper and appeared for several months.]

County Advertiser 22/4/1893

"Wages in the Chain Trade.

At a meeting held on Wednesday evening, under the auspices of the National Amalgamation of the Chainmakers and Chain Strikers' Association, at the FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, Mr. James Smith, the secretary, reported that fourteen days' notice for the 5s list of prices expires on Saturday (today), and that the whole of the outworkers and factory workers would turn out on strike in the event of the employers refusing to concede it. Out of 451 outworkers visited 434 have already expressed their willingness to turn out on strike, the men being of opinion 'it was better play and starve than work and starve.' Delegates complained that Mr. T. Homer had been going to the chainmakers and urging them not to recognise the notice for an advance.

A resolution was passed protesting against Mr. Homer's conduct, and also one in favour of legitimate efforts being made to secure

the 5s list of prices.”

Midland Sun 8/7/1893 - Advert

“Commercial Men Should Note That The FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath is the best house for First Class Accommodation. Finest Ales, Wines, Spirits, and Cigars at Moderate Charges. Billiards. Proprietor – Mr. *S. Mobberley*. Three Minutes from Station. Cabs, Cars etc, for Hire.”

County Advertiser 5/8/1893

“Forestry. The members of the court Good Samaritan held their thirty-fourth annual meeting at the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on Monday last, when 53 members sat down to an excellent dinner. Bro. J. Salt, CR, was voted to the chair. The usual business having been transacted, a very enjoyable evening was spent, and a vote of thanks was given to the host and hostess.”

County Advertiser 25/11/1893

“Football. Cradley Heath Assistants v Stourbridge Early Closers. The above match was played at Stourbridge on Thursday, November 16th, and ended in a win for the Heathens by three goals to one, after a stubbornly contested game, in which there was not much to choose between the teams. The visitors’ defence showed up well. Clubs wishing to arrange matches with Cradley Heath please write to T. *Mobberley*, FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 23/12/1893

“*Samuel Mobberley*, landlord of the FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, was charged with keeping open his licensed premises during prohibited hours, and also with selling intoxicating liquors to Arthur Griffiths during prohibited hours, on the 8th inst. Mr. Waldron defended.

The case for the prosecution was that soon after midnight on the 8th inst, Police-sergeant Newman, in company with Police-constable Winn, visited the hotel, and upon going into the kitchen saw Mr. Griffiths, chain manufacturer, High Street, Cradley Heath, seated by a table with a glass of liquor before him, and the defendant’s daughter sitting on his knee. There were two other girls in the room whom the officers took to be servants. He asked the daughter to fetch the landlord, and when he came into the bar, Newman asked him how he accounted for Griffiths being in the house. Defendant said he did not know he was there, and that he must have come in without his knowledge. Griffiths just then came up to them and said, ‘I know I have no business here, I ought to be at home,’ and the officers noticed that he was under the influence of drink. Previous to going into the hotel the officers had looked through the window, and had seen Mrs. *Mobberley* put, what they thought, was whiskey and lemon into two glasses. A cab came out of the yard and drove towards Brierley Hill while they were near the window.

In cross-examination by Mr. Waldron, Police-sergeant Newman said that defendant carried on a cab business, and the hotel was the best commercial hotel in the district. It was a house frequently used by theatrical companies, and he believed that the two ladies belonged to a company and were staying at the house.

Mr. Waldron said it was very unfortunate for his client that the affair should have occurred, because if the Bench were satisfied that selling to Mr. Griffiths took place, they would have to convict him. But he would satisfy them beyond all doubt that it did not take place. Mr. Griffiths had been in Cradley Heath for forty years, and was well-known. He had previously been gossiping with the two theatrical ladies, and came back to have a talk with them. He must have come in by the side door, through which the cabman went, and had been in the private part of the house without the landlord’s knowledge.

Arthur Griffiths gave evidence in support of this statement, and said he had nothing to drink in the house after eleven o’clock. He was under the influence of liquor.

Cross-examined: He did not have any whiskey for himself or the theatrical ladies.

Mr. *Mobberley* said that no whiskey was served after eleven o’clock, and he not the slightest knowledge that Griffiths was there.

Mrs. *Mobberley* and Florence *Mobberley* also gave evidence in support of defendant’s case.

The Bench said that as there was a doubt in the case they should follow their usual practice, and give the defendant *Mobberley* the benefit of it. The charge against him would be dismissed.

Arthur Griffiths was fined 20s and costs for being found on the premises during prohibited hours.”

County Advertiser 30/12/1893 - Correction

“In a licensing prosecution reported at Old Hill Police Court last week, in which *Samuel Mobberley*, landlord of the FIVE WAYS INN, was defendant, it was stated that ‘Mr. Griffiths, chain manufacturer, High Street, Cradley Heath, was seated at a table with a glass of beer before him, and the defendant’s daughter seated on his knee’. This is an error in so far as the statement should have been ‘the barmaid seated on his knee’.”

County Advertiser 25/8/1894 - Advert

“Wanted, Domestic, age 18 to 20, honest and clean; able to assist in cooking; from the country preferred. Apply, Mrs. *Mobberley*, FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 12/1/1895

“On Friday last week the Great Western Railway goods staff at Cradley held their annual dinner at the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, and with the traders present fifty sat down to an excellent repast. Mr. J. A. Fellows, the Great Western Railway agent, presided, and the vice-chair was occupied by Mr. F. Connop (Connop Bros.). Toasts, songs, glees, and recitations made up an excellent pro-

gramme, and in every way the gathering was a success.”

County Advertiser 27/4/1895 - Advert

“To be Let, FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath, with Billiard Room and Furniture complete, large Assembly Room, Splendidly Fitted-up Bar, Smoke Room, Dining and Sitting Rooms, large Yard with Stabling, and Capital Cab and Car Business attached. For Rent and Ingoing, apply to A. H. Sidaway, Valuer, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 14/9/1895 - Advert

“To Publicans, Job Masters and Others.

FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath, Nine Miles from Birmingham, and Three Miles from Stourbridge.

Alford and Aston are instructed by the Proprietor (Mr. *S. Mobberley*) to Sell by Auction, at the Grand Hotel, Colmore Row, Birmingham, on Friday Evening, September 20th, 1895, at Six for Seven o'clock, subject to conditions to be then produced.

The Goodwill, Valuable Fourteen Years' Lease, and Possession of the above well-known Noble Corner Hotel and Spirit Vaults The Lease is at the low rental of £80 per year, is tied to Mr. W. H. Simpkins, of the Royal Oak Brewery, Round Oak, for draught ales only, discount 25 per cent.

Large Yard and Stabling, to which is attached a very Remunerative Posting Business, capable of great extension.

The Purchaser to take to the Fixtures, Fittings, Stock, Utensils, Horses, Vehicles at a valuation, which will probably amount to about £400.

NB. The whole to be treated for privately, and if sold due notice will be given.

Further particulars and cards to view from the Auctioneers, 19, Temple Street, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/10/1895 - Advert

“FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath; noble corner spirit vaults; lease 14 years; rent £80; good posting business attached. Total in-going about £750.

Photo can be seen, and all particulars from Alford and Aston, Auctioneers, Birmingham.”

Samuel Mobberley was also a cab proprietor. [1896]

County Advertiser 23/4/1898 - Advert

“Swan Hotel, Vicar Street, Kidderminster.

Proprietor, *S. Mobberley*, late of the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath, and the QUEENS HEAD INN, Level Street, Brierley Hill.

S. M. begs of inform the Public generally, and his old Friends of Cradley Heath and Brierley Hill in particular, that he has taken to the above Hotel.....”

County Advertiser 21/11/1896

“Joseph Homer and Hezekiah Bills, both residing at Cradley, were charged with refusing to quit the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, and also with threatening to do grievous bodily injury to the landlord, *John Richard Downes*.

It appeared that *Downes* had mistaken a man named Moses Weston, who was summoned in the first instance, for Bills. *Downes* picked out Bills in court.

Bills applied for an adjournment to get witnesses, and the cases were accordingly adjourned for a week.”

County Express 16/1/1897

“Hezekiah Bills and Joseph Homer, chainmakers, Cradley Heath, were charged with being drunk on the 14th November, with refusing to leave the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, and with threatening *John Richard Downes*, the landlord.

Mr. *Downes* stated that defendants and another man entered the FIVE WAYS HOTEL drunk, on November 14th. He ordered them out, after refusing to serve them. Bills and the third man left five minutes afterwards, using bad language, but Homer remained a quarter of an hour. Later the three men returned to the house, and witness fetched a policeman. Subsequently the men used beastly language outside the house, and threatened witness. He was afraid of Bills, but not of Homer, and witness would withdraw the charge of threats against Homer.

The defendants called witnesses to show they were sober whilst they were in the house, and that when requested to leave they did not refuse.

In the first case defendants were fined 5s and costs. In the case of threats Bills was bound over to keep the peace, and Homer was discharged.”

County Express 30/1/1897

“The Harmonic Club, held at the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, manager, Mr. *W. N. Cotterell*, continues to render excellent programmes.....”

County Express 20/3/1897 - Advert

“Wanted at once, a Smart Youth.

Apply, FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 20/3/1897

“The Harmonic Club, held at the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, has had a most successful season, and Mr. *Cottrell* is to be complimented on the manner in which all the concerts have been carried out, and the high standard he has aimed at in the programmes. The last of the concerts was given on Thursday, and it was a success from every point of view, the programme being greatly enjoyed. Following are the various items: Pianoforte sole, ‘Caliph of Bagdad,’ Mr. S. Foley; humorous song, ‘The Jap,’ Mr. H. A. Green; song, ‘The Lighthouse Keeper,’ Mr. Alfred Toy; violin solo, ‘Rhapsodie Hongroise,’ Mr. T. Edge; humorous song, ‘She was the Fairy,’ Mr. H. A. Green; song, ‘Out on the Deep,’ Mr. A. Toy; violin solo, ‘Adagio and Finale, 7th concerto,’ Mr. T. Edge; humorous song, ‘Send ’em up to me,’ Mr. H. A. Green; song, ‘I Fear no Foe,’ Mr. A. Toy.”

County Express 9/10/1897

“Mr. *W. N. Cottrell*, late of the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, is holding a series of harmonic meetings at the STAR HOTEL, Tipton, similar to those he gave in Cradley Heath.....”

William Nathaniel Cottrell – see also STAR, Tipton, GLOBE, Mount Pleasant, Bilston, and LEOPARD, Church Street, Bilston.

County Express 17/4/1897

“An interim authority was granted to *Harry Letts* for the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath.

Sir Benjamin Hingley remarked on the number of transfers that took place, and said it did not seem to be a question of providing for the convenience of the public, but how much profit the managers made. The chairman was not there that day, but the whole question would have to be thrashed out.”

County Advertiser 28/8/1897

“*Harry Letts*, landlord of the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises, and also with selling liquor to a drunken person on the 12th inst. Mr. J. W. Clulow appeared to prosecute on behalf of the police authorities, and Mr. Ward defended.....

Police-sergeant Newman said that about five minutes past seven on the night of the 12th inst he was on duty at the Five Ways in company with Police-constable Wynn, when he saw a navvy named Grant come out of the FIVE WAYS HOTEL by the side door leading into Scolding Green and go into a urinal. Witness noticed that he was drunk, that he staggered, and had to support himself by the wall. Grant after a time went back into the house, and entered one of the rooms. The officers went into the house, and witness there saw Grant and another navvy named Walker, who was also drunk, sitting at a table, upon which there was a pint of ale. Both men drank from the cup in the presence of the officers. Both men were very drunk, and the appearance of Walker was very sodden. Witness spoke to them, asking for their names, and Grant said, ‘What the — hell do you want our names for?’ Both of the men were very abusive and insolent, particularly Grant. Witness ultimately got their names from them, and then told the landlord that he ought not to supply men when in that condition. Defendant replied, ‘I did not know they were so bad. I have only just come out of the billiard room. They have only had a pint of fourpenny.’ Defendant turned to Homer, his barman, and said to him, ‘How long have they been in?’ Homer said, ‘Three-quarters of an hour, and only had two pints of fourpenny.’ Witness served the summons on defendant, and he then said, ‘I think this is uncalled for. I didn’t consider the men drunk.’

Cross-examined: The men were strangers to that district. Neither of the men denied that they were drunk.

Police-constable Wynn corroborated.

Benjamin Foulkes deposed to seeing the two men drunk and staggering about in the street the same evening.

This closed the case for the prosecution.....

The defendant was called, and said the men were quiet, and did not use any bad language at all. There was nothing in the appearance of the men when he saw them to lead him to believe they were drunk.

Cross-examined: They were quite sober.

Thomas Homer, barman at defendant’s house, said he considered they were sober when they came in, and there was nothing in their appearance which prevented him from filling them ale.

Cross-examined: If the police officers had said they staggered it was untrue.

George Homer deposed to the men being perfectly sober, and to their using no bad language at all. He could not tell they had had anything to drink, they looked so sober.

Defendant was fined £5 and costs, including solicitor’s fee, and Mr. Bassano said he wished to say that the Bench had rarely seen a case so much upheld on the part of the defence by perjury as that had been. The evidence was absolutely disgraceful. The question of the license being continued would be adjourned to the Adjourned Licensing Day.”

Henry ‘Harry’ Letts – see also BEECH TREE, Gorsty Hill Road, Blackheath and BEEHIVE, Old Hill.

County Express 2/10/1897

“Old Hill Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Stephen Deeley applied for a temporary permit for the FIVE WAYS HOTEL. Inspector Given said *Harry Letts* was fined £5 and costs for permitting drunkenness. Since then a change had taken place in the tenancy, *Stephen Deeley*, from the GEORGE HOTEL having gone in and was conducting it to the satisfaction of the police. He had no personal objection to Mr. *Deeley*. The house belonged to the North Worcestershire Breweries Company. The license was withheld last time, and remarks were made as to the house continually changing hands. The application was now granted.”

County Advertiser 11/6/1898

“On Thursday night a meeting was held at the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath, when Police-sergeant Newman, who retired

from the Staffordshire police force in May, was made the recipient of a handsome presentation.....”
[He was given a purse of £30 in gold.]

County Advertiser 13/5/1899

“Lovers of billiards in Cradley Heath and neighbourhood have a treat in store for them. F. Bateman, the Champion of the Midlands Counties, whose match with Dawson will be fresh in the minds of our readers, will visit the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, next Thursday evening, and play an exhibition match with two local amateurs.”

County Advertiser 22/7/1899 - Advert

“FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath.

H. O. Homer is instructed to Offer for Sale at the above Hotel, on Tuesday Next, July 25th, 1899, Three Valuable Cobs, surplus Household Furniture and Effects.....”

County Advertiser 14/10/1899

“Joseph Reed, town crier for Blackheath, was charged with being drunk and disorderly on the public highway at Blackheath on the 30th ult. Police-constable Smith proved the case, and defendant, who had been convicted several times, was fined 20s. William Willetts, of Oldbury Road, Blackheath, was charged with a like offence, and fined 10s, including costs. Thomas Birks, of Scolding Green Road, Cradley Heath, was charged with a similar offence on the 2nd inst. Police-constable Tiernan gave evidence in support of the case, and said he cautioned the landlord of the FIVE WAYS INN, which defendant had entered, not to serve him. Afterwards defendant went to an auction sale, and was very disorderly there. Defendant was fined 10s, including costs.”

County Advertiser 2/12/1899

“The staff and tenants of the North Worcestershire Breweries Company have organised special collections, by means of boxes, in aid of the funds for soldiers’ families. At a meeting on the 23rd November, at the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath, a sum of £4 5s was collected.....”

County Advertiser 22/9/1900

“Mr. E. O. Nightingale, auctioneer, of Cradley Heath, held a very successful sale of properties at the FIVE WAYS HOTEL on Tuesday evening. The property comprised six small dwelling houses in Scolding Green Road. The bidding started at £400, and the property was eventually knocked down to Mr. D. Woodhall for £560. There was a large and influential company present, and the price realised was considered highly satisfactory.”

County Advertiser 3/11/1900 - Advert

“To Let, Stable, at the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath.
Apply, *S. Deeley*.”

County Advertiser 23/3/1901 - Advert

“Sale of Fruit Trees, Bulbs, and Shrubs, at the House of Mr. *S. Deeley*, the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath. Arthur H. Sidaway is instructed to Sell by Auction, on Wednesday Next, March 27th, 1901, a choice selection of Shrubs, Bulbs, Fruit and Rose Trees, (all to name), consisting of Plum, Cherry, Peach, and Currants, Rhododendrons, Azaleas and Laurels, Climbing and Dwarf Roses, Azaleas, Hydrangea, Dogberries, and a splendid assortment of Gladiolus and Lily Bulbs. Sale will commence at Two o’clock. Catalogues may be had from the Auctioneer, High Street, Cradley Heath.”

1901 Census

90, High Street

- [1] *Stephen Deeley* (33), licensed victualler, born Cradley Heath;
- [2] *Emma J. Deeley* (33), wife, born Cradley Heath;
- [3] *William H. Deeley* (13), son, born Cradley Heath;
- [4] *Emma J. Deeley* (11), daughter, born Cradley Heath;
- [5] *Ethel M. Deeley* (3), daughter, born Cradley Heath;
- [6] *Nellie Tranter* (22), barmaid, born Essington;
- [7] *Vinney Parish* (15), domestic servant, born Cradley Heath;
- [8] *Florrie Perks* (12), niece, born Cradley Heath;

County Express 8/6/1901

“On Thursday evening, at the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath, Inspector Given (who has recently been moved to Tipton), after nearly eleven years’ service at Old Hill, was presented with a purse of gold containing £72, and an illuminated address; a timepiece was also presented to him for Mrs. Given.....”

County Express 5/10/1901

“Cradley Heath Town Prize Band. A complimentary supper in connection with this band was given at the FIVE WAYS HOTEL on Monday evening. There was a good attendance, over which Mr. H. Shaw presided. After a capital dinner had been enjoyed the

evening was pleasantly passed with songs, solos, etc. During the evening a presentation of a gold scarf pin was made to the conductor of the band, Mr. E. Billingham, who had worked so assiduously to bring it to its present state of efficiency. Mr. Billingham suitably acknowledged the gift.”

County Advertiser 22/3/1902

“On Tuesday evening a smoking concert arranged by the members of the Cradley Heath Liberal Club was held in the club room of the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath, kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. *S. Deeley*. There was a large gathering, which included representatives from several neighbouring clubs.....”

County Express 11/10/1902

“At the Old Hill Police Court, yesterday (Friday), Andrew Deakin, a respectably-dressed individual, of Long Lane, Blackheath, was charged in custody with stealing three billiard balls from the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, the property of the landlord. It is alleged that the accused took the balls after a game of billiards on Thursday afternoon. He was remanded, on bail, until Wednesday, himself in £20 and sureties of £10 each.”

Smethwick Weekly News 18/10/1902

“At Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, Andrew Deakin, tobacconist and hairdresser, of Long Lane, Blackheath, was charged with stealing three billiard balls, of the value of £2, belonging to *Stephen Deeley*, landlord of the FIVE WAYS INN, High Street, Cradley Heath, on the 9th inst.

Prosecutor stated that defendant visited his premises, and went to the billiard room. Witness had recently lost billiard balls, and becoming suspicious, he made enquiries and discovered that three balls were missing. Defendant was sitting in the smoke room, and upon witness speaking to him, he handed the balls to him, remarking that he was very sorry, but he stole the balls to raise money in order to pay a fine at Kidderminster.

Inspector Hodgkinson stated that defendant was fined £3 and costs for street betting at Kidderminster on the 20th August.

Defendant expressed regret and asked the Bench to deal with him leniently.

The Bench fined defendant £5 and costs, in all £5 13s.”

Tipton Herald 7/3/1903

“William Ball, who resides at Birch Coppice, Quarry Bank, was summoned for refusing to quit the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath. Mr. *Stephen Deeley*, the landlord, stated that on the 28th ult the defendant came into his house in a state of insobriety. He behaved in a very disorderly manner, and he requested him to leave. Defendant refused to do so and had to be forcibly ejected. Defendant pleaded guilty, and was fined 10s and costs or in default of payment go to gaol for 14 days.”

Tipton Herald 21/3/1903

“Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) conducted an inquiry at the BRITISH OAK INN, Old Hill, on Wednesday morning relative to the death of Emma Jane *Deeley*, 36, of the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath, who died under peculiar circumstances on Monday evening last.

The first witness called was *Stephen Deeley*, husband of the deceased, who stated that he was manager of the FIVE WAYS HOTEL. He had been married nearly sixteen years, and his wife had had seven children. She had enjoyed good health up to the last two weeks, and carried out her duties up till Thursday night last. They partook of supper, and then retired to rest. At 5.10 the next morning he awoke, and she complained of feeling ill, and he called the barmaid for assistance. She seemed to get all right, and he got into bed again, and she went to wake her son to go to work. She returned to bed, and at 6.30 he was awoke by hearing a gurgling sound in his wife’s throat. He saw blood streaming out of her mouth down her cheek. He never saw such a sight before. He subsequently discovered that she had bit her tongue through. He again called for the barmaid, and sent her for the doctor whilst he looked after his wife. Dr. Fryer and the deceased’s mother came. His wife was unconscious, and remained so until her death. She died at 5.55pm on Monday in great agony. His wife never told him about taking any pills.

Elizabeth Harrison, of Newton Lane, Cradley Heath, deposed that she was a private nurse. On the 13th instant she was called to Mrs. *Deeley*, whom she nursed until death occurred. Doctors Fryer and Tibbetts, together with Dr. Stacey Wilson, of Birmingham, were in attendance. On the 28th of November last year, she nursed the deceased during an illness. The doctor was very suspicious about her taking something. She questioned the deceased, who admitted she had taken some pills which she got from the barmaid’s mother. Deceased told her that she used to take two in the morning and two in the evening. She expressed a hope that witness would not tell the doctors or her husband about taking the pills. Witness gave deceased a good reprimand and promised not to say anything about the pills if deceased would promise not to take any more.

Caroline Peters, of the ODDFELLOWS ARMS, Oldbury, deceased’s sister in law, and Nancy Foley, the mother of Mrs. *Deeley*, deposed to being present at the death of the deceased. She suffered great pain, and agony. They did not know anything about deceased taking any pills before her death.

Phyllis Baker, barmaid, engaged at the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath, said deceased was her mistress. She had been engaged there for 9 months. In November of last year deceased spoke to her, and witness went to West Bromwich and spoke to her mother about it. After much hesitation her mother gave her (witness) 30 pills to take to Mrs. *Deeley*. She gave instructions that she was to take two at night and two in the morning. Witness gave the pills to Mrs. *Deeley*, who told her some time afterwards that she had taken them. Mrs. *Deeley* became ill some time after taking the pills. She eventually recovered and continued taking the pills again. Deceased told witness not to say anything to Mr. *Deeley* about her taking the pills. Mrs. *Deeley* sent a pair of slippers to witness’s mother for sending the pills. Shortly after Christmas deceased again asked witness to write to her mother for some pills. A fortnight after that Mrs. *Deeley* paid witness’s fare to West Bromwich to fetch more pills from her mother.

Witness's mother sent Mrs. *Deeley* 50 pills, and told witness to tell deceased that if she fell ill she was to stop taking the pills. Deceased took all these pills, and made a request for more. Witness went to West Bromwich on purpose to get some more, but forgot to bring them. Her mother made up the pills.

Inspector Hodgkinson stated that he visited Mrs. Baker's house on Tuesday evening, at Mount Pleasant, West Bromwich. He told Mrs. Baker that he had come to make enquiries in respect of the sudden death of Mrs. *Deeley*, and she replied, 'I know nothing about it. I was over there five weeks ago, and I went to the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, and I and Mrs. *Deeley* got into conversation about some pills, and I told her they were no good. She had some with her, and showed them to me. She then asked me if I would make her some, and I promised her I would.

The Coroner then adjourned the inquiry until April 24th, in order to have the pills, contents of the stomach, and the liver analysed. The jury were bound over and discharged until the next inquiry."

Tipton Herald 25/4/1903

"Mr. H. A. Pearson (South Staffordshire Coroner) resumed the inquiry yesterday into the circumstances of the death of Emily *Deeley* (34), formerly residing at the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, who died on March 16th last under singular circumstances.

The Coroner said they would remember that the enquiry had been adjourned for the purposes of analyzing the contents of the stomach.

Mrs. Baker said she did not wish to ask any questions, but stated that it was a few days before Mrs. *Deeley* was taken ill that she gave her some pills.

Mr. Harry Silvestre of Dudley and West Bromwich, analyst, deposed to analysing the pills and contents of the stomach. He analysed 27 pills, weighing 15 grains. He traced lead oxide, olive oil, and bitter aloes. He also analysed 33 pills weighing 146 grains. They were coated with French chalk, coloured. They contained oil of pennyroyal, reduced oil, and aloes. He found no lead in these pills. He analysed the contents of the stomach and traced arsenic, antimony, mercury, and copper. He analysed the liver and spleen, but with negative results.

In answer to the Coroner witness said that had deceased died from lead poisoning he should have expected to discover traces of lead. No doubt there was lead poisoning, but the evidence was eliminated at the time he had the samples.

Dr. Fryer, who made a post mortem examination on the body, was still of opinion that deceased died from convulsion and lead poisoning. He could not say, on the face of the analyst's evidence, that the convulsions were caused by the lead poisoning. Convulsions could be brought on by other causes. He expected, if the deceased died from lead poisoning, that the analyst would find traces of lead.

Dr. T. M. Tibbetts, of Old Hill, said he attended the deceased up to the time of her death – from March 13th. When she was in convulsions he examined her, and found lead in her system. He could not possibly say whether the lead poisoning caused convulsions. He agreed with Dr. Fryer that convulsions was the cause of death. If she died from lead poisoning he should have expected to find some lead in the system.

The Coroner said it was a case that had caused a considerable amount of trouble and anxiety, and it was also a case that was of considerable importance to the public. A statement had been made by the deceased woman to a nurse, but that could not be used as evidence, as it was made in the presence of Mrs. Baker. The woman Baker had also made several admissions to Inspector Hodgkinson.

Mrs. Baker: Mrs. *Deeley* never took any of the pills.

The Coroner: How do you know that?

Mrs. Baker: I can swear it. I never sent her any.

A verdict to the effect that Death was due to Convulsions during pregnancy was returned."

County Advertiser 5/12/1903

"The presentation by the money club at the FIVE WAYS HOTEL to Mr. *Stephen Deeley*, the host, on the occasion of his wedding, duly came off on Wednesday evening. The present took the form of a valuable eider down quilt, supplied by Mr. Enoch Gould, of High Street. In the unavoidable absence of the chairman (Mr. T. Poole), Mr. H. F. Shaw made the presentation, wishing Mr. and Mrs. *Deeley* long life and happiness, and remarking that it was a great pleasure to present the gift to so genial and true a friend.

Mr. Arthur Griffiths followed with a complimentary address, in which he praised the host's rare qualities as a caterer.

Mr. *Deeley*, in response, thanked the chairman, committee, and the members of the club on behalf of himself and wife. He should value the present, not only for its intrinsic value, but as coming from a circle of respected and valued friends. He should be happy to be associated with a similar compliment to any of them should the occasion arise. (Laughter and applause.)

The remainder of the evening was spent socially."

County Advertiser 2/1/1904

"Sick and Draw Clubs.....

The members of the club held at the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath, sat down to a capital dinner on Monday last. A dividend of 15s 6d out of a total of 17s paid in, was declared, and the members voted it very satisfactory. The following day the host entertained the company to a cold collation, at the close of which a vote of thanks was passed to the host and hostess for the way in which they had conducted the whole affair."

County Advertiser 1/10/1904

"A London Outing. A short time ago it was suggested at Mr. *Deeley*'s money club at the FIVE WAYS HOTEL that a trip to the metropolis be arranged. Mr. *Deeley* promised a sovereign towards the amount which would be necessary to secure a saloon; and the arrangements were left in the hands of Mr. T. Poole and Mr. H. F. Shaw. The outcome on Monday last was a great success.

Mr. T. Poole had arranged with the G.W.R. for a saloon from Cradley Heath with a special engine to run to meet the excursion from Wolverhampton, and also a special engine to meet them on their return. Mr. H. F. Shaw had made the London arrangements, and when the party arrived at 11.30am three landaus and pairs were in waiting at Paddington. After a stay at the Three Nuns for luncheon, the party visited St. Paul's, the Houses of Parliament, Hyde Park, the Albert Memorial. They passed over London Bridge and the Tower Bridge; they went into the Tower, into the City, into the Bank of England, into the General Post Office, and into Smithfield; and having seen so much of interesting and historic London the party returned to dine at the Café Monaco. At 25 minutes to one on Tuesday morning they left for home, and arrived at 5.30am, thoroughly satisfied with the outing."

County Advertiser 12/11/1904

"Emily Kenny, a young woman, who described herself as an actress, of no fixed abode, but was said to have come from Rugby, was charged in custody with stealing a hat of the value of 5s belonging to Annie Powell, of Stambermill, on the 6th inst. It appeared from the evidence that prosecutrix paid a visit to the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath, which is kept by her father, but when she was preparing to leave at night she discovered that her hat had been stolen from the kitchen. Prisoner was arrested by Police-sergeant Wood when she was behaving in an eccentric manner and when charged with the offence said, 'I have done a silly trick, but hope to be forgiven.' Inspector Gibbs said prisoner belonged to a respectable family but had recently given way to drink, and had been walking the streets in male dress. She had several convictions against her. She was sent to gaol for a month with hard labour."

County Advertiser 19/11/1904

"Wednesday evening was 'Money Club Night' at the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, and Mr. *Stephen Deeley*, the host, catered an excellent dinner. When the business of the money club was completed, Mr. *Deeley* took the chair. After a brief congratulatory address to the members, he said he had been asked on behalf of the club to make two presentations, to Mr. T. Poole and Mr. H. F. Shaw, the former of whom made the railway arrangements, and the latter the driving arrangements, in connection with the recent outing of the club to London. He then handed to each of those gentlemen a briar pipe, gold mounted, with the club's best wishes. Mr. Poole and Mr. Shaw suitably responded, each of them expressing their complete surprise at the welcome recognition of their services."

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, Old Hill.....

Mr. F. R. Garrard applied for permission to carry out alterations to the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath, belonging to the North Worcestershire Breweries Company, in order that better supervision of the rooms could be obtained by the licensee. The application was granted."

County Advertiser 8/6/1907

"The quarterly licensing sessions for the Old Hill Petty Sessional Division were held at the Police Court, on Wednesday, before Messrs. J. F. Pearson, C. W. Bassano, and A. C. Lowe.

An interesting point was raised in connection with an application for the transfer of the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath, from *Benjamin Alfred Hill* to *John Pillow*.

Mr. G. T. S. Plant (Dudley) opposed the application on behalf of *Hill* on the ground that the owners of the house, the North Worcestershire Brewery Company, had behaved in a very oppressive manner towards his client. At one time, he said, they waived their objection to *Hill* accepting the tenancy of the CORNGREAVES HOTEL, Cradley Heath, belonging to Mr. Thomas Priest, but subsequently withdrew the waiver and contended that it would be a breach of the agreement entered into between him and the Company. He (Mr. Plant) admitted that *Hill* had signed an agreement, but he did not read a clause prohibiting him from taking the tenancy of a licensed house within one mile of the FIVE WAYS HOTEL. The clause was not read out to his client, and he signed the agreement in ignorance of that fact. The North Worcestershire Brewery Co. had threatened his client with an injunction if he went to keep the CORNGREAVES HOTEL, and unless they waived their objection his contract with Mr. Darby would fall through. He contended that the agreement entered into by *Hill* was a most unjust one, and should not be approved by licensing benches. Under it the licensee would become a mere serf, likely to be thrown out at any minute, and it would also debar his client from earning his living in the district where he had resided for a long period. He asked the bench to bring pressure to bear upon 'this bloated brewery company.'

Mr. T. Cooksey (magistrates' clerk) said *Hill* had been induced to give up the possession of the house, and also to consent to the transfer of the license, at the previous session. The only question for the bench to deal with was whether the present applicant was a fit and proper person to be entrusted with the license. His character was very good, and as the agreement was also satisfactory, he should advise the justices to grant the transfer. The matter raised by Mr. Plant should be considered in another court.

Mr. Plant replied that under the Act of Parliament his client was there for the purpose of laying certain objections to the transfer of the license which he urged the bench to take notice of. Mr. Cooksey said it was not a question for that court to settle.

The Bench granted the application, Mr. Pearson remarking that the dispute between the parties should be settled in another court."

County Express 12/9/1908

"Friendly Societies' Parade. On Wednesday evening the committee of the above met at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Mr. W. Coley presiding over a large attendance. The following was a complete list of those boxes which contained amounts of 1s and upwards.....

Mr. *E. Slinn*, FIVE WAYS HOTEL, 4s 2d."

County Express 10/10/1908

“On Wednesday, at Old Hill, Wm. Southall (30), Tibbetts Gardens, was summoned for refusing to quit the licensed premises of the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath, and for damaging a glass door to the extent of £1 4s 9d, belonging to the landlord, *Edward Slinn*, on the 19th ult.

It was alleged that defendant went into the public-house in a drunken condition. When requested to leave he declined, and smashed a large glass door.

Defendant said the damage was caused during a disturbance.

He was fined 10s, including costs, and the damage for the other offence.”

Tipton Herald 20/3/1909

“The billiard room at the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath, kept by Mr. *E. Slinn*, was reopened on Monday evening, after having been decorated and brought up to date. There was a large attendance. A billiard match had been arranged between a number of the members of the local Conservative Club and a team chosen from amongst the customers of the house.....”

[The Customers beat the Conservatives 5-2.]

Tipton Herald 17/7/1909

“A capital supper was partaken of on Friday evening at the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath, the house of Mr. *E. Slinn*. It was the outcome of a couple of billiard matches between teams chosen by Mr. Fred Machin, of the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, and Mr. *Slinn*.....”

1911 Census

90, High Street – FIVE WAYS HOTEL

- [1] *Edward Slinn* (50), licensed victualler, born Dudley;
- [2] *Phoebe Slinn* (47), wife, married 26 years, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *May Slinn* (21), daughter, born West Bromwich;
- [4] *Edward Slinn* (10), son, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *Elsie Walker* (15), general servant, born Cradley:

County Express 18/11/1911 - Advert

“Sale of Highly Valuable Freehold Property.

E. O. Nightingale has received instructions to Sell by Auction, at the House of Mr. *Slinn*, the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on Monday, the 27th day of November, 1911, ay 7 o'clock in the Evening, subject to Conditions of Sale then to be produced.....”

County Express 28/9/1912

“At Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, Alfred Heath, Banners Lane, Cradley, and William Henry Heath, a private in the 3rd Battalion Worcestershire Regiment, were summoned for obstructing PC Cafferky whilst in the execution of his duty.

The officer said he had cause to arrest defendants' brother, when they came up to him, struck a civilian who was assisting him, and also threatened to strike witness.

The landlord of the FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, stated that whilst he was assisting the officer Alfred struck him in the mouth.

Defendants were each fined 20s and costs, 9s 6d.”

William Rice died in 1924.

He was married to Elizabeth.

Clarence Bertram Dingley – see also TALBOT.

Charlie Wright was also a coal dealer.

He was a coach proprietor and haulage contractor of Prince Street.

He was renowned for his dogs.

Bilston and Willenhall Times 21/1/1928

“New Telephone Lines – Cradley Heath 409 – *Wright, C.*, FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

Dudley Herald 25/4/1931

“Mr. T. Leslie Tibbetts held an auction sale at the FIVE WAYS HOTEL (licensee Mr. *C. Wright*) on Wednesday evening, when there was a large attendance. Bidding was brisk, and the sum of £2,565 was realised for the following: ‘Beecher View,’ Furlong Lane, Cradley, four dwelling houses, Nos.1, 3, 5 and 7, Mill Street, Cradley, and three houses, Nos.40, 42 and 44, Lyde Green, Cradley.”

1939 Register

High Street – FIVE WAYS INN

- [1] *Charles Wright*, date of birth 25/7/1884, licensed victualler, married;

[2] Amy Wright, dob 10/2/1885, unpaid domestic duties, housewife, married;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/1/1953

“The president of the Cradley Heath club, County Councillor Cyril Parkes, told members of the Supporters’ Club at a concert they had organised at the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath, last night, that a few weeks ago the football club had been in a desperate position.

Thanks to the formation of the Supporters’ Club, which had now raised £100 towards its target of £1,000, he was able to announce that football would continue at Cradley Heath, at least until the end of the season.”

Tipton Herald 16/7/1960

“Cradley Heath Speedway Supporters Club have now set up their headquarters in the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath, so for any who want to join, the fee is 2s, which entitles one to a badge and membership card.

The supporters club’s first function takes place next Friday with a ‘Meet the Riders Dance’ at the WARD ARMS HOTEL, Dudley. This will give all a chance to meet the successful Heathens team.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 17/7/1990

“A Cradley Heath man was arrested after causing a disturbance at his best friend’s wedding reception.

Oldbury magistrates heard yesterday how police called to the FIVE WAYS pub in Cradley Heath on June 16 found several female wedding guests standing outside on the pavement in tears.

Guests pointed out Dean Rutter, aged 26, of Meadow Walk, as the cause of the disturbance.

Rutter pleaded guilty to using threatening words and behaviour likely to cause distress to people nearby and was fined £100 plus £20 costs.”

It was restored at a cost of £250,000.

It reopened in December 2003.

[2009]

Closed [2012], [2014]

It became a shop in 2014.

FOUNTAIN

Buck Street, OLD HILL

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Joseph Parkes [1864] – [1869]

NOTES

Stourbridge Observer 19/11/1864

“*Joseph Parkes*, of the FOUNTAIN INN, Old Hill, was charged with selling ale in prohibited hours.

Police-constable Dorman said he was on duty on the night of the 7th November. At about a quarter to twelve he was passing by the defendant’s house, when he heard some persons talking. He went into the kitchen and some of them blew out the candle. There was a cup of ale on the table. *Parkes* had a pack of cards in his hand. He told them it was time they were closed. Defendant said it was not past eleven. Defendant acknowledged his guilt, but said he was not aware that it was so late.

Fined 2s 6d and costs, or 14 days in prison.”

County Advertiser 29/4/1865

“*Joseph Parkes*, a beerhouse keeper, residing in Buck Street, Old Hill, was charged with permitting cock-fighting in his house.

A decent-looking woman, named Elizabeth Willetts, living at Cradley Heath, stated that between ten and eleven o’clock on the morning of Easter Monday she went to the defendant’s house, in search of her husband. She saw the defendant, and asked him if her husband was there. Defendant replied that her husband was in an upstairs room, and she accordingly went to what looked like the club-room. A number of men were assembled in the room, and whilst looking for her husband the defendant came in and told her to go downstairs, saying it was not a fit place for a woman. Witness, however, stayed in the room, and presently she heard the defendant say, ‘Now then, get them on.’ There was a chalk circle in the room, and two cocks were taken to it and set to fight.

The cocks had artificial spurs on their legs. After two or three rounds had been fought witness went downstairs, and soon after she heard some one say, 'The black bird has won.' Witness saw several men pay 2d for admission to the room.

Police-constable Bevington deposed that he went to the defendant's house about one o'clock on the afternoon of the day in question, in plain clothes. He told the landlady that he was a policeman, but she refused to let him go upstairs, and, acting under the advice given to her by a relative who was present, she threatened to split his head with a poker she held in her hand if he made any attempt to go up. Witness heard a number of cocks crowing in an upstairs room.

Mr. Lowe, who appeared for the defence, after cross-examining the witnesses at some length, admitted that cocks were in the room, but urged that the woman had concocted the story of the fight in order to have revenge on the defendant for some imaginary wrong. He also submitted that, if an unlawful sport was about to be indulged in, it was not very likely that the defendant would have allowed a strange woman to be a witness of what took place.

Two witnesses for the defence, named William and Edward Bourne, swore that they were at the defendant's house on the morning in question, and neither saw nor heard anything about cock-fighting. In answer to questions by the Bench, the witnesses said there were no cocks in the house that day.

The Bench, after severely censuring the conduct of the defendant's witnesses, imposed a fine of £2 10s and costs.

There was a second charge against the defendant of refusing to admit the police on the occasion of Bevington's visit, alluded to above. In this matter costs only were ordered to be paid.

Mary Parkes (defendant's wife) and David Bourne were charged with obstructing the police at the same time and place. These defendants were also ordered to pay the expenses.

Richard Parkes, brother to the first defendant, was charged with using threatening language to Mrs. Willetts, on the evening of Easter Monday, whereby she went in danger, &c. When before the Bench, however, she said she was not afraid of the defendant, and the case was therefore at once dismissed."

County Express 27/4/1867

"*Joseph Parkes*, beerhouse keeper, Buck Street, old Hill, was charged with assaulting James Batty on the 15th inst. From the evidence, it appeared that Batty and others were playing at cards in *Parkes*'s house for ale and money, when a dispute arose, which ended in a general fight. In addition to the assault, he was also summoned by the police for allowing gambling, and was ordered by the Magistrate to pay costs."

On 29th July 1868 *Joseph Parkes* was fined 20s and costs for refusing to admit the police to his house.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/8/1869

"The annual licensing meeting for Rowley Regis division was held on Friday, at COOKSEY'S HOTEL, Old Hill.....

The following beerhouse keepers had been fined during the last five years.....

Joseph Parkes, FOUNTAIN INN, Buck Street, Old Hill.....

The licenses of *Joseph Parkes* were refused."

AND

County Express 28/8/1869

"Yesterday, the annual licensing session was held at the Police Office.....

There were 60 applications by beerhouse keepers under the new act, when all were granted except four, three of which were taken away altogether *J. Parkes*, Buck Street, Rowley, against whom there were five convictions."

FOUR WAYS

198, (190), High Street / New Town Lane, (Reddal Hill), CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

William Harrison Nock

Frank Myatt, West End Brewery, Wolverhampton [1919]

Holt Brewery Co. Ltd. (acquired on 22nd February 1928)

Frank Myatt Ltd., Holt Street, Birmingham (acquired on 9th June 1934)

J. Cole, Waterloo Road, Wolverhampton [1939]

William Cole, 1, St. John Street, Netherton (acquired in 1940)

F. Foster (wines and spirits) Ltd., London [1954]

LICENSEES

William Harrison Nock [1857] – [1875]

William James Wenn (1875 – 1877);

John Walters (1877 – [1883])

Mrs. Fanny Tope [1886] – [1892]
William Powell [1896] – 1921);
Alfred Bowkley (1921 – 1923);
Enoch Wharton (1923);
Joseph Bannister (1923 – 1925);
George Thomas Wakefield (1925 – 1928);
Egerton Harry Clifford Foxall (1928 – 1933);
David Parkes (1933 – 1942);
Thomas Foxall (1942 – 1945);
Joseph Thomas Little (1945 – 1948);
John Clifford Smith (1948 – 1949);
Arthur Granger (1949 – 1952);
William Henry Hadley (1952 – 1957);
Harold Foster (1957 – 1958);
Joseph Edward Mills (1958 – 1959);
Arthur William Stanley (1959 – 1961);
William Joseph Knott (1961 – 1963);
David Whitehouse (1963);
Cyril William Mason (1963 – 1965);
Geoffrey Edge (1965 – []
Steve Foley [] – 1987):

NOTES

Reddal Hill [1858]
190, High Street
198, High Street [1881], [1891], [1901], [1904], [1908], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1924], [1932], [1940]

FOUR WAYS LIQUOR VAULTS [1858]
WINE VAULTS [1858]
SPIRIT VAULTS [1863]
WINE AND SPIRIT VAULTS [1875]

It was known locally as the ‘Manchester House’.

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 4/9/1853

“A match has been made, and £10 a side staked, between Benjamin Malpas and Josiah Edmunds to fight, for £15 a side, within 30 miles of Dudley and Cradley, on the 10th of October. The next deposit of £1 10s a side is to be made at *W. Nock*’s, FOUR WAYS, Cradley Heath, tomorrow (Monday).”

County Advertiser 9/8/1856 - Advert

“Truman, Hanbury, Buxton, & Co.’s London Porter & Brown Stout, in Casks and Bottles.

May be obtained by the Trade and Public generally, upon application to *W. H. Nock*, Wine and Spirit Merchant, Four Ways Stores, Cradley Heath.

Bottles to be exchanged, or paid for on delivery.

Applications may be made to Mr. R. Drake, Delph.”

Birmingham Journal 20/12/1856 - Advert

“Wanted, immediately, a Pianist, one who Sings preferred. Also a Characteristic Singer and Dancer; Lady preferred.

Address, Mr. *W. H. Nock*, Four Ways Music Hall, Cradley Heath, Stourbridge, Staffordshire.”

Birmingham Journal 14/2/1857 - Advert

“Freehold Dwelling Houses and Premises, Five Ways, Cradley Heath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Bateman (by order of the Executors of the late Miss Purton), on Tuesday next, the 17th day of February, at Six o’clock in the evening, at the house of Mr. *Nock*, the FOUR WAYS INN, Cradley Heath aforesaid, subject to conditions then to be produced, the undermentioned Eight Freehold Dwelling Houses, Chain and Nail Shops, Gardens, and Premises.....”

County Advertiser 22/5/1858 - Advert

“Staffordshire. Pear Tree Lane, near Old Hill, Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Detheridge, at the House of Mr. *W. H. Nock*, WINE VAULTS, Four Ways, Cradley Heath, on Monday, the 24th day of May, 1858, at Six o’clock in the Evening, subject to conditions to be then and there be produced, all that Well-built Freehold Messuage or Dwelling House.....”

The Era 15/1/1860 - Advert

“Triumphant Career of Messrs. Charles and Harry Burton, Comedians, Character Singers and Dancers, who appear every evening in a variety of New and Original Duets and Entertainments, written expressly for them by H. Battle and B. Williams, Esqs, of London. Mr. C. Burton appears nightly in his Great and Original Transformation Dance, personating ten different Characters, allowed by the Press to be the masterpiece of Character Dancing. At liberty to accept engagements on the 19th of March, after fulfilling a most successful one of six weeks at Mr. *Nock's*, Four Ways Music Hall, Cradley, Staffordshire, and Mr. Baylis's, Glasgow. All letters addressed to Messrs. C and H Burton at the Music Hall, will meet with attention,”

County Advertiser 11/3/1905

“Some Reminiscences of Rowley Regis. Local Government.

I might add considerably to the evidence of anarchy which prevailed in the parish in the early sixties of the last century, and might enlarge upon its evil influence on the population at large. Of course I use the word ‘anarchy’ in the sense of negation of government, and not as suggesting turmoil. A one-time agricultural parish, sparsely peopled, had developed into a manufacturing and industrial district, and had thereby become much too large for its old governing clothes.....

There was a new system of government, but the old men had it in hand. The headquarters of the southern opposition was at Mr. *Wm. Nock's*, FOUR WAYS INN.....”

1861 Census

Four Ways

- [1] *William Harrison Nock* (46), spirit merchant, born Stourbridge;
- [2] *Eleanor Nock* (45), wife, born Rowley;
- [3] *William Henry Nock* (17), son, scholar, born Cradley Heath;
- [4] *James Nock* (15), son, scholar, born Cradley Heath;
- [5] *George Nock* (14), son, scholar, born Cradley Heath;
- [6] *Jeremiah Nock* (12), son, scholar, born Cradley Heath;
- [7] *Samuel Nock* (8), son, scholar, born Cradley Heath;
- [8] *Elizabeth Eleanor Nock* (7), daughter, scholar, born Cradley Heath;
- [9] *Elizabeth Davis* (22), domestic servant, born Stoke on Trent:

Birmingham Daily Post 18/8/1862 - Advert

“Open To All England.

To be Shot For, a Fat Pig, nearly 60 Score, alive, at the Four Ways, Cradley Heath, on Tuesday, September 16th at 11am precisely. 50 tickets, 10s 6d each.

The Proprietor to spend £7, and the Winner £3 10s. Dinner to be on the table at 7 o'clock precisely. Each Ticket will admit two to Dinner.

All Guns not to exceed ¾-inch bore

Single Barrel, two ounces shot, 21 yards rise. Double ditto, one ounce and a half shot, 19 yards rise.

Three Birds to each Member, and to be paid for before trapping. One person to trap all Birds.

The Gun to be held below the elbow till the Birds are on the wing. The Field to be the Boundary.

All Tickets to be paid for on or before the 9th September, and in the event of the Tickets not being disposed of, all money will be returned in full.

Any deficiency or overweight in above or below 40 Score will be paid or received at the rate of 9s per Score.

Persons wishing to see the Pig can do so by applying to the proprietor.

W. H. Nock, Spirit Merchant.”

[Another shoot for a pig was held in January 1863.]

Birmingham Journal 4/4/1863 - Advert

“To Nailmasters and Others.

Valuable Freehold Property, at Reddall Hill, Cradley Heath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, Consisting of an Extensive Nail Warehouse, Dwelling Houses, Gardens, Land, and Premises.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Bateman, on Monday, the 27th day of April, 1863, at Six o'clock in the evening, at the house of Mr. *H. Nock*, the SPIRIT VAULTS, Four Ways, Cradley Heath aforesaid, and subject to conditions then to be produced.....”

Stourbridge Observer 15/10/1864 - Advert

“To Pig Breeders. May be Seen at the Brewery and Spirit Vaults, Four Ways, Cradley Heath, a Pair of the Finest Bred Young Pigs in the kingdom (a Brawn, and Gilt in Pig); bred by the celebrated Mr. Bradshaw, of Manchester, who has received £150 for Prizes in one year, from the various Cattle Shows. Sows served at 7s 6d each. *W. H. Nock*, Proprietor.”

County Advertiser 26/5/1866

“On Wednesday, at the Police Court, *William Harrison Nock*, of the Four Ways, Cradley Heath, was charged with suffering filth to flow on the highway. Defendant did not appear. The offence having been proved, the Bench imposed a fine of 1s and costs.”

County Advertiser 27/6/1868

“*William Harrison Nock*, licensed victualler, Four Ways, was charged by Joseph Parkes, Inspector of Nuisances, with allowing a quantity of noxious matter to flow from his premises on to the highway. Mr. Ponton was for the defence.

Parkes having deposed to the nature of the nuisance, Mr. Ponton produced receipts to show that the late surveyor had been paid by the defendant to put the place in proper repair, according to his (the surveyor’s) own plans. This, however, took place sixteen years since.

The Bench made an order for the nuisance to be removed within fourteen days.”

County Advertiser 17/7/1869 - Advert

“West Staffordshire Registration. Rowley Regis District.

All Liberals possessing a qualification for the Western Division of the County, and not at present on the Register, can have their Claims attended to upon application to Mr. *W. H. Nock*, Four Ways, Cradley Heath. Also, all Liberals already on the Register, but who have changed their residences, are requested to give notice, in order that their Re-claim may be made out.

July 20th is the Last Day for serving Claims and Re-claims.”

Stourbridge Observer 8/10/1870

“A meeting of chainmakers of this district was held at Mr. *Nock*’s, the FOUR WAYS INN, Cradley Heath. About 100 delegates were present. The object of the meeting was to provide the necessities of life, and protect the trade, and benefit both masters and men. Several masters have expressed themselves favourable to the movement.....”

County Advertiser 12/11/1870

“We have been requested to remind gas consumers that an adjourned public meeting will be held at the house of Mr. *Nock*, Four Ways, on Tuesday evening next, at eight o’clock, to receive and consider the decision arrived at the by the directors of the Cradley Heath Gas Company. As points of some considerable interest will be brought forward, it is hoped that the consumers generally will attend the meeting. We find in yesterday’s *Daily News* that notice has been given by the present Gas Company that application is intended to be made to Parliament in the ensuing session for leave to bring in a bill to dissolve the company as it now exists, and to extend the present works, &c. No doubt the matter will be fully discussed by the consumers next Tuesday.”

1871 Census

High Street – FOUR WAYS

- [1] *William H. Nock* (56), brewer &c, born Stourbridge;
- [2] *Eleanor E. Nock* (54), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Jeremiah L. Nock* (19), son, brewer, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Elizabeth E. Nock* (17), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Mirah Hipkiss* (22), general servant, born Dudley;

County Advertiser 17/8/1872 - Advert

“FOUR WAYS INN, Cradley Heath.

Messrs. Oates, Perrens, Wooldridge are favoured with instructions to Sell by Auction, upon the Premises, on Tuesday, the 27th day of August, 1872, at Five o’clock in the Afternoon.

That very Excellent Freehold Property, FOUR WAYS INN, now occupied by Mr. *W. H. Nock*, situate at Cradley Heath, in the county of Stafford.

The House has been known for many years past to do a very extensive business.

It is very commodious, with large Cellarage, Garden, Yard, Stabling, and every accommodation for carrying on a first-class Wholesale and Retail Business.

For further information, apply to Mr. John Stallard, Solicitor, Worcester; or to Messrs. Oates, Perrens, and Wooldridge, Land Agents, Stourbridge.”

William Harrison Nock was also a brewer, and wine and spirit merchant. [1873]

County Advertiser 22/2/1873 - Advert

“To Let, with immediate possession, Rose Cottage, Lower Swinford, near Stourbridge (with or without a Seven Quarter Malt-house), comprising Two Front Rooms, Four Bed Rooms, Kitchen, and Larder, good Cellar, Stable and Garden; also a Cottage adjoining, with good Garden, &c.

Apply on the premises, or to *W. H. Nock*, Four Ways, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 17/4/1875 - Advert

“To Innkeepers, Brewers and Others.

Preliminary Announcement of Sale of Important and Very Desirable Freehold Property, known as *Nock*’s WINE AND SPIRIT VAULTS and Brewery, situated at the Four Ways, Cradley Heath, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford.

Mr. Bateman begs to announce that he has received instructions, in consequence of the state of health of Mr. *Nock* and that of his Family, to Offer for Sale by Auction, upon the Premises, on Wednesday, the 21st day of April inst, the above very valuable Freehold Property, a full description of which will be given in future advertisements and plans and particulars of sale; in the meantime any further information may be obtained from Messrs. Sanders and Smith, Solicitors; Mr. Brettell, Mine Agent; or the Auctioneer, all of Dudley.”

County Advertiser 12/6/1875 - Advert

“Nock’s WINE AND SPIRIT VAULTS, Four Ways, Cradley Heath, Rowley.

Sale of Household Furniture, Stock-in-Trade, large number of Casks, useful Brown Harness Mare, Four-wheeled Carriage, Dog Cart, Float, Gig and Cart Harness, and a variety of other Effects.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Bateman, upon the above Premises, at the Four Ways, Cradley Heath, on Monday, the 21st June Next, and the following day if required, the Household and Public House Furniture, Stock-In-Trade, and Effects, Casks, capital Half-bred Brown Mare, 7 years old; Four-wheel Closed Carriage, Two-wheeled Dog Cart, Brewery Float, excellent Gig and Cart Harness, and sundry other articles, full particulars of which will be given in Catalogues of Sale to be distributed, and which may be had ten days prior to the Sale, at the principal Inns in the neighbourhood, at the Place of Sale, and from the Auctioneer, Dudley.”

County Advertiser 27/1/1877

“Thomas Tromans was charged by *John Walters*, landlord of the FOUR WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, with having been drunk on his premises, and the 15th inst, and with having refused to quit the same when ordered by him to do so. The offence was proved to the satisfaction of the magistrates, and a fine of 5s and costs was imposed.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/3/1877

“Mr. Superintendent Woollaston charged *William James Wenn*, manager (under a Manchester firm) of the FOUR WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, with neglecting to have his name painted on a conspicuous part of his house. Mr. Hayes, who defended, said the house would be transferred from the defendant in a short time, and promised that the law should then be complied with. The magistrates fined defendant only 5s and costs under the circumstances.”

AND

County Advertiser 24/3/1877

“Mr. Superintendent Woollaston charged *William James Wenn*, manager of a licensed house at Cradley Heath under Colonel Deakin (of a Manchester firm), with neglecting to have his name painted up on a conspicuous part of his house. Police-constable Cooper said that on the 14th of March, 1875, the license of the FOUR WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, was transferred to the defendant, who did not have his name affixed to the sign, but had it painted on a side door, where no one would notice it. Mr. Hayes, who appeared on defendant’s behalf, said that a proper transfer should be made, and promised that the name should be affixed to the sign. The Magistrates said that under these circumstance they should only inflict a fine of 5s and costs.”

County Advertiser 4/8/1877 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Ironworks and Dwelling Houses, at Old Hill, near Dudley.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Thomas Homer, on Tuesday, the 14th day of August, 1877, at the house of Mr. *Walters*, the FOUR WAYS INN, Cradley Heath.....”

County Advertiser 15/12/1877

“On Tuesday evening a meeting of local gas consumers was held at the FOUR WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, with the object of discussing means of obtaining a reduction in the price of gas.....”

County Advertiser 11/5/1878

“A meeting of small chainmakers now on strike for an increase in wages in the Cradley and Cradley Heath district was held on Monday morning, at the MANCHESTER INN, Four Ways, Cradley Heath. Mr. N. Forrest presided, and there was a very numerous attendance.....”

County Express 25/5/1878

“The leaders of the men do not appear very sanguine that the strike will have a successful result, and it is believed that the chainmakers are fast going in at the reduction. The advance, as has been reported, has been conceded in some cases. A meeting of the men was held on Tuesday at the FOUR WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, Mr. N. Forrest in the chair.....”

County Express 31/8/1878

“At a meeting of the men held on Tuesday, at the MANCHESTER INN, Four Ways, Cradley Heath (Mr. B. Bridgwater presiding), Mr. N. Forrest, Chairman of the Chainmakers’ Association, reported that the strike for the revised list was all but at and end, the leading masters having complied with the demand made upon them.....”

County Express 21/2/1880

“Inkerman Rose, chainmaker, Cradley Heath, was charged with being drunk on licensed premises, and with having refused to quit the same when requested to do so. Mr. Hayes prosecuted.

Thomas [sic] *Walters*, manager at the FOUR WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, said the defendant came into his house drunk, and asked to be served with ale. Witness refused to serve him and asked him to leave the house. Defendant refused to leave, became disorderly, took up a water bottle, and threatened to knock witness’s head off.

Police-constable Cooper said he was called into the complainant’s house to eject the defendant.

The bench fined defendant 20s and costs.”

AND

Dudley Herald 21/2/1880

“Inkerman Rose was charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of *John Walters*, MANCHESTER INN, Four Ways, Cradley Heath, on Saturday last.

Thomas Weston, barman, said on Saturday night last defendant came into Mr. *Walters*' house and asked for something to drink. On being refused, he picked up a water bottle, and threatened to throw it at him. Defendant was drunk and very violent, and remained in the house 50 minutes. He would not let witness fill for the customers. He was obliged to send for the police.

PC Cooper said he was sent for by the previous witness to eject the defendant from the MANCHESTER INN. On arriving there he found the defendant there. He was very drunk and violent, and behaved like a madman. Defendant kicked and struck him several times. He was obliged to get assistance before he could remove defendant from the house.

A friend of the defendant informed the Bench that defendant's head was affected, and that when he got drunk it made him mad.

Mr. Hayes prosecuted, and said that that was so, and the defendant was not fit to be at large.

The Bench said it was a very bad case, and would fine defendant 20s and costs, or, in default, 28 days' hard labour.”

Dudley and District News 23/10/1880

“John McHarg (30), tailor, Victoria Terrace, Dudley, was charged with stealing 12s belonging to *John Walters*, of the FOUR WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, and further with resisting the police in the execution of their duty.

On Saturday night last defendant and *Walters* had a dispute with reference to paying for a bottle of champagne, and it was alleged that defendant got possession of 12s, belonging to the prosecutor, and refused to return it. He was then given into custody, and whilst being conveyed to the lock-up, kicked violently at Police-superintendent Wollaston and PC Sylvester; two or three men having, eventually, to be employed to assist in removing him to the cells.

Prosecutor now asked the Bench to allow him to withdraw the charge of larceny, as defendant had expressed his regret for what he had done, and was willing to pay the costs.

The request was granted, but for resisting the police defendant was fined 20s and costs, or, in default, one month's imprisonment.”

Evening Express 25/2/1881

“For several weeks past the chainmakers in the Cradley Heath and surrounding districts have been agitating for an advance of wages. Meetings have been held in various parts of the district, and the feeling of the men generally was said to be in favour of notice being given to the employers for a substantial increase.

On Wednesday evening a large and representative meeting of the men was held at the MANCHESTER INN, Cradley Heath, when it was unanimously resolved to give fourteen days' notice to the masters on Saturday next for an advance. The men consider that the present condition of the trade justifies them in moving for a reconsideration of the wages question, and they express their determination to turn out on strike at the expiration of the notice if their demands are not conceded.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 2/4/1881

“On Monday and Wednesday large meetings of the chainmakers were held at the MANCHESTER INN. Five masters have now promised the 4s list. The men in the employ of these firms have resumed work. The men are resolved to continue the strike until all the masters concede the 4s list.”

1881 Census

198, High Street – FOUR WAYS INN

[1] *John Walters* (29), licensed victualler, born Werrington, Devonshire;

[2] Margaret Walters (29), wife, born Werrington, Devonshire;

[3] John Walters (4), son, born Cradley Heath;

[4] Samuel Walters (1), son, born Cradley Heath;

[5] Richard Walters (7 months), son, born Cradley Heath;

[6] Robert Flowers (19), barman, born Tividale;

[7] Hannah Forrest (14), domestic servant, born Cradley Heath:

Evening Express 5/4/1881

“A largely attended meeting of the chainmakers now on strike for an advance of wages was held at the MANCHESTER INN, Four Ways, Cradley Heath, yesterday; Mr. B. Billingham presided.

A note was read from another large firm in the neighbourhood promising to pay the 4s list for all shale and American work. It was agreed that the men in the employ of the firm alluded to should resume work at once. It was then unanimously resolved to continue the strike until all the employers concede the 4s list.”

Evening Express 12/4/1881

“The Chainmakers' Strike. The number of men engaging in this strike is now comparatively small. Since the first fortnight of the strike individual employers have been almost daily conceding the men's demands for an advance on the 4s list, and many of the men have, therefore, resumed work. At a meeting of chainmakers on Monday, at the Four Ways, Cradley Heath, the president of the Chainmakers' Association announced the receipt of communications from two employers expressive of their willingness to give the men in their employ the advance for which they had been contending, and it was resolved that the men concerned should resume their labour forthwith. Eight firms are now paying at the advanced rate, so that the termination of the strike cannot be far distant.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 7/5/1881

“A largely attended meeting of the chain and trace makers now on strike for an advance of wages was held on Wednesday, at the MANCHESTER INN, Four Ways, Cradley Heath.

Mr. B. Billingham, chairman, stated that he had waited upon two local firms, requesting them to pay their men the list price demanded, and was informed that these firms were willing to concede to the men in their employ the 4s list. The men employed by these firms were allowed to return to work.

It was unanimously resolved to continue the strike until all the employers concede the 4s list.

This makes the eighth week of the strike.”

AND

“Yesterday, at a meeting of chainmakers held at the MANCHESTER INN, it was reported that two other masters had conceded to the 4s list, and their men were allowed to resume work. It was resolved to continue the strike. About 200 of the men still remain out on strike.”

Dudley and District News 21/5/1881

“On Wednesday a meeting of the chainmakers on strike for an increase of wages was held at the MANCHESTER INN, Four Ways, Cradley Heath.

The chairman (Mr. B. Billingham) said he had waited upon those men who had returned to work at the advanced list, and found them generally satisfied. The workmen, however, complained that the work in hand was not being equally divided by the employers amongst their workmen, and this was causing ill-feeling and jealousy.

A note was read from a large firm in the Cradley Heath district, promising to pay the 4s list. The operatives in the employ of this firm were allowed to resume work.

The usual resolution to continue the strike until all the employers concede the 4s list was carried unanimously. The men have now entered upon the tenth week of the strike, and there are still about 180 men without employment.”

Dudley and District News 4/6/1881

“The chainmakers who have been on strike for the past three months for an advance of wages, held a meeting at the MANCHESTER INN, on Wednesday morning, Mr. B. Billingham presiding. The Chairman announced that much dissatisfaction still existed amongst the men, in consequence of the unequal distribution of work. The usual resolution to continue the strike until the masters acceded to their demands, was unanimously carried.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 13/8/1881

“On Wednesday night a meeting of the hammered and country chain makers was held at the MANCHESTER INN, Cradley Heath, to receive the report of the manager with reference to the proposed strike.

Mr. Benjamin Billingham, presided, and there were delegates present from Dudley Wood, Old Hill, Cradley Heath, Cradley, Fox Oak, and New Town.

The chairman said he had been round to the masters and they had agreed to give an advance on all country and hammered work, varying from 15 to 20 per cent, with an understanding that in a short time, as trade revived, they would concede a higher price. The masters thought it would be better for them to accept this offer than to come out on strike and so make matters worse. He thought there was no trade in such a low condition as the chain trade. Their children were not half clothed and their homes were in a dejected and miserable condition. He was sure that if they would hold together there was no trade in the country that would do better. He recommended them to accept the offer of the masters, and as trade revived they could ask for a further advance with a hope of getting it.

A Workman asked how many of the masters had agreed to concede an advance.

Mr. Billingham said the majority of them were willing. The masters were particularly anxious to know the result of that meeting. The Old Hill representative said he thought the course taken by the masters a very good one, and proposed that their offer be accepted.

The representative from Cradley Heath seconded the resolution. He was in favour of working harmoniously with the masters, which course he considered would be better for the whole trade.

The resolution was carried unanimously.”

[The dispute was settled the following week.]

West Bromwich Weekly News 22/10/1881

“On Monday a general meeting of chainmakers who are on strike for an advance of wages, was held at the MANCHESTER INN, Cradley Heath.

Mr. Benjamin Billingham, who presided, reported that he had waited upon the two largest firms in the neighbourhood, viz, Messrs. N. Hingley and Sons, Netherton, and Messrs. J. Wood, Aston and Co., Cradley Heath, and who had agreed to pay the advanced price for all classes of work. The following resolutions were then carried. That the men in the employ of those masters who have agreed to pay the advance, shall resume work without delay, and that the operatives of those who have not shall remain out on strike until their demands are conceded, and that the ‘dollied’ chainmakers be called upon to contribute 1s per week, and the ‘hammered’ makers 6d weekly for the support of those operatives whose employers have not consented to pay the advance.”

County Express 10/12/1881

“Thomas Rock and Benjamin Willetts, both of Cradley Heath, were charged with being disorderly and refusing to quit the FOUR WAYS INN, on November 28th. In consequence of a witness being away from home, Inspector Walters withdrew the case on

defendants paying costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/1/1882 - Advert

“Youth Wanted, about 17, to Wait behind Counter, and make himself generally useful. One from country preferred. None need apply who have been in the business. Good references required. Apply, FOUR WAYS INN, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 18/3/1882

“On Monday Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the MANCHESTER INN, Four Ways, respecting the death of Edward Sherlock (52), cabinet maker, of Aston Yard. The evidence showed that deceased had been addicted to habits of intemperance for a long time, and on Thursday he was taken ill and died before a doctor arrived. The jury returned a verdict of Natural Causes, but also expressed an opinion that death had been accelerated by excessive drinking.”

County Advertiser 6/1/1883

“On Wednesday night a numerously-attended meeting of male and female chainmakers, from Rowley, Old Hill, Cradley Heath, Cradley, Dudley Wood, and Lye Waste, was held at the house of Mr. *J. Walters*, MANCHESTER INN, Cradley Heath, to consider the question of female labour in the chain trade.....”

County Advertiser 19/5/1883 - Advert

“Wanted, immediately, General Servant. Must be strong, clean, and active. References required. Apply, FOUR WAYS INN, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 19/7/1884

“The members of court Robin Hood’s Merry Rangers, No.4540 of the Ancient Order of Foresters, had their annual dinner at the court house, FOUR WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, on Monday last. The host served up the dinner in his customary efficient style, and on its conclusion several members added to the enjoyment of the evening by singing. The usual business was transacted, and this showed the Society to be in a very satisfactory condition. A pleasant evening was brought to a close by the usual votes of thanks.”

County Advertiser 4/4/1885

“A mass meeting of chainmakers on strike was held on Monday morning at the FOUR WAYS INN. Mr. Bellingham presided, and stated that additional men had now come out on strike, and he was convinced that if the men would only remain firm and united, victory was certain. A delegate stated that as compared with the prices paid now and those of last year, there was a difference of 2s per cent, which meant a reduction in wages of £1,000 a week in the Cradley Heath district. Another speaker contended the underselling did not increase the demand. It was resolved to ‘play on.’”

County Advertiser 16/10/1886

“Benjamin Sidaway, Cradley Heath, was charged with refusing to quit the FOUR WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, on the 9th inst. Defendant, who was drunk, was requested to leave the house by the landlady, but he refused, and had to be ejected. Defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/12/1886

“Yesterday morning a meeting of chainmakers was held in the Salvation Army Barracks, Cradley Heath. The Chairman (Mr. Homer), before proceeding to address the meeting, announced the following donations towards the fund, which were received with deafening applause: Mr. H. Best, £20; *Birmingham Gazette* subscription list, £22 15s 3d; Mr. Walter Showell, £10; Messrs. Mitchells, Cape Hill Brewery, £10 10s; National Society of Amalgamated Brassworkers, £3 3s; Mr. W. Walker (Mayor of Dudley), £2, who expressed a hope that the truck system would be speedily abolished; Mr. Monckton, of Penkridge, £5; Mr. George Dawes, The Hall, Smethwick, £5; Mr. T. Merideth, architect, Kidderminster, £3 3s; Mr. W. Bassano’s weekly subscription of £1; Mrs. *Tope*, MANCHESTER INN, Cradley Heath, 5s.....”

County Advertiser 8/1/1887

“The following sums have this week been contributed to the Chainmakers’ Relief Fund: Mr. H. G. Walker, Dudley, £1 1s; Mr. Brooke Robinson, MP, £10; Mrs. *Tope*, Four Ways, Cradley Heath 5s.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/2/1887 - Advert

“General Servant, able to wash. Good wages given; character indispensable. Mrs. *Tope*, Four Ways, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 21/1/1888

“William Preston, shacklemaker, Spinners End, for being drunk at FOUR WAYS INN, on the 14th inst, was fined 2s 6d and costs,

or seven days.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/3/1890

“Harry Cartwright (25), millwright, of Spinners End, Cradley Heath, was charged with unlawfully wounding Joseph Clee, warehouseman, of Bank Street, Cradley Heath; and also with wounding Sidney Clee, aged four years, on the 3rd inst. It appeared that the men were at the FOUR WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, when a dispute arose as to the accuracy of the statement by one of the company that he began to work when eight years old in a pit. Prisoner picked up a glass and struck Clee with it on the face, wounding him severely. His child, Sidney, was asleep on his lap, and the fragments of glass fled about, and cut the child all over the face. Prisoner said he was very sorry, but he did it in a drunken passion. The Bench sentenced him to six weeks’ hard labour, but afterwards altered their decision and fined him £5 and costs. The fine was paid.”

County Express 8/11/1890

“*Fanny Tope*, landlady of the FOUR WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, was charged with selling ale to a drunken person on the 28th ult. Mr. Shakespeare defended. The Bench considered there was no doubt in the case, and it was dismissed.”

1891 Census

198, High Street

- [1] *Fanny Tope* (35), widow, licensed victualler, born Devonport, Devonshire;
- [2] Agnes Tope (14), daughter, scholar, born Manchester;
- [3] Elsie Tope (13), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Jessie Tope (11), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Harry M. Tope (8), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Annie M. Whitefield (26), general servant, born Blaenavon, Monmouthshire;
- [7] Maria Baker (19), general servant, born Sunderland:

Midland Sun 1/7/1893

“On Wednesday morning, a largely attended meeting of Chainmakers who are out on strike, was held at the MANCHESTER INN, Four Ways, Cradley Heath. Mr. James Smith (secretary) presiding. The Chairman stated that they had now entered upon the tenth week of the strike, and things were pretty nearly the same as the week previous with the exception that a few more operatives were at work.....”

County Advertiser 1/5/1897

“James Tromans, Plant Street, Cradley Heath, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of *William Powell*, landlord of the FOUR WAYS INN, on the 19th inst. Police-constable Wynn proved the case, and defendant was fined 10s.”

County Express 9/10/1897

“The second annual parade of Foresters in the Cradley, Cradley Heath, Quarry Bank, and Dudley Wood districts, for the benefit of the home at Clent, took place on Sunday afternoon, with every element of success attending it – the day was fine, the crowd was large, and the collections were very satisfactory. A pleasing feature about the parade was the number of members who turned out, and the number of courts. The following courts were represented.....
Good Samaritan, MANCHESTER INN, Cradley Heath.”

Dudley Herald 15/1/1898

“The quarterly meeting of the Dudley and Cradley Heath District of the Ancient Order of Foresters was held at the MANCHESTER HOTEL, Four Ways, Cradley Heath, on Monday last, Bro. J. Darby, CR, presiding. The balance sheet, as presented, showed an expenditure in funeral benefits of £200, on behalf of 16 members and eight wives’ deaths. In reduced sick allowance £416 was paid, and £40 in management expenses, the total worth of the district funds being returned as £2,694. The number of members as last quarterly report was 6,143. A vote of thanks was accorded the auditors, Bros. Parsons and F. Woodall, for the report. The levies for the ensuing year were adopted, amounting altogether to 1s 11½d per member. The report of delegates to Midland Counties Foresters Federation was presented by Bro. G. Raybould, the principal recommendation being the compulsory investment of court funds at a higher rate than 2½ per cent.”

County Advertiser 11/3/1899

“The hammered chain makers at Cradley Heath, about 700 in number, have demanded an increase in wages, and their notices expired on Saturday last. The operatives then turned out on strike. On Monday morning a crowded meeting of the men was held at the MANCHESTER INN.....

At a large meeting of the outworkers, held on Wednesday morning, at the FOUR WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, Mr. J. Smith stated that since Monday five of the employers had intimated their intention of conceding the required advance it was decided that their workpeople, numbering upwards of 150, should resume work this morning. It was also resolved that the workpeople unable to obtain the advance should remain out on strike. The majority of those now out are women and girls.”

County Express 21/7/1900

“A meeting of the Executive Council of the Chainmakers’ and Strikers’ Association was held last night week at the MANCHES-

TER INN, Fourways, Cradley Heath, at which a report and balance sheet for the half-year were presented by the Secretary (Mr. T. Sitch). Mr. W. Millichip, the president, and Mr. J. Taylor, the secretary of the Midland Counties Trades' Federation, were present, and congratulated the association on its progress, and they received from the Council their warm thanks for the Federation's sympathy and support....."

County Express 4/8/1900

"The Block Chainmakers' Association. The annual dinner of the above association was held at the MANCHESTER INN, Four Ways, Cradley Heath, on Saturday evening. A good number assembled to dinner served up by Mr. and Mrs. *W. Powell*, and there was a full attendance at the general meeting when the outgoing president, Mr. G. Courts, took the chair, supported by Messrs. W. Bloomer (vice-president), T. Homer (secretary), and J. Taylor (secretary to the Midland Counties Trades' Federation)....."

County Express 23/3/1901

"A largely-attended meeting of the out-workers and hammered sections of the chain trade was held at the MANCHESTER INN, Cradley Heath, on Tuesday evening, to receive the report of the delegates who attended a conference of the employers that day, and to consider what further steps should be taken to restore prices at places where the list was not being adhered to.

Mr. T. Sitch was elected to the chair, and there were also present: Messrs. W. Millerchip (president of the Midland Counties' Trades' Federation), J. Taylor (secretary to the federation), and James Smith (secretary of the Hammered Chainmakers' Association and Country Workmakers' Association).

The chairman congratulated those present upon the splendid turn out they had made on such a stormy night, and said it showed their enthusiasm was great. He considered the meeting was of a very important character, and he always considered a meeting to be very important when the workers' prices were affected. They were not going to attempt to disguise anything that night in the way of some prices being less in some branches of the trade in the country and hammered branches. But, although they had to make that admission, they were still hopeful that it had not gone too far as yet, but in those cases where the prices had been lost they thought there was every probability of them being restored. It was not the first difficulty they had to contend with in the chain trade....."

1901 Census

198, High Street

[1] *William Powell* (43), public house keeper, born Puppy Green, Staffordshire;

[2] *Amelia Powell* (42), wife, born Wordsley;

[3] *William Powell* (20), son, tube fitter, born Lye;

[4] *Albert E. Powell* (14), son, wood turner, born Dudley;

[5] *Nellie M. Powell* (12), daughter, born Dudley;

[6] *Rosy L. Powell* (9), daughter, born Netherton;

[7] *Cissy Powell* (3), daughter, born Cradley Heath;

[8] *Annie Lowe* (19), barmaid, born Wordsley;

[9] *John T. Hurdiss* (7), visitor, born Lye:

County Express 8/6/1901

"A well attended meeting of the people still on strike (in the hammered and country workers' section of the chain trade) was held on Tuesday morning at the MANCHESTER INN, Mr. W. Millichip (President of the Midland Counties' Federation) was voted to the chair, and Mr. John Taylor and Mr. J. Smith (secretary of the section) were also present....."

County Express 15/6/1901

"A meeting of the country workers and hammered chain sections of the chain trade was held at the MANCHESTER INN, Cradley Heath, on Tuesday morning, when a good number were present.

Mr. James Smith (secretary) presided, and announced that Messrs. Bannister and Co. had consented to concede the list prices. At the last meeting he complained that some employers gave out smaller iron than was required, thus robbing the workers. He had obtained legal advice upon the matter, and was advised to issue a circular to the whole of the employers in the trade, informing them that after a certain date those who gave out smaller iron than was required would be proceeded against for the balance of the money due to the operatives. The workers would also receive a circular upon the matter, and he asked for their co-operation in the matter. He was told there would be no difficulty in securing the balance. Trouble had already commenced in this respect, and nine summons under the particular Clause of the Factory and Workshops Act had been taken out against an employer at Quarry Bank, and which would be decided before the stipendiary at Brierley Hill. He was pleased to say that so far as the outlook at present was concerned, it seemed they would have a very strong society when the strike was over. Prior to the strike, the society numbered 320, but he thought about next September their numbers would reach 700 – (applause). Numbers were giving in their names week by week to join, and he urged all present to remain firm to the union, and they would endeavor to get them a little bit extra strike pay.

Mr. Garvey (Birmingham) addressed the meeting, and a resolution in favour of continuing the strike until all employers had conceded the price list, was carried unanimously."

County Express 22/6/1901

"A meeting of strikers in the country workers and hammered chain sections was held at the MANCHESTER INN, on Wednesday morning, when Mr. W. Millerchip, president of the Midland Counties' Trades' Federation presided.

Mr. James Smith (secretary) reported that Messrs. E. Walker and Son, of Cradley, had agreed to pay the list prices. He regretted to state that an employer in Quarry Bank, whilst agreeing to concede the advance, had already commenced to reduce the wages of his workers. The society would take some action in the matter, with a few maintaining the list prices at the factory. The Chairman also addressed the meeting, and it was decided to continue the strike.”

County Express 29/6/1901

“On Wednesday morning a meeting of strikers in the country workers and hammered chain sections of the chain trade was held at the MANCHESTER INN, when, Mr. J. Smith reported another employer had, since the last meeting, agreed to pay the list prices. The number of strikers had now been considerably reduced, and he hoped the strike would soon be over. It was decided to continue it.”

County Advertiser 8/3/1902 - Advert

“Blue Roan Mare, 13½, for Sale; five years old, splendid action. Also Dog Cart and Harness to suit same.
W. Powell, Four Ways, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 16/7/1904

“The sixteenth annual dinner and meeting of the Block Chainmakers’ Association was held on Saturday afternoon last at the FOUR WAYS INN, Cradley Heath. About 150 of the members sat down to a dinner, which was well served by the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. *Powell*.

After dinner the president, Mr. William Cooper, presided over the largest gathering the society has ever had on an annual day. In his address, the President referred to the improved membership and friends of the association, and asked the members to take a deeper interest in the society, which gave more benefits than any other association for them in the shape of sick pay, out of work pay, and strike pay.....”

County Advertiser 24/6/1905

“On Thursday evening last week the members of the Cradley Heath Friendly Societies’ Parade Committee held a meeting at the MANCHESTER INN, Four Ways. Some 25 delegates attended, representing every friendly society in the township.....”

County Advertiser 13/1/1906

“Mary Etheridge, residing at East Street, Quarry Bank, was charged with attempting to obtain drink whilst upon the black list on the 30th ult. Police-constable Bridgewood stated he saw defendant go into the FOUR WAYS INN, Cradley, and ask to be supplied with half a pint of ale. Witness drew the attention of the landlord to the fact that defendant was on the black list, and he refused to serve her. Witness spoke to her, and defendant asked him to let her go. *William Powell*, landlord of the public house, corroborated this statement, but defendant denied that she attempted to obtain drink. Defendant had been previously fined twice for attempting to obtain drink whilst on the black list, and she was fined 20s and costs, or a month’s imprisonment.”

County Advertiser 6/10/1906

“Last night week an important meeting of the Council of Chainmakers and Strikers Association, together with representatives of the whole of the factories in the districts of Stourbridge, Round Oak, Cradley Heath, Tipton, Pontypridd, Chester, Gateshead-on-Tyne and North Staffordshire, was held at the FOUR WAYS INN, Cradley Heath During the giving of Mr. Sitch’s report he received a telegram which he said was from the *London Daily Mail* asking certain questions with regard to the chain trade. It seemed, he remarked, they had become an exceedingly important trade, not only in Cradley Heath, but so far away as London and other parts of the world.”

County Advertiser 22/6/1907 - Advert

“One Small Dog Cart, India-rubber Tyre, in good condition; suit pony 12 to 13.
W. Powell, Four Ways, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 27/7/1907

“Important questions were discussed at the annual meeting of the Chainmakers’ and Chainstrikers’ Association, which was held on historic ground at the MANCHESTER INN, Four Ways, Cradley Heath on Monday.....”

County Express 12/9/1908

“Friendly Societies’ Parade. On Wednesday evening the committee of the above met at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Mr. W. Coley presiding over a large attendance. The following was a complete list of those boxes which contained amounts of 1s and upwards.....

Mr. *W. Powell*, MANCHESTER, 1s 3d.”

Tipton Herald 9/1/1909

“A meeting of workers in the dollied chain trade – factory men and out-workers – has been called for Tuesday, January 12th, at the MANCHESTER. The business as stated on the agenda is ‘To receive the secretary’s report; election of trustees, treasurer, executive council, and rule committee.’

We understand that another meeting will shortly be held to consider what action should be taken in regard to the prices paid for dollied chain. The notice calling the meeting, which is headed ‘Cradley Heath and District Chainmakers’ Association’ is signed

by Mr. James H. Smith. The meeting is the first since reorganization, and a large attendance is hoped for.”

County Express 23/1/1909

“On Thursday evening a meeting of members of the Chainmakers’ and Strikers’ Association was held at the MANCHESTER INN, Four Ways, Cradley Heath. Mr. Bate presided.....”

Tipton Herald 17/7/1909

“Mr. J. Powell, son of Mr. William Powell, landlord of the MANCHESTER INN, Four Ways, Cradley Heath, has decided to cross the herrin’ pond to seek a fortune in Canada. On Monday evening a number of his friends assembled in MANCHESTER to bid him au revoir and good luck. A capital meal was served by Mr. and Mrs. Powell, after which the evening was spent convivially.....”

County Express 7/5/1910

“On Monday, at St. Luke’s Church, Cradley Heath, the wedding was solemnised between Miss Rhoda Powell, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Powell, of the FOUR WAYS INN, and Mr. John Hill. The bride, who was attired in a grey costume, and a white hat trimmed with pink lilies, was attended by Miss Annie Powell, of Stambermill, as bridesmaid. Mr. Evan Hill, brother of the bridegroom, was best man. The ceremony was performed by the vicar, the Rev. R. E. Walker, after which a reception was held at the bride’s home, about 30 guests assembling.”

County Express 4/3/1911

“The general meeting of the Anchorsmiths’ Association was held at the MANCHESTER HOUSE INN, Cradley Heath, on Monday afternoon, there being a large attendance. After business had been disposed of, a cold collation was served, following which a presentation of a handsome silver tea urn was made to Mr. Thomas Sitch, who has recently retired from the secretaryship, after having held that office six years.....”

1911 Census

198, High Street – FOUR WAYS INN

- [1] William Powell (55), publican, licensed victualler, born Tipton;
- [2] Amelia Powell (51), wife, married 35 years, born Wordsley;
- [3] James Powell (17), son, riveter, boot manufacture, deaf and dumb from birth, born Netherton;
- [4] Cissie Powell (13), daughter, school, born Cradley Heath;
- [5] Florence Powell (22), general servant, born Bewdley:

County Express 15/7/1911

“The annual meeting of the Chainmakers’ and Strikers’ Association was held on Monday at the MANCHESTER, Cradley Heath, a large number assembling.....”

County Express 13/4/1912 - Advert

“Important Sale of Highly Valuable Freehold Properties at Cradley Heath, Old Hill, and Darby End.

A. H. Sidaway has instructions from Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Gill (who are going abroad), to Sell By Auction, on Monday, April 22nd, 1912, at the House of Mr. W. Powell, the FOUR WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, at 7 o’clock in the Evening, subject to Conditions of Sale.....”

County Express 25/5/1912 - Advert

“Dog-Trap (bent-side), in good condition, to be Sold, cheap; suit cob 14 hands.
Wm. Powell, FOUR WAYS INN, Cradley Heath.”

Egerton Harry Clifford Foxall = Harry Foxall

Dudley Herald 10/1/1931

“Shortly after four o’clock on Tuesday morning, a passer-by saw smoke rising from a window of the MANCHESTER INN, Fourways, and gave the alarm to the Fire Brigade. The landlord, Mr. Harry Foxall, who is ex-captain of Portsmouth FC was aroused and it was found that a beam in a position underneath the fireplace had ignited and had set fire to a considerable portion of the floor. Much damage was done to the room, and the cloth of the billiards table was ruined by water. The early discovery was fortunate, as the bedrooms in which the occupiers were sleeping were divided from the burning room only by a staircase, and the roof of the billiards room being of wood and felt, the outbreak might have led to a serious blaze.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/10/1933

“Harry Foxall, the well-known ex-Cradley Heath and former Portsmouth footballer, was involved in a serious accident in Lawrence Lane, Old Hill, yesterday. He was riding his motor-cycle combination from the direction of Cradley Heath, and when in the vicinity of the Council House he suddenly mounted the footpath. Two pedestrians, Mrs. F. Butler, aged 24, Tibbetts Gardens, Cradley Heath, and David Hill, aged 44, of 26, Riddins Street, Old Hill, were knocked down by the machine and received extensive bruises in addition to injured arms and legs.

Foxall collided with a wall, and had his skull fractured, while his right ankle was crushed by the footrest on his machine. He is

detained in the Guest Hospital, Dudley, in a grave condition, but the other two persons were able to proceed home after being medically treated.

Foxall had been licensee of the FOUR WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, but on Monday gave up possession in order to take over the CASTLE HOTEL, Bull Stake, Darlaston.

Foxall, who was one of the best centre-half backs the Black Country has produced, was with Cradley Heath when he was signed on by Portsmouth. He captained them for two seasons, and it was during that period that they gained promotion to the First Division of the Football League. Subsequently he returned to Cradley Heath and was captain until the beginning of last season when he retired from the game.”

1939 Register

High Street – FOUR WAYS INN

[1] *David Parkes*, date of birth 18/6/1892, licensed victualler, married;

[2] *Mabel Parkes*, dob 28/6/1894, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Charles W. Parkes*, dob 5/8/1919, Landis machine, admiralty rigging fittings, single;

[4] *William (H.) Boxley*, dob 14/2/1915, Landis machine, admiralty rigging fittings, married;

[5] *Eve (Boxley) Bowen*, dob 18/12/1896, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[7] *Lottie Cox*, dob 26/1/1889, housemaid, single:

Evening Despatch 31/3/1942

“A live pig offered as a prize in a competition at the MANCHESTER INN, Cradley Heath, attracted 2,500 subscribers and realised £125 for Mr. Churchill’s Aid to Russia Fund. The winner was Mr. J. E. Marson, of Bank Street, Old Hill.”

John Clifford Smith – see also BARLEY MOW, Tividale.

Birmingham Daily Post 3/12/1957

“The bar at the FOUR WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, had to close last night because of damage caused by a fire shortly before opening time.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/7/1960

“‘There is a lot too much of this violence going on everywhere,’ Mr. Norman Bayley told Rowley magistrates yesterday. He was describing what he called a completely unprovoked attack by three Wollescote youths on two men.

Michael Eugene Idoine (25), of Central Avenue, Wollescote, Stourbridge; *Gerald Gilroy Clewes* (21), of Careless Green, Wollescote, and *Anthony Griffin* (20), of Hill Top, Wollescote, who admitted assaulting Mr. *Ralph Scoffham*, of Nuneaton, and Mr. *Albert Lowe*, of Old Hill, causing them actual bodily harm. Each was fined £50 and ordered to pay £5 costs each. They were ordered to pay the fines in monthly instalments of £10 with the alternative of six months’ imprisonment in default.

Mr. Bayley said that after leaving the FOUR WAYS public house, Cradley Heath, on the night of June 11, Mr. *Lowe* was tripped up, kicked and punched by several youths.

Mr. *Scoffham*, who went to his assistance, was also punched about the face and received eye injuries.”

Tipton Herald 27/8/1960

“Tipton team wins Butler Cup.

The final of the competition took place at the OLD SWAN on Thursday week, the finalists being FOUR WAYS, Cradley Heath, and NOAHS ARK, Tipton. NOAHS ARK arrived with only two players, and had the sympathy of the large crowd present, in the first leg. FOUR WAYS should have won this, but could not get the finishing double, and a great first game went to NOAHS ARK. In the second leg, one absent player arrived for NOAHS ARK. Everyone thought if they could win the first leg with two men, surely, they must win the second with three, but this never came about, FOUR WAYS winning very easily.

The final leg went much the same way, FOUR WAYS wanting double five for game and NOAHS ARK 283. Again FOUR WAYS messed it up, leaving NOAHS ARK winners by two legs to one.

Councillor *Bill Harris* presented the cup and four prizes to the winners, and the T. Lawton Cup and four prizes to the runners-up; H. Price Cup and four prizes to the JOLLY GOODFELLOW, Woodside, the best losing semi-finalists. Four prizes went to the GOLDEN CROSS, semi-finalists. The highest score prize went to *G. Willetts* (ANCHOR, Cradley Heath), highest finish prize to *R. Langford* (NOAHS ARK), and the Henn Cup and prize to GOLDEN CROSS for the highest collection. After meeting expenses £23 was handed to the Old Folks Fund.”

A team from here took part in the Cradley Heath Domino League. [1960]

David Whitehouse – see also CROWN AND CUSHION and COACH AND HORSES, Tipton.

It had a darts team. [1972]

Chris Jenkins’ Boxing Academy was based here. [mid 1970s]

Its name was changed to ROGUES.

It was seriously damaged on 13th April 1987, when a lorry was deliberately driven into it.
Demolished

FOUR WAYS

24, Portway Road, (24, Portway), (Portway Hill), ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

William Russell
Martha Witherington (acquired on 1st February 1868 for £1,360)
William Rose
Charles Darby, Dunkirk Brewery, Greets Green, West Bromwich [1903], [1938]
Darby's Brewery Ltd.
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.
Punch Taverns [2002]

LICENSEES

William Russell [1851] – [1862]
Ann Russell [] – **1868**);
Thomas Russell (**1868** – [1871]
William Rose [1881] – [1892]
Mrs. Elizabeth Rose [1896] – [1900]
William Green [1901]
John 'Jack' Smith [1901] – [1912]
William 'Billy' Smith [1911] – **1946**);
Albert Edward Kirkham (**1946** – **1950**);
Norman Edward Toy (**1950** – **1952**);
Thomas Davies (**1952** – **1957**);
Samuel Edwin Blockley (**1957** – **1958**);
Cain Mayer (**1958** – [1965]
Terence Higgins [1984]
Michael Dunn (**1985** – [1986]
Lorraine Messer [1990] manager

NOTES

1851 Census

Portway

- [1] *William Russell* (35), beer shop and milkman, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Nancy Russell (38), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] Emma Russell (14), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] William Russell (12), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Mary Russell (9), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Anne Russell (8), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Elizabeth Russell (7), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] Maria Russell (5), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [9] *Thomas Russell* (4), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [10] Alice Russell (1), daughter, born Rowley Regis:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/8/1855

“Stewponey Annual General Licensing Meeting, for the granting and renewing of licenses, took place on Tuesday last.....
There were 30 applicants for spirit licenses, out of which number the 11 under-mentioned were successful.....
William Russell, Portway, Rowley.”

Brierley Hill Advertiser 19/4/1856

“John Winwood, a collier at Messrs. Taylor's colliery at Rounds Green, was killed by the falling of the pit frame on the 12th instant. An inquest was held on the body before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, at the house of Mr. *Russell*, FOUR WAYS INN, Portway

Road, on the 15th, when a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Brierley Hill Advertiser 16/1/1858

“William Bull was charged, on the information on *Ann Russell*, with uttering a counterfeit half a crown at her house on the 5th inst. Mr. Burbury appeared for the prisoner. Prosecutrix stated that she was the wife of *William Russell* who kept a beer shop at Rowley Regis. On the above day, the prisoner, in company with another man not in custody came to her house, and called for some ale, for which prisoner tendered a half crown in payment. Shortly after the other man called for some ale and tendered another half crown, and having received the change they both abruptly left the house, without having disposed of their ale. About ten minutes after their departure she discovered that the coins were both counterfeit ones. She afterwards gave them to her husband. *William Russell*, husband of the last witness, corroborated the evidence of his wife, and identified the coins produced in court as those his wife gave to him.

It was also proved that the prisoner had passed another half crown at the shop of Mr. Edwards, Perrys Lake, on Saturday the 9th inst.

PC Burton deposed to apprehending the prisoner on the evening of the 9th, inst, at Mr. Edwards’s house. The case was then adjourned till Monday next in order that the Mint authorities might be consulted.

Mr. Burbury stating that he should on that day be able to prove an alibi.”

1861 Census

Portway

- [1] *William Russell* (46), publican, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Ann Russell* (49), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] *William Russell* (23), son, agricultural labourer, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Mary Russell* (20), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Maria Russell* (14), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Thomas Russell* (15), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *Alice Russell* (11), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis
- [8] *Hannah Russell* (9), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

Birmingham Journal 11/1/1868 - Advert

“Sale on Monday, January 20, at the FOUR WAYS INN, Portway, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, together with the Live and Dead Stock, from the Farm adjoining.

To Farmers, Parties Furnishing, Brokers, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. John Bent, on Monday, January 20, instant, by order of the Executors of the late Mr. *William Russell* – the whole of the excellent Brewing Plant, well-seasoned Ale Casks, Stock of Ale, superior 4-pull Beer Machine, pewter Ale and Spirit Measures, Cups, Jugs, and Glasses, Tap Table, Drinking Tables, rail-back Benches, Forms, Cooling Vats, Sieves, Mash Rules, and Ladders, Malt Crusher.

Also, the Neat and Genteel Household Furniture, consisting of mahogany four-post Bedsteads, French ditto, straw Mattresses, feather Beds, Bed Linen, mahogany and painted Chests of Drawers, Washing Stands, Dressing Tables, Toilet and Chimney Glasses, mahogany Sofa, Eight-day Clock, in mahogany case, corner Cupboard, Prints and Frames, Cases of Stuffed Birds, Windsor and cane-seated Chairs, with the usual Kitchen Requisites.

Also the Live and Dead Stock, at the Farm, consisting of Cows, Cob, Trap, Carts, Chaff Engine, Rick of Hay, and other Effects. Sale to commence at half-past Ten o’clock.

NB. Catalogues will be ready in a few days, and may be had at the Place of Sale; or of the Auctioneer, Wolverhampton Street, Dudley.”

Birmingham Journal 25/1/1868 - Advert

“Staffordshire. Valuable Freehold Houses and Farm, Portway, Rowley Regis.

To Be Sold By Auction, by Mr. John Bent, by order of the Trustees of the late *William Russell*, on Monday Next, January 27, at the FOUR WAYS INN, Portway, at Six o’clock in the Evening, subject to conditions then to be read.

Lot 1. All that valuable Freehold Old-established Corner Public House known by the sign of the FOUR WAYS INN, at Portway, Rowley Regis, now in the occupation of the representatives of the late Mr. *William Russell*. The Premises comprise Front Tap Room, Bar Parlour, large Club Room, good Chambers, Brewhouse, and Malt Room, three Cellars, Dairy, and other Out-buildings; together with all those four compact Freehold Dwelling-Houses adjoining, now in the respective occupations of Edward Smith, Davies, Edwards, and Smith, the whole estimated to produce the annual rental of £53.

Lot 2. All that excellent Freehold Farm, called Portway Farm, situate at Portway, Rowley Regis, having an extensive frontage to the turnpike road, comprising three closes of rich Pasture Land, together with two comfortable Cottages, Blacksmith’s Shop, Brewhouses, Piggeries, Cowhouse, Stabling, and other Out-buildings; the whole containing with the site of Buildings, 4a 2r 24p, or thereabouts.

The Land is in the occupation of the representatives of the late Mr. *Russell*, and the Cottages, are in the respective occupations of William Harris and Thomas Unett, producing an annual rental of £13. The Land affords an excellent site for a genteel Residence or for Building purposes generally.

The above Property is pleasantly situated, well tenanted, and forms and excellent investment for the capitalist. There is an abundant supply of hard and soft Water.

For further particulars, apply at the respective Offices of Messrs. Coldicott and Canning, Solicitors; or the Auctioneer, all of Dud-

ley.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 11/4/1868 - Notice

“*William Russell*, Deceased. Notice to Creditors.

All Persons having any Claims or Demands against the late *William Russell*, of Portway, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, Innholder, Farmer, and Dairyman, are requested to deliver full particulars thereof to us, on or before the 20th day of April instant, for Investigation, on behalf of the Executors; after which date they will proceed to close their Accounts.

Dated this 6th day of April, 1868.

Coldicott and Canning, Solicitors, Dudley.”

Stourbridge Observer 6/3/1869

“On Monday evening, an inquest was held at the FOUR WAYS INN, Portway, before Mr. E. Hooper, Esq, Coroner, upon the body of a child, one year and nine months of age, named Benjamin Hill, the son of a labourer, also residing at Portway.

It appeared that on Saturday morning the 20th ult, the child's mother poured out a cup of tea, which she placed upon the table for the deceased to drink. Whilst she turned round, he pulled it over him, thereby scalding his chest and side. She did not apply any oils – simply ‘soap plasters.’ On the Wednesday he was much worse, and on the following day, he died. She (the mother) had intended to take him to a doctor. Mr. Cooper came on the Thursday, but the child had expired. The deceased was insured in a club. The Coroner remarked there appeared to have been great neglect on the part of the child's parents, in not procuring medical assistance, as it was very probable, if they had done, the child's life might have been prolonged, and perhaps its health restored.

The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, accelerated by want of proper medical assistance. Mr. Hooper called the mother into the room, and gave her a severe reprimand.”

1871 Census

Portway

[1] *Thomas Russell* (25), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Mary Ann Russell* (24), wife, born Dudley:

1881 Census

24, Portway

[1] *William Rose* (58), publican, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Elizabeth Rose* (56), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *James Rose* (20), son, labourer, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Martha Rose* (16), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[5] *George Rose* (10), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

1891 Census

24, Portway Road

[1] *William Rose* (68), licensed victualler, blind, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Elizabeth Rose* (66), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *George Rose* (20), son, labourer at stone quarry, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Martha Witherington* (72), visitor, widow, born Rowley Regis:

Smethwick Weekly News 23/3/1901

“Estate of *Martha Witherington*. Valuable Freehold Public House Property, the FOUR WAYS INN, also Cottages and about Five Acres of Land, at Portway, near Oldbury.

Mr. J. W. Florance (Successor to Messrs. Roderick and Son) will Sell by Auction, by direction of the Trustees of the late *Martha Witherington*, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Wednesday, April 3rd, 1901.....

Lot 1. A Valuable Freehold Property, comprising the Important Fully Licensed Public House well known as the FOUR WAYS INN, occupying a prominent corner position at the junction of the roads leading from Oldbury to Dudley, and from Rowley to Rounds Green and the Brades, with Brewhouse, Malt Room, Yard (having gateway entrance) and Premises, for about thirty years past (and until her death recently) in the occupation of the late Mrs. *Elizabeth Rose*.

Also the house adjoining.....

The FOUR WAYS INN is situated in a busy and thriving district, close to important Quarries and Works. It is at the junction of main roads, and stands free from opposition, there being no other Fully Licensed House for some distance.

It is a well-known House and should command an important trade.....”

[This lot sold for £2030.]

1901 Census

24, Portway Road – Tavern

[1] *William Green* (51), married, manager of public house, born Warwick;

[2] *Frederick Green* (11), son, born Oldbury:

William Green – check also HARMONIC, Oldbury.

County Express 29/3/1902

“An inquest was held at the FOUR WAYS INN, Portway, on Tuesday evening by Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) relative to the death of Esther Child, widow of the late Mr. Child, formerly assistant town clerk of Dudley. On Saturday deceased fell downstairs, and was found at the bottom with a fractured skull. Dr. Beasley attributed death to apoplexy, accelerated by a fractured skull. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

County Advertiser 19/12/1903

“Mr. Waller, West Bromwich, made an application on behalf of Charles Darby, landlord of the FOUR WAYS INN, Portway, Rowley Regis, for permission to make certain alterations to his premises. He explained that the chief reason for making the alteration was to provide better accommodation for the landlord and his family. Prior to Mr. Darby taking the house it was occupied by a widow for thirty years, who did not want so much accommodation as the applicant did. It was proposed to connect a small cottage adjoining the house to the licensed premises, but it would be used privately by the landlord. He did not think there would be any increase of the licensing area.

Superintendent Johnson opposed the application on the ground that the licensing area would be increased by 16ft 8in, whilst it would also prevent the police having proper supervision over the house.

Sir Benjamin Hingley said the Bench had made a rule not to extend the licensing area of any public house, and they must refuse the application. He, however, intimated that the applicant should submit an amended plan showing no increase in the drinking area to the justices at the next sessions.”

County Advertiser 30/1/1904

“Mr. Waller, of West Bromwich, made an application on behalf of Mr. C. Darby, owner of the FOUR WAYS INN, Portway, Rowley, for permission to make alterations to the premises. He explained that a month ago he made a similar application when the justices considered the plans as presented showed an increase in the licensed area, and refused to grant it. Since then plans had been made, which provided no increase in the licensed area, gave better domestic accommodation to the landlord, and enabled the police to exercise proper supervision over the premises. The accommodation at present existing between the club room and the bed rooms would be cut off.

Inspector Johnson said he had visited the house, and considered it would be a great improvement.

The Bench granted the application.”

County Advertiser 3/11/1906

“At Rowley Regis Police Court, last Friday, Lorenzo George Bell, agent, of New Street, Hill Top, was charged with obtaining 10s, by means of false pretences, from Sarah Horton, of Portway, Rowley, on the 17th of August.

Prosecutrix alleged that prisoner called at her house on the date named, and obtained 10s from her by representing that he was an agent for the British Key and Property Register Ltd. He gave her a receipt for the money, and said he would provide premiums for three years for 2s 6d each.

William Pegg, manager of the company, stated that prisoner was discharged on the 31st of May last.

Police-constable Bowers attested prisoner, who, in reply to the charge, said he did receive the money, but with no intention to defraud, and he had a perfect answer to the charge.

Prisoner was also charged with obtaining 10s by false pretences, from Elizabeth Smith of the FOUR WAYS INN, Rowley, and 2s 6d from Olive Smith, of the same address, on the 17th of August.

The prisoner was sentenced to six months' hard labour.”

1911 Census

Portway – FOUR WAYS INN

- [1] *William Smith* (39), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Olive Smith* (38), wife, married 17 years, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Edward Smith* (16), son, plasterer, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *William Smith* (14), son, plasterer, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *George Smith* (12), son, school, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *John Smith* (11), son, school, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *Mary Smith* (9), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] *Samuel Smith* (7), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [9] *Elizabeth Smith* (5), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [10] *Jacob Smith* (5), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [11] *Albert Smith* (2), son, born Rowley Regis;

Black Country Bugle

'The Smiths Of Rowley'

“*Jack Smith* kept the old FOUR WAYS at Portway up until the first few years of this [20th] century when he passed it on to his son *William Smith*, who kept it until 1947 (?). He was also the smith for the Samson Colliery which operated off Throne Road where he did surface smithing and occasionally underground shoeing the ponies.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/3/1937

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

The justices granted a provisional order for the removal of the license of the FOUR WAYS INN, Portway, to new premises to be erected on the same site.

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/5/1937

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

The justices confirmed the removal of the full license of the FOUR WAYS INN, Portway Road, to new premises proposed to be erected on a site adjoining the existing house.”

The license was removed to premises to be erected on adjoining land [behind] on 3rd February 1937, and confirmed on 27th April 1937.

Confirmation of Provisional Order by Justices on the 5th October 1938, to Mr. Darby. Transfer of license for Mr. Darby to present licensee *William Smith* on that date.

The original building was demolished.

It was rebuilt in 1938.

1939 Register

Portway – FOUR WAYS INN

[1] *William Smith*, date of birth 22/10/1872, licensed victualler, widowed;

[2] Samuel Smith, dob 31/10/1903, motor driver, single;

[3] Mary (Simmons) Smith, dob 11/3/1910, bar general, single:

Albert Edward Kirkham – see also DURHAM OX, Tipton.

Cain Mayer – see also TALBOT, West Bromwich.

Four Ways Rangers FC was based here. [1950s]

Birmingham Daily Post 8/1/1959

“An expectant mother trying to get past a group of ‘hooligans’ in a passage-way was tripped up by one of them. When her husband remonstrated, blows were rained on him and his skull was fractured as he fell against a wall, it was alleged at Rowley Regis yesterday. William George Foster (aged 17), of 16, Tame Road, Brandhall Estate, Quinton, denied assaulting Mr. Terence Marsh, of 89, Throne Crescent, Blackheath, causing grievous bodily harm.

Mr. N. Bayley, prosecuting, said that Mr. Marsh’s wife, who was expecting a child, had trouble in getting past a group of ‘hooligans’ in a passage-way at the FOUR WAYS INN, Portway Hill, Blackheath. She was tripped up and narrowly avoided falling down some steps. The consequences might have been serious. When Mr. Marsh spoke to one of the youths Foster was alleged to have told him, ‘If you want to say anything to him you will have to say it to me first.’ Mr. Marsh told Foster to mind his own business. ‘At that the other youths gathered round and blows were rained on Mr. Marsh,’ Mr. Bayley said. Mr. Marsh remembered going backwards through the door of a toilet, then everything went black.

The youths, including Foster, then ran away. When searched for by police a few days later Foster had a newspaper cutting relating to the alleged attack.

Foster, who said he did not wish to say anything, was fined £10 and ordered to pay £10 13s costs.

The chairman (Mr. J. Ball) told him, ‘You might have been on a murder or manslaughter charge.’”

[A team from here took part in the Sports Argus Inn Quiz competition. \[1973/74\], \[1974/5\]](#)

Daily Mirror 19/9/1979

“Bridegroom Mick Cannon was caught with his trousers down on his stag night. He was on top of a half-naked girl, a court heard yesterday. But his position was grim. For the person who spotted him was his future brother-in-law. Seething with rage, he laid into Mick, thumping him five times in the face.

The next day Mick married 17-year-old Wendy Harries. She wore white and Mick sported a shining black eye. Wendy’s family boycotted the ceremony because they disapproved of 18-year-old Mick.

The story of the eve-of-wedding mayhem was told to magistrates yesterday when Wendy’s brother Les pleaded guilty to assault. He had not been invited to the stag night at the FOUR WAYS pub in Rowley Regis, West Midlands. But he turned up there, and at about 11pm went outside. He told police, ‘I saw Cannon lying across a girl. As he stood up he pulled up his trousers. It was pretty obvious what he had been doing. I was in a rage and I hit him.’

Les, a 20-year-old bachelor, called 17-year-old Debbie Edmunds to give evidence yesterday.

Debbie, of Crusader Close, Oldbury, said that she was behind a caravan outside the pub with a guest at the stag night. He pulled her to the ground, lifted her skirt and took down her tights. Then she claimed Mick came up saying, ‘Here, let me have a go. It’s my last night of freedom tonight.’ Debbie went on, ‘At that he got on top of me.’

Magistrates at Old Hill, West Midlands, conditionally discharged toolmaker Les, of Stuart Road, Rowley Regis.

Last night factory worker Mick denied Les’s story. Mick, of Pine Road, Tividale, said, ‘I had just been to the toilet and I hadn’t quite fastened my trousers. I was never trying to have sex with another girl.’

Wendy backed her husband. She said, 'Mick is not the sort of bloke to do that to me.' She added, 'I'm really upset about what has been said and if I see my brother I'll hit him.'

Sandwell Evening Mail 6/8/1986

"The NACRO Care Project, based in Whiteheath has organised a disco at the FOUR WAYS public house, Portway, Rowley Regis, Oldbury for Saturday, at 8pm. All proceeds will go to the Cystic Fibrosis Research Fund. The Terry Samson Roadshow offered to put the disco on free of charge."

Sandwell Evening Mail 1/12/1986

"Staff and customers at a Rowley Regis pub who raised over £1,500 in a competition to aid the blind have won a trophy to mark their efforts. Regulars at the FOUR IN HAND [sic], Portway Hill, raised a total of £1,557.30 in just 10 weeks to finish top fund raisers in the annual 'Pile of Pennies' competition run by the Sandwell branch of the Wolverhampton, Dudley and District Institute for the Blind.

The fund raisers, who finished third last year with £630 collected, raised this year's total through donations and events including a 24-hour pool marathon, discos, raffles and sponsored diets. Tenant, Mr. *Mike Dunn*, said, 'This time we had £600 in £1 coins alone. I think it is a fantastic achievement by a lot of generous customers.'

Sandwell Evening Mail 26/5/1990

"The FOUR WAYS stands at the bottom of Portway Hill, Rowley Regis, beside a local quarry and, as its name suggests, is on a prominent position at a busy crossroads. It's thought to have been built in 1939 and belonged to a family who lived opposite. It's now an M&B pub and had just been given a golden stag symbol on the outside of the building. It's very much a locals' local and well used by the community. The beers include Springfield Bitter and Tennents Pilsner, and there's also Guinness and cider on draught, and from next week a Banks's Mild guest beer.

The pub originally had a bar, snug and bar-parlour but these were all knocked into one big bar, and there's a separate function room at the back licensed to hold 185 people. It's used at weekends for weddings and parties, and is fully booked up until October. The room is also the venue for several local groups, including a cowboy club and keep fit group, and some Wednesdays there are antique and general auctions. The room has a big dance floor and the place is packed out every Sunday night for a disco.

Landlady *Lorraine Messer* is hoping to partition off part of the room during the week to use as a lounge.

Manager *Lorraine* and her fireman husband Shaun run the pub with seven staff and have been in charge since January last year. They have two children Shaun, aged eight, and four-year-old Stacey. They have doubled the takings since they arrived, having taken over from the last licensee, a vicar, and now have the best trading pub of those belonging to businessman Glen Whitehouse, who has five pubs in the Black Country area.

Activities on a regular basis include darts – the team have just won the Warley league – pool and football. There's also cards every evening and crib, a one-armed bandit and a juke box. *Lorraine* is currently threatening to throw out some of the records which a couple of Teddy Boys like! 'They love the rock 'n' roll, but I prefer the disco music, and keep telling them I'll have them taken out!'

Regulars are generous when it comes to supporting charity and are currently raising cash for the blind in a penny tube on the bar. Money also goes to local children's homes.

Famous drinkers include former world boxing champion Pat Coddell, the Warley Wonder, who usually comes in twice a week. *Lorraine* said, 'Everyone is used to seeing him and he's a lovely fella and doesn't try to make out he's something special.' Husband Shaun has a lot in common with Pat – he's an ex-amateur boxer himself.

Local characters include friends Jean and Marlene who have been coming in at dinner time for years and sit in their own special corner sipping half pints of mild. There's charmer Collin Stevens who also drinks at lunchtimes and speaks to everyone who arrives, especially the women!

Pensioner Harry 'H' is a night time regular and cheeky with it, says *Lorraine*, who has to put him in his place. 'He never smiles so you never can tell if he's joking or being serious!'

The pub is also a regular venue for the Nash family. There's always one of the four brothers and sister around. The youngest, Mary, is a barmaid, Barry plays in the football team, Paul runs the BRITANNIA pub in Blackheath and John and Pete are the doormen on disco nights.

Lorraine said, 'The bar is big so there's plenty of room and we have a nice mixture of old and young. The pub used to be well-known for trouble when I was young, but there's never any bother nowadays.'

Dudley Chronicle 25/5/2017

"A life-saving defibrillator has been installed in a Rowley Regis pub in memory of a man who died from an undiagnosed heart condition. Alex Brown, from East Park, Wolverhampton, died suddenly at the age of 25 in April 2015, after suffering from a fatal cardiac arrest.

His family and friends, including girlfriend Rebecca Marshall, have been raising funds to pay for heart screening for young people aged between 14 and 35, through the national charity Cardiac Risk in the Young. They also want to install public access defibrillators in places that were memorable to Alex with the help of the charity AED Donate, based in Stone, Staffordshire.

A defibrillator has been installed at the FOUR WAYS Pub, Portway Hill, Rowley Regis.

His sister Rachel Dingle said her fit and healthy brother was loved by all. 'His laugh and sense of humour were infectious,' she added.

Friend Lizzy Hughes has organised fashion shows at Rowley Hall Primary School.

'We can never bring Alex back but we can hope that we can leave the lasting legacy he deserves,' said Rachel."

Halesowen News 18/12/2018

“Big-Hearted boxer Jason Welborn will be bringing a bit of Christmas cheer to deprived children in Rowley Regis this week. The former British middleweight champion will be donning his Santa outfit and dishing out presents around his local Lion Farm Estate. It’s Welborn’s way of saying thank-you for all the support he’s received over the past year, which has seen the 32-year-old both win and defend his British title while also boxing in America. Welborn will be joined by his wife Rachel and daughter Demi-Rose on his goodwill tour which takes place this Wednesday, starting at 4.30pm in Martley Road and finishing up at St James’ Church.

Welborn said, ‘We must have accumulated well over 100 presents, some big, some small, most of which are designed for children under the age of 10.’

The presents will be distributed from one of Welborn’s own skips as he has only recently set up a skip hire business in Dudley. Welborn has paid for the presents himself and said, ‘It’s my way of saying thank-you for all the support I’ve received from people on the Lion Farm Estate and from pubs like the PHOENIX and the FOUR WAYS. It’s just nice to give something back. I’m grateful, because boxing has kept me on the right path. It’s just two hours out of my day to give something back and everyone’s happy. It was just an idea at first, but I’m glad we’ve gone ahead and done it. I’m taking the rest of December off, but it’s back to training in the New Year and I’m hoping to have something lined up for March or April. I think I opened a few eyes boxing in Los Angeles, so we will have to wait and see what develops.’”

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.....

FOUR WAY BAR AND GRILL, Portway Hill.”

Express & Star 23/10/2020

“Pubs bosses in the West Midlands say they feel like they’re always ‘jumping through hoops’ with the constant Government rule changes within the hospitality industry. Rules in Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Walsall prevent households from mixing in pubs and restaurants due to a surge in cases leading them to be placed into the Government’s Tier 2. It has meant less trade, even on busy weekend nights, leaving many places struggling to stay open. And bosses said even with those visiting for a bite to eat, it was almost impossible to check if they were living together.....

Amrik Singh Saini, who runs the FOURWAYS BAR AND GRILL in Rowley Regis, said it was difficult to manage and stressed people didn’t like being asked if they belonged to the same household. He said, ‘It’s very hard to manage with the rules – it’s very difficult and it’s really had an impact. It’s hard to manage social distancing and now people can’t mix with households either. They can lie easily about it and we can’t check their IDs and say they’re not – because they say they’re living together and you don’t know what you can say or do. If six or a bunch of people show up we ask them ‘you don’t look like you’re from the same household’ and they say ‘we live together, why are you asking?’ and they don’t like it. It’s difficult but we’re following the guidelines and doing what we can do.’”

Halesowen News 5/4/2022

“A Rowley Regis pub wants to build a covered seating area for customers to relax in. The FOURWAYS BAR AND GRILL on Portway Hill has applied to the council to build a structure with timber and glazed walls and a retractable canopy in its garden. The structure will mean the pub will be able to provide a ‘comfortable seating environment for customers wanting to relax after enjoying a meal in the restaurant.’ The pub says if given the go-ahead it will help it survive in the current difficult trading conditions and ‘protect jobs.’

The application states, ‘Due to the ongoing public health situation and the general desire to maintain social distancing, the restaurant needs more floor space to accommodate the same number of customers. If customer numbers cannot be maintained the business becomes unviable. The objective therefore, is to encourage those who have finished their meal to vacate the immediate restaurant area.’

The application states there will be insulation to act as a sound barrier to protect neighbouring properties and that customers use the outdoor patio at present with no insulation against noise affecting surrounding homes. It states the structure will not be used when the weather is bad and there will be no amplified music or speech inside it. It goes on, ‘The proposed measures can only be an improvement on the current situation.’ It adds that the ‘development of the outside area will help to sustain the existing business in the current difficult trading environment, and will protect the jobs of the existing staff.’

The existing outdoor play area will remain. The application to Sandwell Council states the family pub/restaurant has an ‘excellent reputation for being trouble free.’”

Express & Star 28/11/2022

“A Rowley Regis pub is not giving up its bid to create a covered seating area for customers. The FOURWAYS BAR AND GRILL’S application to build a structure with timber and glazed walls and a retractable canopy in its garden was thrown out by planners. They were concerned it could lead to more cars which may not be able to get onto the car park and cause traffic issues

on the nearby four-way junction with traffic lights on Newbury Lane.

Now the pub on Portway Hill has resubmitted the planning application to Sandwell Council, stating that its refusal was ‘unjust.’ It states, ‘The sole reason for refusal was that the applicant has provided insufficient information to demonstrate that the introduction of the formal covered seating area would not result in an increase in vehicular trips which would exceed the capacity of the existing car park. The existing external seating area is already in situ and this proposal is merely for the erection of the retractable roof enabling the area to be covered to protect customers from the elements.’ It goes on, ‘This seating area allows for families to sit together to socialise whilst being able to observe their children as they use the play area. The proposal does not seek to introduce any further seating thus impacting on the number of customers using the public house or generating additional vehicular trips.’ It goes on to say, ‘The peak hours of trading for the public house is in the evenings when the nearby roads are much quieter therefore the decision to refuse this application is unjust. Not one objection has been received to this proposal or any complaints received about the operation and management of the public house.’”

Halesowen News 6/11/2023

“A Rowley Regis pub wants to create an outdoor area with seating for customers and a helicopter on display. The FOUR WAYS INN on Portway Hill has applied for a two-storey platform in its rear garden. On the lower deck there would be seating for 60 customers and on the top deck there would be a helicopter. The application states that if approved there would be ‘construction of an outdoor raised platform to display a Westland Lynx AH Helicopter and creation of restaurant seating for 60 customers beneath the platform.’

The pub previously submitted two applications to build an outdoor seating area – both were turned down by planners who said it could lead to more cars travelling to the pub, which may not be able to get onto the car park, and cause traffic issues on the nearby four-way junction with traffic lights on Newbury Lane. The pub had said that it needed more space to ‘accommodate the same number of customers’ due to the ‘general desire to maintain social distancing’ and that ‘if customer numbers cannot be maintained the business becomes unviable.’ The new application was validated by Sandwell Council on November 3 and will be considered by planners.”

Express & Star 23/12/2023

“A plan to display a helicopter in a pub garden has been blocked by the council. The move by FOURWAYS BAR AND GRILL in Rowley Regis would have seen the Westland Lynx helicopter lowered into the pub’s garden alongside a new seating area but the plan has been rejected by Sandwell Council. The council’s planners said the pub had not shown it could accommodate 70 more visitors or their cars.....”

[2023]

FOX

Titford Lane, (Whiteheath Gate), (Cakemore), WHITEHEATH

OWNERS

Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth Matthews, Old Crispin, Stourbridge
Edwin and Alf Marler (Marler Brothers Ltd.), Bulls Head, Wollaston [1949]
John Davenport and Sons Ltd. (acquired in 1949) [1986]

LICENSEES

John Hadley [1850] – [1854]
David Britt [1860]
John Harrington [1862] – [1865]
John Curtis [1867]
John Evans [1868] – [1869]
James Curtis [1870] – [1873]
John Evans [1870] – [1875]
Henry Whitehouse [1881] – [1895]
William Whitehouse (1895 – [1908]
Thomas Willetts [1910] – [1912]
Thomas Goode [1916] – [1921]
Adam Tatham Whitehouse [1924]
Stephen George Bayley [] – 1925;
John Conrad (1925 – []
Francis John Matthews [] – 1934);

Joseph Hadley (1934 – 1936);
Walter William Clark (1936 – 1941);
Albert Edward Marler (1941 – 1946);
Ernest John ‘Jack’ Johnson (1946 – 1960);
Joseph Murphy (1960 – 1962);
Archibald Joseph Eames (1962 – [1965]
Tom Swingler [1960s]
Keith Taylor [1982]
Muriel Brown [1986]
Raymond Franklin [1988]
Tony Phillips []

NOTES

[This pub is strictly in the parish of Halesowen, but is included here due to it being at Whiteheath.]

It was originally the VINE.

Birmingham Journal 19/3/1853 - Advert

“To be Let, that excellent Old-Licensed Public House, the VINE INN, situate at Whiteheath Gate. The House comprises Tap Room, two Parlours, Bar, Club Room, two Chambers, Brewhouse, Cellar, with Stabling, Piggeries, Skittle Alley, and three large Gardens. The Fixtures to be taken to at a fair valuation. Rent, £20 per annum. The House is well situated, being surrounded by Collieries and Brick Works, and is doing a good in and out-door Business. The present Proprietor is leaving on account of taking to a farm.

For particulars, and to treat, apply to Mr. Hawkins, Auctioneer, at his Offices, Freeth Street, Oldbury, or High Street, Brierley Hill.”

Birmingham Journal 27/8/1859 - Advert

“Whiteheath Gate, near Oldbury.

To be Let, with immediate possession, that well-known, good-accustomed, Old-licensed Public House, the VINE INN, Whiteheath Gate, now doing a good ready-money trade. The House is roomy, with all necessary Out-buildings, large Garden, and well supplied with hard and soft Water. Rent low.

For further particulars, apply on the Premises; or to Mr. Hawkins, Auctioneer, Round Oak, Brierley Hill.”

Birmingham Journal 9/11/1861 - Advert

“A Good Opportunity for Any Party Wishing to Enter the Public Business.

To be Let, that good accustomed Old-licensed Public House, the VINE INN, Whiteheath Gate, near Oldbury, having every convenience for carrying on an extensive trade with large productive Garden. Coming-in low. Rent and Payments exceeding moderate. The present tenant is leaving on account of ill-health.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/1/1862 - Advert

“To be Let, with immediate possession, the VINE INN, Whiteheath Gate, near Oldbury, with large and productive Garden belonging thereto. Rent £18 per year. No Fixtures or Stock to be taken to.

Apply on the Premises; or to J. G. Higgs, Esq, Blackheath; or to Mr. Hawkins, Auctioneer, Brierley Hill.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/6/1865 - Advert

“Wanted a General Servant.

Apply, VINE INN, White Heath near Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/12/1865 - Advert

“VINE INN, Whiteheath Gate, near Rowley, a compact Old-Licensed House situate among collieries, and close to the roadside, now doing a snug business both in and out. In-coming can be reduced to about £40. To be disposed of solely on account of the Proprietor going to reside at Soho.

Apply to A. Atree, Publicans’ Valuer and Auctioneer, Church Square, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Journal 22/6/1867 - Advert

“Whiteheath Gate, between Oldbury and Rowley.

Valuable Freehold Property, comprising the VINE INN, and Six Dwelling Houses, with Nail Shops, Gardens, and Premises, and Seven Lots of Valuable Building Land, situate at Whiteheath Gate, in the parishes of Hales Owen and Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Bateman, on Monday Next, the 24th day of June, at Six o’clock in the evening, at the WHITE-HEATH GATE INN, and subject to conditions then to be produced, the following Freehold Property and Building Land.

Lot 1. All that desirable Public House, known as the VINE INN, with the Stable, Garden and Premises, in the occupation of Mr. *John Curtis* at the yearly rent of £21; also, Six Dwelling Houses, Nail Shops, Gardens, and Premises adjoining, in the respective

occupations of Thomas Hadley, Richard Fereday, Timothy Hadley, William Bennett, John Clarke, and Job Jeavons, and producing together the aggregate yearly rental of £39; the whole covering an area of 2,840 square yards.

Lots 2 to 8. Seven Pieces of desirable Freehold Building Land, having excellent frontages to the road leading to Blackheath and Causeway Green, and containing in quantity from 400 to 700 square yards in each.

Lithographed plans and printed particulars, showing and fully describing the several lots, may be obtained from Mr. N. H. Chavasse, Rowley; J. Smallwood, Esq, Solicitor, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham; the Auctioneer, Dudley; and at the place of sale."

Birmingham Daily Post 19/10/1867 - Advert

"To be Let, with immediate possession, that well-known Old-licensed Public-House, the VINE INN, White Heath Gate, near Oldbury. The premises comprise Tap Room, large Kitchen, Bar, Parlour, Club Room, Chambers, good Cellars, Brewhouse, Malt Room, Piggeries, and good Garden. Rent low. No valuation required.

Apply to Mr. Robertson, WHITE HEATH GATE INN; or to Mr. Hawkins, Auctioneer, &c, Brierley Hill."

County Advertiser 18/7/1868

"On Tuesday, the Magistrates present were Messrs. Moore, Smith and Gem. *John Evans*, landlord of the VINE public house, Whiteheath, Cakemore, was summoned at the instance of the police for knowingly permitting a game of cards, called 'pitch all fours,' to be played in his house, on the 25th June last. Defendant pleaded guilty, and as it appeared he had only kept the house only six months, and that otherwise it had been well conducted, there was no conviction recorded upon his promising to suppress the card playing and paying the cost of the summons."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/12/1869 - Notice

"The Bankruptcy Act 1861.

John Evans, now and for two years last past residing at the VINE INN, Whiteheath Gate, in the county of Worcester, Retail Brewer, Grocer, and Wheelwright; and previously thereto of Church Bridge, near Oldbury, in the said county of Worcester, and then carrying on the business of a Grocer and Wheelwright, having been adjudged Bankrupt on the 15th day of December, 1869, 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 5th day of January, 1870, at Ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely, at the Court House, Oldbury. 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."

County Express 21/5/1870

"Unjust Weights and Measures.

John Evans, of the VINE INN, Whiteheath, paid costs, for having in his possession an earthenware quart measure, which was unjust and not according to legal standard."

1871 Census

White Heath Gate

[1] *John Evans* (30), wheel wright, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Eliza Evans (30), dress maker, born Oldbury;

[3] Joseph Evans (5), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[4] Harriet Bullous (12), nurse, born Oldbury:

John Evans was also a wheelwright. [1872]

County Advertiser 28/6/1873

"Benjamin Barker was charged with refusing to quit the VINE INN, Whiteheath; and further with assaulting the landlord, *John Evans*, on the 14th inst. Mr. Holberton prosecuted, and Mr. Stokes defended.

Complainant stated that the defendant came to his house about half-past ten o'clock on the night of Saturday, the 14th inst. Witness had a conversation with the defendant respecting a gig which he had purchased of him (witness). Some sharp words arose, and defendant, after having used some vulgar expressions, struck complainant on the face.

Eliza *Evans*, wife of complainant, confirmed this; and William Bullas also deposed that he saw the defendant strike complainant. Witnesses having been called for the defence, the Bench said they considered the cases proved, and fined the defendant 5s and costs for the assault on the landlord, and 10s and costs for the other offence."

County Advertiser 30/10/1875

"James Cutler and Emanuel Fisher pleaded guilty to refusing to quit the FILE [sic] INN, Whiteheath, on the 2nd inst, and were discharged on payment of costs.

There was a further charge against Fisher of wilfully damaging, at the same time, a trap, the property of the landlord. *John Evans*, complainant, said, that after the men had gone out of the house, Fisher pushed over a trap that was standing by, doing damage to it to the amount of 14s. He did not wish that the defendant should be very severely dealt with. Fined 1s, damages 14s, and costs, or 21 days."

County Advertiser 27/9/1879

“An inquest was held on Thursday afternoon, at the VINE INN, Whiteheath, before Mr. R. Docker, on the body of Eliza Barker, 26, who disappeared yesterday week under singular circumstances.

John Barker, miner, husband of the deceased, said his wife had been ill, and before he went to work on the morning when deceased was missed, he sent for a woman named Ann Poole, who had previously attended her. He was not present when the body was recovered.

Ann Poole, in her evidence, said she had attended deceased when she was confined ten weeks ago. In consequence of the husband of deceased sending for her, she went to attend the woman on the previous Friday morning. Deceased came downstairs, and complained how weak she was, and also said she had a pain in her head. In the afternoon she went out of the house and walked rather fast across a field towards the ‘Black Bat Pit.’ Witness followed her, but when she reached the top of the embankment, deceased was nowhere to be seen.

James Griffin Beasley, surgeon, Rowley, said he saw deceased on the Thursday, when she seemed quite rational. As deceased was in a very weak state it was possible that delirium might be brought on by cold. It was about a week since deceased was last confined, and if delirium happened deceased of course could not be accountable for her actions.

Peter Knowles, constable of Halesowen, said he went to the Black Bat Pit, at Cakemore, the property of James E. Dunn, of Nethererton. The pit was disused, and only fenced round with posts and chains. A portion of grass had been dislodged at the mouth as if by a person’s heel slipping on it. He reported the matter to Mr. Kemp, superintendent, and the pit which could not be descended on account of choke damp was dragged. Operations were continued daily, and on Wednesday morning last the body of the deceased was brought up.

The Coroner in summing up said, it was clear the deceased had got down the pit, but whether she threw herself down or what was the condition of her mind at the time it was for them to decide on the evidence they had heard.

The jury found a verdict of Suicide during a fit of Temporary Insanity. The Coroner said he should communicate with the Mines’ Inspector of the district in respect to the very defective state of the fencing round the pit’s mouth.”

1881 Census

White Heath

- [1] *Henry Whitehouse* (43), brick layer, born Rowley;
- [2] *Eliza Whitehouse* (42), wife, born Rowley;
- [3] *Deborah Whitehouse* (22), daughter, domestic servant, born Rowley;
- [4] *William Whitehouse* (17), son, labourer, born Rowley;
- [5] *Eliza Whitehouse* (14), daughter, domestic servant, born Rowley;
- [6] *Edwin Whitehouse* (12), son, scholar, born Rowley;
- [7] *Enoch Whitehouse* (10), son, scholar, born Rowley;
- [8] *Ruth Whitehouse* (8), daughter, scholar, born Rowley;
- [9] *Thomas Whitehouse* (4), son, scholar, born Rowley;
- [10] *Frederick Whitehouse* (1), son, born Rowley;

Henry Whitehouse married *Eliza Evans* (b.1838) in 1858. She was the sister of *John Evans* of the NAVIGATION, Titford Lane, Oldbury, and the NEW INN, Birchfield Lane, Oldbury.

County Advertiser 11/3/1882

“*Samuel Willetts*, miner, was charged with assaulting *Henry Whitehouse*, publican, of Whiteheath, Rowley, on the 4th inst. Complainant said defendant struck him on the nose, but he could not say whether defendant aimed the blow at him. The Bench fined defendant 5s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/10/1884

“*Henry Whitehouse*, of the VINE INN, Whiteheath, was summoned for selling during prohibited hours on the 30th of September. Mr. Shakespeare defended. Ultimately the case was dismissed.”

County Express 1/11/1884

“*Henry Whitehouse*, landlord of the VINE INN, Whiteheath, was charged with selling ale during prohibited hours on the 30th September. It was alleged that the defendant filled ale after hours for a girl.

Police-constable Clarke gave evidence in support of the charge, which was dismissed.”

County Express 16/2/1889

“*Thomas Biggs*, labourer, Kate’s Hill, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of *Henry Whitehouse*, VINE INN, Causeway Green, and refusing to quit. Fined 1s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/5/1893

“Yesterday at the Police Court – before Messrs. L. D. Lea Smith and J. G. Reay – Edward Harris and Henry Harris, bothers, of Langley Green, were charged with damaging windows and a quantity of jugs and glasses, of the value of £4 10s, the property of *Henry Whitehouse*, landlord of the VINE INN, Whiteheath, and also with being drunk and refusing to quit; and Henry Harris was further charged with assaulting the landlord on the 6th inst. Mr. J. S. Sharpe defended.

It appeared that on the day named, about 6.30pm, the prisoners visited prosecutor's house, and after staying some time Henry went out into the yard and commenced throwing the brewing apparatus about. The landlord went to eject Henry Harris from the premises, when the latter struck him a violent blow in the breast, knocking him down. A man named Perks, employed on the premises, came up, and there was a general melée. The landlord, thinking that prisoners had gone, went into the house, and immediately afterwards eight windows were smashed with bottles, bricks, and a bucket, damaging them to the extent of £4 10s. The prisoners were further charged with damaging windows the property of Mr. Henry Robertson, on the same date. It was alleged that the prisoners threw bricks and bottles through the windows of prosecutor's house near to the VINE INN. For the defence, Mr. Sharpe urged that the landlord gave the prisoners great provocation, and did not treat them properly, and he estimated that the damage was only £3.

Henry Harris was fined £2 and costs for the malicious injury, or one month's imprisonment, the amount of the damages to be divided between the two, and was also fined 10s and costs, or fourteen days, for the assault and refusing to quit. Edward Harris was fined £2 and costs for the malicious injury, and the case of refusing to quit was dismissed.

In Mr. Robertson's case both prisoners were fined £1 and costs. The total fines and costs amounted to £17 14s."

Birmingham Daily Post 23/1/1895

"Yesterday, at Oldbury Police Court, *Henry Whitehouse*, landlord of the VINE INN, White Heath, was charged with being drunk on the 15th inst.

Police-constable Green deposed that he saw the defendant drunk in Oldbury Market Place on the day named, and he was staggering against a tramcar.

Defendant, who denied the offence, was fined 17s, including costs."

Birmingham Daily Post 16/2/1895

"Bankruptcy Proceedings.....

Re *Henry Whitehouse*, licensed victualler.

Yesterday, at the Dudley County Court – before Mr. Registrar Kettle – *Henry Whitehouse*, residing and carrying in business at the VINE INN, Whiteheath, near Dudley, was publicly examined in bankruptcy. Mr. A. C. Jaques represented the debtor, and Mr. S. R. Garrard (Messrs. Garrard Brothers, brewers) and Mr. Mellor (solicitor) appeared on behalf of the principal creditors.

The Official Receiver (Mr. E. P. Jobson), in his printed observations, stated that the bankrupt had been in business at the VINE INN for the last fourteen years. He commenced with a capital of £80, and that was the amount of the ingoing valuation. Until seven years ago he also followed his trade of a bricklayer. Three years ago he purchased the VINE INN for £700, of which £500 was allowed to remain on mortgage, and a further £100 was advanced to him in August last. The debtor had knowledge of insolvency three years ago. His takings only averaged £6 a week. He attributed his failure to bad trade and heavy family expenses during the last five years. The liabilities amounted to £261 13s 6d, and there was a deficiency of £200.

Replying to the Official Receiver, debtor stated that the business was managed by his wife, and at her death, which took place about five years ago, it was conducted by his daughter, who had full control over the takings. He could not say what quantity of wines and spirits were sold. He had had some of them himself.

Mr. Jobson: You were the best customer so far as wines and spirits were concerned? – Debtor: Probably.

Debtor was allowed to pass."

County Advertiser 9/3/1895

"The following persons were granted interim authorities in respect of the houses set against their names.....

William Whitehouse, VINE INN, Whiteheath."

Birmingham Daily Post 15/4/1895

"On Saturday afternoon Mr. A. H. Hebbert (deputy coroner) held an inquest at the VINE INN, Whiteheath, respecting the death of Joseph Clift (62), labourer, formerly residing in Robinson's Buildings, Whiteheath, who committed suicide by cutting his throat on Friday morning.

Mary Clift, a sister, with whom he had resided, stated that he had been out of work for the last eleven weeks, and that seemed to prey on his mind. On Friday morning he got up as usual, and about 8am witness went into the nailshop adjoining the house to do a little work, leaving her brother in the house. When she returned, about 9am, she heard her brother groaning upstairs. She went up and found him in a kneeling position on the floor, with blood flowing from his throat.

Eliza Sheldon deposed that she went to the assistance of the last witness. She placed a pillow under deceased's head, and rendered him what help she could, but he died in about five minutes afterwards.

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

County Advertiser 5/9/1896

"The annual licensing meeting for the Halesowen Petty Sessional division was held on Tuesday, at the Police Court.....

The annual report of John Chare, Superintendent I beg to inform you that I have given notice to the following licensed persons that it my intention to oppose the renewal of their licenses *William Whitehouse*, VINE INN, Whiteheath on one or more of the following grounds, that is to say, (1) that the house and premises in respect of which your license is granted are so constructed as to facilitate the commission of offences against the licensing laws, the inmates of several private dwelling-houses having the right of entry upon your said licensed premises at will; (2) that your premises are so constructed as to prevent the police from exercising proper supervision over the same; (3) that there is no necessity for a license for the sale of intoxicating liquors to be granted to the said house and premises, requirements of the district being amply provided for.....

Inspector Raybould said owing to the structural alterations having been carried out he wished to withdraw the objections to the renewal of the licenses of *William Whitehouse*.

All those licenses were accordingly renewed, and the Chairman of the Bench, Mr. Lea Smith, said he hoped all license holders in the division would keep their houses closed during prohibited hours on Sundays.”

County Advertiser 26/9/1896

“Last night week a meeting of miners in connection with the Old Hill Branch of the Miners’ Federation of Great Britain was held at the VINE INN, Whiteheath, a miner presiding. Mr. B. Winwood (miners’ agent) said a good many of the miners were under the impression that the crisis was now over, but this was a mistake, and the employers were only waiting for an opportunity to enforce the reduction. Trade was said to be bad, but he was of opinion that trade had not been so brisk for some years as it was at the present time. (Hear, hear.) He urged the men to unite, for though the reduction had been warded off he was firmly of opinion that it would be attempted early next year. Piecemeal reduction had not succeeded; but they did well to watch and join the Federation, which was the best union for miners. (Applause.) The following resolution was unanimously passed: ‘That this meeting, believing that our rights can only be protected through the strong force of combination, calls upon all miners not in the union to enrol themselves as members immediately.’”

County Advertiser 10/12/1898

“Edward Spiers, of Whiteheath, was charged with being disorderly on the licensed premises of the VINE INN, belonging to *William Whitehouse*, and also with refusing to quit the same on the 26th ult. Prosecutor stated that on the date in question defendant came into his house and commenced to create a disturbance. He ordered him to leave, but he refused to do so, and threatened to strangle witness. Defendant was fined 10s and costs, or 14 days’ imprisonment.”

County Advertiser 2/9/1899

“The annual licensing meeting of the Halesowen Petty Sessional Division was held on Tuesday last. . . .

William Whitehouse, of the VINE HOTEL, Whiteheath, applied for admission to erect a club room in the yard of his licensed premises, to be used for the Free Gardeners, Oddfellows, and other lodges meeting at his house. On the application of Superintendent Chare, the matter was deferred to the Adjourned Licensing Sessions.”

County Advertiser 30/9/1899

“Halesowen Adjourned Licensing Sessions. . . .

Mr. Sharpe applied on behalf of Mr. *William Whitehouse* for the Bench’s approval for the construction of a club room in addition to the present premises. It was adjourned from the Licensing Sessions for the justices to view the premises, and also for plans to be prepared showing more details, and he had plans giving this information in his possession. There might be some difficulty felt by the Bench that there was an increase of the licensing area in this instance, but he should satisfy the Bench that this was not so. They proposed to build the club upon licensed area which had been used many years ago for the purposes of sales when required. There was some land at the back of the premises, and there was no separate room on the yard, and the garden was always used in summer time for trading purposes when required.

Applicant was called and said he and his uncle had kept the house for thirty years. Applicant had held the license himself for twelve years. A good many societies and clubs met at his house, and he wanted to have this club room to throw open when there was any extra business. Mr. R. Robertson, assistant overseer and rate collector for Cakemore parish, said he had known the house for 25 years. There used to be a marble alley attached to the premises, but this had been closed some time now. The application was granted.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 13/1/1900

“National United Order of Free Gardeners, Langley District. The annual meeting of the above district was held at Mr. *Whitehouse*’s VINE INN, Whiteheath, near Dudley, on Saturday January 5th 1900. . . .”

West Bromwich Weekly News 24/2/1900

“A recent addition to the premises of the VINE INN, Whiteheath, is a commodious club room, capable of accommodating a large company, and it was opened on Tuesday night in a very auspicious manner. At the invitation of the popular host (Mr. *W. Whitehouse*), a good number sat down to a dinner given by him to celebrate the occasion, and he catered for the ‘inner man’ in an excellent fashion. . . .”

West Bromwich Weekly News 19/5/1900

“On Tuesday evening the second annual dinner of the Fruitful Vine lodge (No.1838), Langley District of the National United Order of Free Gardeners, took place at the VINE INN, Whiteheath (host and hostess Mr. and Mrs. *W. Whitehouse*), when a good company sat down to a splendid repast in the large and convenient lodge room. . . .”

West Bromwich Weekly News 26/1/1901 - Advert

“The VINE INN, Whiteheath, proprietor *W. Whitehouse*.

All Beer Brewed on the above Premises is Guaranteed Absolutely Pure, and to contain only Water, Hops and Malt, and small quantity of the Finest Demerara Sugar.”

[This was as a result of the recent Arsenic Poisoning scare, involving contaminated Brewing sugar.]

1901 Census

Whiteheath – VINE INN

- [1] *William Whitehouse* (37), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Priscilla Whitehouse (37), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] William H. Whitehouse (12), son, born Oldbury;
- [4] Adam L. Whitehouse (8), son, born Warley, Oldbury:

County Advertiser 11/5/1901

“George Farrell, Pool Lane, Causeway Green, was charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the VINE INN, Whiteheath, when requested to do so by the landlord on the 27th ult. *William Whitehouse*, landlord, gave evidence. Defendant pleaded guilty, and was fined 5s and costs.”

Smethwick Weekly News 15/2/1902

“On Thursday evening a complimentary dinner was held at the house of Councillor *W. Whitehouse*, VINE INN, the object of which was to wish Mr. Albert Moore (who was leaving the district) success in his new sphere of life. The Chairman explained that all knew what a good neighbour Mr. Moore had been. As a builder’s merchant he had been highly successful, and his going into Langley would be a loss to their district.....”

County Express 27/9/1902

“The Halesowen police have received information of the death of a miner named Edward Davis (36), a single man, formerly residing in Titford Lane, Whiteheath, which had occurred under mysterious circumstances. It appears that on Saturday last the deceased was seized with illness, and a doctor was called in, to whom he stated that he was injured whilst following his employment in the Rowley Hall Colliery through being caught between some tubs. He died on Sunday night. PC James has since made inquiries and ascertained that the deceased had received a black eye, and this it was supposed, was sustained during a boxing contest at Blackheath Wake on the 13th inst. The medical testimony is to the effect that death was due to peritonitis, the result of injuries. The circumstances attending the death of Davis were the subject of an enquiry conducted by Mr. A. H. Hebbert, deputy coroner, at the VINE INN, Whiteheath, on Thursday morning. Mr. S. Dimmock represented the proprietors of the Rowley Hall Colliery, where deceased was formerly employed, and Mr. Makepeace (Government Inspector of Mines) was also present. Henry Jarvis, with whom deceased had lodged since November, said deceased was employed as a loader at the Rowley Hall Colliery. On Monday, the 15th inst, he complained of feeling unwell. He went to work the following day, and returned about four o’clock complaining that he had been injured by coming into contact with a tub at the mine. On the 20th deceased was seen by a doctor.

The Coroner: Do you know how he got a black eye? – I don’t know. My wife asked him, and he replied, ‘I don’t know; I have a tooth ache.’

Has he complained of being injured at the colliery? – No, sir.

When did he die? – On Sunday night.

Replying to a juryman, witness said deceased went to Blackheath wake on the 13th inst. Before he went he had no marks of violence on his face, but when he returned he had a black eye, and witness spoke to him concerning it on the Sunday.

Mrs. Jarvis deposed that the deceased had never complained of an injury. He had suffered from boils.

William Wharton, a miner residing at Cocksheds, said he saw deceased at Blackheath wake on the 13th inst. He saw deceased go into the boxing show, and subsequently witness saw him in the HANDEL HOTEL, when he noticed deceased had a black eye. Deceased said to witness, ‘I have been to the boxing show, and got a fat eye.’

The Coroner: Did he tell you whom he had been boxing with? – No, sir.

Have you seen him since? – Yes, sir. I saw him on the 15th, but he did not complain of having met with an accident in the mine.

Mr. T. Dimmock, manager, at the Rowley Hall Colliery, stated that the deceased had been employed there about two years. He had never complained of having been injured in the colliery. Witness had made enquiries, and the whole of the night men had informed him that they had never heard the deceased complain of having been hurt in the pit.

Dr. Beasley said he was called to see deceased on Saturday, and found him suffering from violent pains in the abdomen. Deceased told him he had been pinched between two tubs in the pit about three weeks ago. Witness found a wound at the bottom of the small of the back. He made a post-mortem examination. The right eye was discoloured; there was a bruise on the right side near the hip bone; and there were other bruises. Death was due to peritonitis, which was the result of violence.

The Coroner: Would a blow with a boxing glove cause it? – Yes, a severe blow might, but the man’s condition would render him more prone to feel the effects of the blow. The injury appeared to have been sustained seven or eight days prior to death.

A Juryman: Would a sharp blow under the left ribs have produced the injuries you discovered? – Yes, it would.

Mr. Makepeace: Would a crush between two tubs in a pit three weeks ago have produced the injuries? – No, the injuries were more of a recent date. Death was undoubtedly due to a blow received eight or nine days ago, and probably it was the one he received when in the boxing booth.

The Coroner, in summing up, said it was quite evident that the deceased had not died from injuries received at the colliery, and the probability was that the injuries were sustained on the Saturday night in the boxing booth at the wake.

A juryman asked if it was known who struck the blow in the boxing booth.

Insp. Hill said the police had made inquiries, but had not been able to ascertain who it was.

The Coroner suggested the jury should find a verdict of Accidental Death.

After deliberation in private the jury returned a verdict that the deceased received the injuries in a boxing booth at Blackheath, and death was by Misadventure.”

County Advertiser 24/1/1903 - Advert

“Two Freehold Business Premises for Sale, situated in the best market position; well built; every accommodation. Apply, *William Whitehouse*, VINE HOTEL, Whiteheath.”

County Advertiser 11/4/1903

“An extension of hours was granted to *William Whitehouse*, VINE INN, Whiteheath, for the Easter Holidays, the applicant’s being what is known as a ten o’clock house.”

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 30th inst, 1st of June, and 2nd of June, on the occasion of the Whitsuntide holidays. There was no objection on the part of the police to the extensions, it being pointed out that they were ten o’clock houses. The applications were granted.”

County Advertiser 10/6/1905

“*William Whitehouse*, landlord of the VINE INN, Whiteheath, and Albert Anson, landlord of the STAG AND HORSESHOE HOTEL, Long Lane, applied for extensions of one hour on the 10th, 12th, and 13th insts. The applications were granted.”

County Advertiser 18/5/1907

“Mr. *W. Whitehouse*, of the VINE INN, Whiteheath, applied on behalf of the holders of ten o’clock licenses in the division for an extension of one hour on four dates during the Whitsuntide holidays. Superintendent Hill said he offered no objection to the application as some of the houses adjoined those which kept open until eleven o’clock. The Bench granted the application.”

County Express 1/8/1908

“At Halesowen, on Tuesday, Mr. *W. Whitehouse*, of the VINE INN, Whiteheath, appeared for an extension of one hour on the nights of the 1st, 3rd, and 4th August in respect of the ten o’clock houses in the division. Insp. Brazier raised no objection, and the application was granted.”

William Whitehouse was a councillor and member of the Board of Guardians.

William Whitehouse – see also HARE AND HOUNDS, Halesowen.

County Express 14/5/1910

“At Halesowen Police Court, on Tuesday, Mr. *T. Willetts*, licensee of the VINE INN, Whiteheath, applied on behalf of the holders of ten o’clock licenses in the division for an extension of one hour on the 14th, 16th, 17th, and 18th inst. Inspector Brazier offered no objection. After a short consultation in private, the chairman (Mr. Reay) announced that these extensions which were asked for at every holiday would have to be considered by the whole Bench at some future time. They had now decided to grant the extension for two days, the 16th and 17th inst.”

1911 Census

White Heath – VINE INN

- [1] *Thomas Willetts* (36), license publican, born White Heath Gate;
- [2] Sarah Jane Willetts (36), wife, married 14 years, assisting in the business, born Parish of Rowly;
- [3] Doris May Willetts (12), daughter, school, born Rowly;
- [4] Hanah Willetts (9), daughter, school, born Rowly;
- [5] George Thomas Willetts (7), son, school, born Rowly;
- [6] Mabel Clay (19), general servant, domestic, born Rowly;

Evesham Standard 29/6/1912

“The Deputy Coroner (Mr. A. H. Hebbert) held an inquest at the VINE HOTEL, Whiteheath, on Monday night, into the circumstances of the death of Percy Hadley, aged two years, son of Thomas Hadley, of Whiteheath. It was stated that on Sunday the boy took a small live fish, known as a stickleback, from a can in the house and put it to his mouth. The fish slipped from his fingers and became lodged in his throat. The father and mother were unable to extricate the fish, and the child died before the arrival of a doctor. Dr. Beasley said it would be impossible for the father to get the fish out because the fins were embedded in the child’s throat. Accidental Death was the verdict of the jury.”

Stephen George Bayley = Stephen George Byley

Birmingham Daily Gazette 12/1/1933

“.....sold by action at the TALBOT HOTEL, Stourbridge, yesterday.....
Included also in the sale was the VINE INN, Whiteheath, which sold for £1,500.”

It was transferred from Halesowen Licensing Justices to Oldbury Licensing Justices on 7th February 1934.

1939 Register

Titford Lane – VINE INN

[1] *Walter W. Clark*, date of birth 25/3/1889, licensed victualler, married;

[2] Ruby A. Clark, dob 9/1/1887, unpaid domestic duties, married:

Birmingham Mail 20/12/1941 - Advert

“Barmaid or Bar-General part-time or full time experience not essential good wages live in or out also Pianist. Apply, VINE INN, Whiteheath nr. Blackheath.”

Birmingham Mail 3/6/1943 - Advert

“For Sale very smart turnout Black Pony Brown Harness and Governess Car very quiet suit lady. VINE INN, Whiteheath nr. Blackheath.”

An application to alter the premises was granted on 14th July 1943.

Plans showing alterations to the licensed premises were approved on 10th April 1957.

Plans showing further alterations to the assembly room were approved on 10th December 1958.

Tom Swingler was married to Dorothy.

Sports Argus 5/11/1966

“For the second week in succession the *Argus* darts team tasted defeat when they went down 5-4 on the last game of the night to the Oldbury League at the VINE INN, Whiteheath, last night.”

Sports Argus 25/11/1967

“In a thrilling cliff-hanger the Oldbury League scored their second consecutive 5-4 win over the *Sports Argus* team last night, winning the third nail-biting game of the ninth match to clinch victory. Before a packed hall at the VINE, Whiteheath, you could have heard a flight drop After the match the Oldbury League handed over £21 for the *Birmingham Mail* Christmas Tree Fund – a fine effort.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 16/1/1986

“Our House Your Home. Public House Tenancies.

Davenport is a highly successful independent Midlands Brewery with an enviable reputation for top quality beers and lagers. We have 3 excellent business opportunities for experienced, hard-working and enthusiastic couples to take on the urban tenancies at the following houses.....

VINE, Titford Lane, Rowley Regis, Warley.

Traditional and old established, this house has a busy bar plus lounge/function room.

You will need personality, determination and organisational ability as well as capital.

Approximate ingoing £12,000-£15,000.

If you would enjoy the responsibility and freedom of your own concern with all the backing of a major brewery, then please write to.....”

Tony Phillips was married to Maureen.

Sandwell Evening Mail 18/11/1988

“Customers at a Rowley Regis pub have rallied round to raise money for a couple whose four-year-old son died in a house fire. Regulars at the VINE pub in Whiteheath held a series of sponsored events to raise hundreds of pounds for Mrs. Donna Geddis and her husband Peter.

Mrs. Geddis’ son Raymond Hattersley died after becoming trapped in the bedroom of the blazing family home in Oldbury Road, Whiteheath, last week.

Donna and Peter are both regulars at the VINE pub and play in the darts and dominoes teams.

Mrs. Jane *Franklin*, wife of licensee Mr. *Raymond Franklin* at the VINE said, ‘Regulars decided to help raise money for the family following the house fire. Customers rallied round and must have raised hundreds of pounds,’ she said.

Among the sponsored events arranged at the pub were a marathon run, sponsored raw egg eating and roller skating. One customer Mr. Bill Long raised money by challenging rival players to a game of draughts during a 12-hour sponsored session.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 20/2/1989

“Cult comedian Attila the Stockbroker is bringing his ‘alternative’ cabaret to the Black Country to help council tenants fighting a Government takeover. Attila will be the star guest at a special event aimed at raising money to help tenants on the Lion Farm Estate, Oldbury, and Smethwick’s Windmill Lane Estate fight the proposed introduction of Housing Action Trusts. The organisers of the alternative cabaret concert at the VINE pub, Titford Lane, Whiteheath, on February 28 want to raise public awareness of the Government plans, which would result in the estates being taken out of the control of Sandwell Council.....”

It was renamed the FOX. [1996]

[2019]

FOX HUNT

77, Highgate Street, (77, (31), High Street), (31, Garratts Lane), OLD HILL

OWNERS

Samuel Thomas Bate
Elwell and Williams Co.
Arthur Ernest Jew
Julia Hanson and Sons Ltd. [c.1949]
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.
Punch Taverns

LICENSEES

John Bate [1841] – [1865]
Samuel Bate [1865] – **1874**;
William Eley (**1874 – 1879**);
Thomas Tibbetts (**1879 – 1881**);
Henry Heath (**1881**);
Anna Henrietta Dixon (**1881**);
Thomas Gould (**1881** – [1892]
Samuel Bate [1895] – [1896]
Henry Shakespeare (**1897** – [1899]
William Waldron* (**1900** – []
William Walton* [1901]
Charles Summerton [] – **1903**);
Frederick Langley (**1903 – 1904**);
Arthur Ernest Jew (**1904 – 1924**);
Thomas ‘Tommy’ Williams (**1924 – 1930**);
Arthur Ernest Jew (**1930 – 1949**);
Arthur John Benton Jew (**1949 – 1952**);
Elijah Willetts (**1952** – [1965]
Derek Lee [c.1980]
Simon Charman and Lynne Whitehouse (**1998** – [1999]
Maggie Smith [2006]

NOTES

Garratts Lane [1845], [1851], [1860], [1861], [1862], [1871], [1881], [1896], [1901]
31, High Street [1908]
77, High Street [1911], [1912], [1916], [1924], [1932], [1939], [1940]
77, Highgate Street [1997], [1998], [2001], [2003]

FOX AND HOUNDS [1849], [1850]

1841 Census

Garratts Lane
[1] *John Bate* (25), publican, born Staffordshire;
[2] Sarah Bate (24), born Staffordshire;
[3] *Samuel Bate* (4), born Staffordshire:

John Bate was also a butcher. [1845], [1860]
He was also a shopkeeper. [1849], [1850]

1851 Census

Garratts Lane

- [1] *John Bate* (35), victualler, born Rowley;
- [2] *Sarah Bate* (34), wife, born Rowley;
- [3] *William Corngrave* (25), general servant, born Birmingham;
- [4] *Mary A. Malthouse* (15), tailoress, born Dudley:

Worcestershire Chronicle 10/11/1852

“*John Bate*, of the FOX HUNT, Rowley, was fined 5s and costs for allowing drunkenness in his house on the 26th October.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 6/6/1855

“On Wednesday last an inquest was held by G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, at the FOX HUNT, Garratts Lane, Rowley Regis, on the body of *Anna Pritchard*, aged four years, the daughter of a sinker. On the previous Saturday deceased was standing in the road, when a cart, driven by a servant of Messrs. W. Cooper and Co. of Dudley, came along the road at a very rapid pace, and the wheel struck the deceased, knocked her down, and passed over her chest, inflicting such injuries as caused her death on the following Monday. It was stated that at the time the driver was pulling at the horse to stop him, but appeared unable to do so, and he alleged that some boys had thrown a stone, which struck the horse and startled him. The jury considering that no negligence was attributable to the driver, returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

An inquest was held here on *John Madeley* who was killed in the Gawn Pit explosion, on 10th September 1857.

Birmingham Journal 16/9/1857

“In last Saturday’s *Journal* we gave account of an explosion which occurred on Thursday morning, at the colliery of Messrs. W. Mills and Son, at Windmill End, two miles from Dudley, and by which seven lives were sacrificed. Since then another man, *John Dainty*, who, it may be remembered, was partially buried in the pit for upwards of sixteen hours, has succumbed to the injuries he then sustained. The poor fellow underwent much suffering while under ground, in consequence of being well nigh suffocated. When recovered he complained of cold, and gradually sinking expired on Friday afternoon. The man *Daniel Chink*, whose body had not been recovered at the time our last report was written, was found about seven o’clock on Friday evening, not far from the bottom of the shaft, where he had been buried from the Thursday morning under an immense heap of earth brought from the roof by the force of the explosion. Life was, of course, quite extinct, and the body, which was dreadfully crushed, was fast decomposing. Of the other five or six persons injured the case of the young man *Samuel Siveter*, who lived with his mother in a hut not far from the scene of the occurrence, seems to be the most serious. He was not burnt by the explosion itself, but being one of the four or five men who were about to ascend the shaft, was buried beneath the earth and coals at the bottom, which forced him against a number of hot bricks that had previously formed the ventilating furnace. Here he endured the most intense suffering, and a deep hole was burnt into his side. He has been attended by Messrs. *Fereday* and *Timmins*, of Dudley, and his recovery is hardly probable. He was somewhat better on Saturday, and he then told a gentleman who visited the house, that just prior to the explosion he saw *Abraham Sherwood* and *William Timmins* go into the ‘crop’ side of the mine, where, as we have before stated, the explosion took place, with a lighted candle; the doggy of the pit, *George French*, being at that time nearer still to the crop. If this be true, and so far as we can ascertain there is no reason to doubt it, the cause of the dire event is explained. Still, it must be remembered that the butty, *Francis Griffiths*, had only a few minutes previously cautioned the men against going unguardedly into that part of the work, and that it is to be presumed, from a safety lamp having been found near *French*, that the latter had taken it with him to avoid the possibility of an explosion. Under such circumstances, it can scarcely be credited that *Sherwood* and *Timmins* would have the hardihood to take a lighted candle into the most dangerous part of the mine, as alleged. These three – *French*, *Sherwood*, and *Timmins* – were the only persons burnt by the explosion; the other five deceased being at the time at a distance of about two hundred yards from them at the bottom of the upcast shaft. They were buried beneath a mass of coals.

On Friday and Saturday last the Government Inspector of Mines, *Lionel Brough*, Esq, was at the spot, and descended the pit in company with one or two officials. The force of the explosion was of such a nature as to render the workings a complete wreck. *Mr. Brough* made an examination, and although he attended one of the inquests on Saturday afternoon, he will not present his official report until Monday next, the 21st instant, to which day one of the inquests, viz, that on the doggy, *George French*, which is to be made the principal enquiry, has been adjourned.

As we said on Saturday, the bodies of the deceased lie in three different parishes, and come under the jurisdiction of three Coroners – *G. H. Hinchliffe*, Esq, *R. Docker*, Esq, and *W. Robinson*, Esq.....

Mr. Hinchliffe held an inquest at the house of *Mr. J. Bate*, FOX HUNT, Garratts Lane, on *John Madely*, which was also adjourned.....

By this unhappy event six wives have been made widows and twenty-three children orphans.”

[Other inquests were held at the CROSS GUNS, West Bromwich, the SHOULDER OF MUTTON, Blackheath, the COCK, Rowley, the GATE HANGS WELL, Darby Hand and the CROSS GUNS, Oldbury.]

[At the adjourned inquest on *John Madeley* (and also *Daniel Chink*) the jury returned verdicts of Accidental Death and they censured the proprietors of the pit for not carrying out *Mr. Brough*’s suggestion for improved ventilation.]

Staffordshire Advertiser 16/1/1858

“An inquest was held before *G. Hinchliffe*, Esq, on Tuesday last, at the FOX HUNT INN, on the body of *Nimrod Stephenson*, 22 years of age, who was employed at the British Iron Company’s furnaces. The waggons containing the materials are drawn up

two lifts or shafts, 15 yards deep, the empty waggons descending whilst the full ones are ascending. On Sunday, whilst he was descending in the empty waggon, the chain attached to it suddenly broke, and he fell to the bottom with great violence, and was killed on the spot. The witnesses were of opinion that some of the material fell out of the loaded waggon, and getting between the slides, caused the engine to jerk suddenly, which snapped the chain. There did not appear any blame attached to any one, and the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1861 Census

Garratts Lane

[1] *John Bate* (46), publican and cattle dealer, born Rowley;

[2] Sarah Bate (44), wife, born Rowley;

[3] *Samuel Bate* (22), son, butcher, born Rowley;

[4] John Levett (16), boarder, general servant, born Rowley;

[5] Elizabeth Fletcher (17), boarder, born Rowley;

[6] Mary Williams (10), boarder, born Rowley:

John Bate was described as being also a pork butcher. [1864], [1865]

Check COCK, Rowley Regis.

Samuel Bate = Samuel Bates

County Advertiser 28/1/1865

“On Wednesday, at the Police Court, Henry Weaver, chainmaker, was charged with having, on the 16th inst, unlawfully and maliciously wounded Joseph Pritchard, also a chainmaker, by setting him on fire, thereby intending to disfigure him and to do him grievous bodily injury. Mr. Lowe appeared to prosecute, and Mr. Addison defended.

The evidence of the prosecutor was to the effect that on the night of the 16th he went to the FOX HUNT public house, Garratts Lane. He there sat down on a bench, and fell asleep. After sleeping some time he was awakened by an acute pain on his hand. At the moment of awakening he observed something burning near his hand, and he felt as if something hot had been drawn over or poured upon his hand. Henry Weaver, the defendant, was standing in the room when he awoke, and said to him, ‘You’re all on fire Old Madman. I have put you from work this week and the next.’ There was a strike among some of Mr. Pargeter Jones’s men. Weaver was one of those on strike, and he (prosecutor) was at work.

Samuel Bate, landlord of the FOX HUNT public house, who was summoned to give evidence, stated that he recollected the prosecutor coming to his house on the evening of Monday week. He did not observe the prosecutor asleep, but he saw him lying before the fire between seven and eight o’clock. He had been in the house an hour previous; and had had one pint of ale. Witness did not see the prosecutor lying on the bench; the first he saw of him lying anywhere was lying on the floor before the fire, and with fire upon him. The prisoner was awake, and Michael Bastible was assisting him to get up. The prosecutor was lying with his back to the fire, about two feet away; and there were lighted embers behind and before him, outside the fender. These embers could not have come there by accident. If the prosecutor had stated he was lying on the bench he had told a lie. Witness did not see anyone put the embers about the prosecutor. He (witness) was there all the time.

Mr. Oldershaw: Do not fence the questions. Who put the embers there? You can surely tell if you were there all the time.

Witness: I was told that Weaver put them there.

Mr. Addison said that the grate went far back, and the landlord was sitting with his back to the fire.

The Bench said that they only wanted the truth, and they were much surprised at the manner in which Mr. *Bate* gave his evidence. (The witness answered the questions put to him hesitatingly, and often manifested a disposition to fencing them.) The embers must have been placed there by some one, and they could not understand how the witness could be there all the time and not see what had occurred.

Examination continued: He did not hear Weaver say ‘Old Madman, you’re all on fire. I have put you from working this week and the next.’ Weaver said he (prosecutor) had been put from working. Witness had not told a woman named Mary Williams that the prosecutor was burnt by a red-hot poker having been thrust into his hand. He saw a hot ‘glede’ taken out of the prosecutor’s pocket. Michael Bastible had told him that Weaver had put the lighted embers around the prosecutor. In his (witness’s) opinion prosecutor was burnt in getting up by putting his hand on the embers. He was sure the prosecutor was awake. The prosecutor was, he believed, rather fresh when he came to the house. Cross-examined: The embers must have been knocked out; but he did not see Weaver knock them out. He saw Weaver close to the prosecutor both before and after the latter was burnt; they were quarrelling about their work.

Michael Bastible, brickyard labourer, deposed that he was present in the public house in question on the night of the 6th, and saw the prosecutor lay himself before the fire outside the fender. Henry Weaver hollowed the fire, and some lighted embers fell on the prosecutor before and behind him. The prosecutor then got up, and in doing so was burnt by placing his hand on some ‘gledes.’ There was smoke coming from prosecutor’s clothes; but he did not see an ember taken from his pocket. He did not hear Weaver say anything to the prosecutor about putting him from working. In the course of a long cross-examination by the Bench, witness said that when the prisoner poked the fire he stood at the side, behind the prosecutor.

Mr. Hugh Morrow, surgeon, Cradley Heath, stated that the prosecutor came to his surgery on the previous Thursday morning. The palm of one of his hands was burnt in two places. In one place it had been burnt by a very hot body. The place was charred, and there was a slough. In answer to the Bench, witness said that he thought the most severe wound might have been caused by prosecutor placing his hand on an ember at a white heat. Prosecutor would not be able to work for some weeks.

Mr. Addison, in addressing the Bench for the defence, contended that both on account of the discrepancies in the evidence of the

prosecutor and his witnesses, and on account of the fact that there was nothing to show that there was any malicious intention in the hollowing of the fire by the prisoner, the Bench should discharge the prisoner.

The Bench said they were of opinion that the throwing of the embers on the man could not have been accidental; but they thought that the justice of the case would be met if the prisoner would make the prosecutor some compensation for his injuries.

The prisoner at first declined to do so, but ultimately he consented to pay the prosecutor £1, and all the costs, including the attorney's fee."

Stourbridge Observer 4/2/1865

"On Wednesday last, before F. W. G. Barrs, and R. Moore, Esqrs, *Samuel Bate*, landlord of the FOX HUNT public house, Old Hill, was charged with allowing drunkenness in his house. Mr. Lowe appeared for the defendant.

George Jephtha said on the 16th instant, he was in defendant's house at about half past five. He had had 5 pints of drink during the day. He was perfectly sober, and all the rest in the house were sober. The case was dismissed."

Birmingham Daily Post 13/2/1865

"In the *Daily Post* of Friday last it was reported that on the previous day six men had been killed by a fall of coal in No.10 pit of the Salt Wells Colliery, the property of the Earl of Dudley. One of these poor fellows, Richard Richards, alias Pikey, resided in Garretts Lane, in the parish of Rowley, and on Saturday morning Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, opened an inquest upon the body, at the house of Mr. *Bate*, the FOX HUNT INN, near Old Hill. Mr. Fletcher, the agent for the Colliery, and Mr. Samuel Davis, who was working in the pit in which the accident occurred, were present to give all the information of which they were possessed. Mr. Jeffries, one of the Earl of Dudley's managers, was also in attendance with the plans of the colliery, and stated that it was his wish to render the Coroner every assistance.

The Jury having been sworn, proceeded to view the body, which lay at the house of John Webb, Garretts Lane, where the deceased lodged. When the Jury returned, the evidence of John Webb was taken. He stated that the deceased was about thirty-eight years of age, and was, he believed, a single man. He went to work as usual on Thursday morning last, starting from home at about twenty minutes past five o'clock. He was brought home about four o'clock on the same afternoon quite dead. His body was very badly crushed, and one thigh and one ankle were broken. Witness worked in the same colliery, and never heard the slightest complaint about any of the arrangements.

The Coroner here remarked that he had on the previous day telegraphed to Mr. Baker, her Majesty's Inspector of Mines for the district, and he fully expected that that gentleman would have been in attendance. He felt sure, however, that Mr. Baker would only be prevented from being present by some important and pressing engagement. He believed Mr. Baker had inspected the pit since the melancholy accident, and it would be necessary for his evidence to be taken. Moreover, he might wish to put some questions to the witnesses. Under these circumstances, he submitted to the Jury whether it would not be a saving of their time to adjourn the enquiry. He would, if they thought well, take all the evidence which was then ready to be tendered, but it would be impossible to complete the enquiry that day, and probably they might at the adjourned inquest have to go through much of it over again. He wished the Jury, however, to decide the matter for themselves. The Jury at once fell in with the Coroner's suggestion, and the enquiry was adjourned until tomorrow (Tuesday), at eleven o'clock. The Coroner issued his certificate for the burial of the deceased."

[At the adjourned inquest the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.]

County Advertiser 22/12/1866

"On Wednesday, at the Police Court, John Phipps, chainmaker, was charged with unlawfully wounding James Williams, alias Sawyer, on the morning of the 23rd of October last. The details of the occurrence have already been given in our columns. It may, however, be necessary to state that the prosecutor and prisoner were members of a 'Life Society' held at the FOX HUNT public house, Garretts Lane. On the night of the 22nd October both were 'in office' and assisted in carrying ale from the bar to the club-room. They fell out over some trifling matter, and prosecutor alleged that prisoner suddenly set upon him, knocked him down, and kicked him as he lay. His jaw was broken, and he was otherwise injured. He was seven days in the Birmingham General Hospital, and was still an out-patient there, in consequence of the injuries he received at the hands of the prisoner.

On Wednesday last a young man named Joseph Hampton said he saw prisoner knock prosecutor down and then kick him, on the night in question.

Dr. Morrow deposed that prosecutor came to him with a broken jaw, on the 23rd of October. There were no other injuries, and in his (Dr. Morrow's) opinion the fracture had been caused by a severe blow with the fist.

Mrs. *Bate*, the landlady of the FOX HUNT, deposed to hearing prosecutor use abusive language to prisoner, and several times challenge him to fight, and to seeing prisoner knock him down with his fist.

Mr. Stokes said that from the surgeon's evidence the cause of the malicious damage must fall to the ground; and as prosecutor's own witness had sworn that he several times challenged the prisoner to fight, the latter could not be held responsible for any injuries that had arisen.

The Bench said they should treat the matter as a common assault, and fined the prisoner 10s and costs, or twenty-one days."

Samuel Bate was also a butcher. [1868], [1870], [1872], [1873]

Stourbridge Observer 2/5/1868

"On the 8th ultimo, Joseph Grove, aged five years and six months, residing in Black Waggon Street, was severely burnt by falling into the fire, and died on the 29th ult from the injuries received.

An inquest was held on the body on Thursday last, at Mr. *Samuel Bates's*, the FOX HUNT INN, Garratts Lane, before Mr. Hoop-

er, when a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

County Express 10/10/1868

“*Samuel Bate*, licensed victualler, FOX HUNT INN, Old Hill, was charged with assaulting Joseph Darby, foreman of Messrs. Swindell’s chain works, Darby End, on the 30th of September. Mr. Ponton prosecuted, and Mr. Addison defended. Plaintiff said he resided at Rowley Regis. He was at the WINDMILL INN at ten o’clock in the evening of the 30th ult, and in coming home met defendant who asked him the way to Tipton. Plaintiff said he knew as well as he did, on which defendant called him bad names and knocked him down. He got up and defendant knocked him down twice again. He was severely bruised on the right shoulder and left arm. He was not aware that he had ever spoken to defendant before.

Cross-examined: His right arm was also injured. He had been at the WINDMILL INN, and there had half a pint of ale. This was all he had that evening. He did not know Elizabeth Hill, nor did he see her there. He did not ask defendant what he was knocking at the door for.

George Taylor, potter, Rowley Regis, said he saw defendant strike plaintiff in the mouth and knock him down three times.

Jeremiah Moseley said he was a potter, residing at Rowley. On the 30th ult he saw defendant knock plaintiff down three times.

Plaintiff tried to get away, but without success. He did not strike defendant once.

Cross-examined: He had had some conversation with plaintiff about the affair. Mrs. Hill was not present at the time of the assault but came shortly afterwards.

John O’Dowd, assistant to Mr. Meredith, surgeon, said he had examined plaintiff, and found his lip cut, a tooth broken, his shoulder cut, and bruises about his body.

Cross-examined: The right shoulder was bruised. He complained of his head being injured and said he fell against a wall, and showed his hat which was indented corresponding with the injury on the head.

The Bench considered the case proved and fined 10s and costs.

Mr. Ponton asked for costs for medical attendance, but was referred to the County Court.”

Stourbridge Observer 30/4/1870

“On Monday last a meeting of miners was held at the house of Mr. *Bates*, FOX HUNT INN, for the purpose of forming a new Mining Association, for Oldbury, Old Hill, West Bromwich, Blackheath, Halesowen, and Cradley districts. There was a large attendance, and a good many persons gave in their names as members, and the following resolution was passed: That in the opinion of this meeting Mr. Breakwell be appointed as their agent, and that he was entitled to this confidence for the manly and straightforward way he had conducted the business on behalf of the men.....”

Stourbridge Observer 26/11/1870

“John Johns and James Bassett were charged with breaking and entering a certain building and stealing six live pigeons, the property of *Samuel Bate*, at Old Hill, on the 15th inst. Mr. Addison appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. W. Hayes for the defendants. Thomas Wright said he was a servant of the prosecutor, who lives at Garratts Lane, Old Hill. Recollect seeing 51 pigeons safe, at four o’clock. They were tumblers. He counted them. On the 16th he went to the place where the pigeons were kept, and missed six. They were kept in a pen. He then made a communication to the prosecutor.

Cross-examined: Did not see the prisoner there.

By the Bench: Anyone could open the door. It was wide open the following morning.

Harriet *Bate* said she was the wife of the prosecutor. On the morning of the 16th she saw prisoners at their house. It was about half past twelve. Johns called for two glasses of whiskey. She served them with it. After they had drunk the whiskey they went out of the back door. Bassett pulled his watch out. Johns asked her if her master was in, and she said he was out. He had gone to Birmingham, and she wondered why he was so late. They then went out. After they had been absent a few minutes, she heard footsteps in the yard. She opened the door and saw prisoners, who were coming in, and they called for two glasses of whiskey. Bassett said he would pay for it. After they had left the second time she went into the yard, and saw both prisoners. Johns was ascending the steps leading to the malt room where the pigeons were kept. Bassett was at the foot of the steps. It was a light night. Bassett afterwards went up.

Police-sergeant Powner said he was stationed at Old Hill. He apprehended prisoners on the 16th, about midday, at a beerhouse adjoining prosecutor’s house. Charged them with stealing six pigeons. They did not make any reply then. He heard Bassett say in the presence of Johns, to a man named Richards, that they had the pigeons.

Mr. Hayes said the prisoners were both drunk, and took the pigeons for a lark; and called Mr. J. Green, who said the men had worked for him for some time, and he had always found them honest men.

Prisoners were committed to 14 days’ hard labour.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/2/1871 - Advert

“Wanted, an Assistant to the Butchering.

Apply to Mr. *S. Bate*, FOX HUNT INN, Garrat Lane, Old Hill.”

1871 Census

Garratts Lane – FOX HUNT

[1] *Samuel Bate* (34), butcher and publican, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Harriett Bate (33), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Sarah Bate (7), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Harriett Bate (3), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[5] John Bate (1), son, born Rowley Regis;
[6] Sarah Sherwin (20), general servant, born Rowley Regis;
[7] Ellen Piper (15), general servant, born Dudley:
[Sarah Bate – see also COCK, Rowley Regis]

County Advertiser 17/2/1872

“Daniel Williams, an ironworker, was charged with being riotous in *Samuel Bates*’s public house, in Garratts Lane, on the 7th inst, and damaging the windows. Ellen [sic] *Bates* said that she was the wife of *Samuel Bates*, of the FOX HUNT INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, and on the 7th inst the defendant entered their house and began kicking up a row. He was ordered out, when he used very bad language, and after they had threatened to put him out, he went away, taking with him a cup which contained another person’s ale. Witness sent after him for the cup, and he returned to the house. She, being afraid, bolted the door. The man then threw several bricks through the window. Sergeant Powner deposed to having seen the man throw a brick through the window of the public house. The defendant smashed the cup which he carried away. He was fined 10s and the costs for his riotous conduct, 2s 6d for an assault which he committed upon a servant girl who asked him for the cup, and 9s 6d for the damage done; or, in default of payment, five weeks’ imprisonment.”

County Advertiser 2/11/1872

“The annual meeting of the Unite Association of Miners was held on Monday, at the house of Mr. *Samuel Bates*, FOX HUNT INN. A very excellent dinner was provided by the worthy host. After dinner a chairman was appointed, and a report read to show that the association was in a very prosperous and flourishing condition; altogether a very pleasant evening was spent. Recitations and songs were given at intervals by members of the association. The meeting terminated by the proposing of a vote of thanks to the chairman.”

County Advertiser 16/11/1872

“James Powell was charged with assaulting Police-constable John Grady on the 2nd inst. The officer said he went to the FOX HUNT INN, Old Hill, to put out defendant, who had been fighting. Defendant kicked him about the shins, and he was obliged to use his staff. Defendant was not drunk. Defendant was also charged with assaulting the landlord, *Samuel Bate*, and also with refusing to quit. He was fined 2s 6d and costs for assaulting the policemen; 2s 6d and costs for assaulting the landlord, and costs for refusing to quit.

James Powell, younger, and Ruth Powell were also charged with assaulting Police-constable Grady, and were ordered to pay costs.”

County Express 13/6/1874

“*Samuel Bate*, landlord of the FOX HUNT INN, Garratts Lane, was charged with having his house open after eleven o’clock at night on the 1st inst.

Police-sergeant Walters found two men in the house at nineteen minutes past eleven o’clock on the night of the day in question. The men had pint cups with a little ale in them. He spoke to the landlady about it, and she said she was not aware that it was so late. It was sixteen minutes past eleven by the clock in the house.

Police-constable Cooper gave corroborative evidence.

The wife of the defendant said the policemen came into the house at six minutes past eleven, and left at sixteen minutes past. She drew the last half-pint of ale at half-past ten o’clock. The one man was teaching the other simple addition. She acknowledged they were wrong in staying after eleven o’clock.

Defendant was ordered to pay the costs.”

AND

“Joseph Hancox and Edward Perkins were charged with being found on the premises of the FOX HUNT INN, after eleven o’clock on the night of the 1st inst, and ordered to pay costs

William Eley = William Healy

Dudley Herald 15/2/1879

“At the Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, before Messrs. W. Bassano and B. Hingley, John Hill, secretary of the Old Hill Miners’ Sick Benefit Society, Lodge No.1, was summoned by Sarah Chivers for the non-payment of £8 alleged to be due to her. Plaintiff claimed £5 on the death of her husband, and ten weeks widow’s pay at 6s per week. Mr. Major, of Dudley, represented the plaintiff, and Mr. Clulow, Brierley Hill, defended.

The plaintiff said the defendant was secretary of the Miners’ Sick Benefit Society, held at the FOX HUNT INN, Old Hill, of which her husband was up to the time of his death a member. She also produced a copy of the rules. Plaintiff also produced the member’s book, showing the amounts paid into the society by her husband. The last contribution was paid on the 16th of November. The same day her husband left home, and was not seen again by witness until the 28th December, when his body was discovered in the canal, not far from his home. An open verdict was returned by the jury at the inquest. Subsequently she was informed by a man named Hezekiah Shakespeare that the society had decided to give her £2.

In cross-examination plaintiff said she did not continue paying the subscriptions after the 16th of November, because she was told there was no necessity. The lodge of which her husband was a member was held at the FOX HUNT INN, but was connected with a lodge held at the DUKE WILLIAM previously.

For the defence, Mr. Clulow contended that the present society was not registered. In 1875 a division occurred amongst the Old

Hill Miners' Friendly Societies, and since that there had been no connection whatever between this lodge and any other which might have been held previously at the DUKE WILLIAM. He further contended that the society was without rules, and also urged that the widow was not entitled to recover in that court, as the deceased was out of benefit.

John Hill, the defendant, was then called as a witness, and stated that no money was paid into the society for the deceased after the 15th November. The society voted £2 as a present to the widow, and not in recognition of any liability on their part. It was custom to pay £5 at the death of a member, and 6s per week to the widow for twelve months afterwards. In reply to the Bench, witness said there was no lodge held at the DUKE WILLIAM now, as it had been broken up.

Mr. W. Breakwell, miners' agent, said there were three lodges in the district, none of them being registered. They never had written any written rules of the lodge in question to his knowledge. The lodge at the FOX HUNT was formed in 1874 or 1875, at the time when the district lodges were broken up. The present lodges were not registered, and the rules were now in the hands of the solicitor. At the time the copy of the rules produced was printed they were connected with the National Miners' Union, to which all the lodges contributed. They had since ceased to contribute to the union. In 1872 the Miners' National Union resolved that the sick money, instead of being paid at the pits, should be paid into lodges, which had been carried out at Old Hill ever since. He believed it was the universal custom to pay £5 at the death of a member, and 6s per week to the widow.

In reply to Mr. Major, witness said they had no rules whatever.

Mr. Major: How do you pay these sums to the widows? – Witness: That is done by resolutions at the meetings.

He had repeatedly tried to persuade the members to register the rules.

Mr. Clulow pointed out to the Bench that the man disappeared on the 15th of November, and was not found until the 28th of December. Nearly six weeks elapsed between those dates, and during that period the plaintiff paid no contributions to the society. The Bench dismissed the case.”

Dudley Herald 24/5/1879

“A meeting of the creditors of *William Eley*, FOX HUNT INN, Old Hill, was held on Thursday last, at the offices of Mr. Thomas Homer, solicitor, Brierley Hill, when it was resolved to wind up the estate in liquidation. Mr. Herbert Humphries, of Brierley Hill, and Mr. James Whitehouse, auctioneer, Dudley, were appointed trustees.”

County Advertiser 28/6/1879 - Advert

“Under a Bill of Sale. FOX HUNT INN, Old Hill.

To Publicans, Furniture Dealers, and Others.

Mr. Benjamin Bellingham (late John Bent and Bellingham) has received instructions to Sell by Auction (under a Bill of Sale) on Monday, June 30th, 1879, the whole of the Household Furniture and Brewing Utensils.

Sale to commence at Three o'clock precisely.

The Auctioneer particularly requests prompt attendance.

For further particulars apply to the Auctioneer.

Offices and Residence, 205, Wolverhampton Street, Dudley.”

Dudley Herald 28/6/1879 - Advert

“By Mr. Benj. Bellingham. Sale of Brewing Utensils and Household Furniture (under Bill of Sale), at the FOX HUNT INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, on Monday, June 30th, 1879. Sale at Three in the Afternoon to the minute.”

Dudley Herald 4/10/1879 - Advert

“Freehold Dwelling-Houses, Cherry Street, Cherry Orchard, Old Hill, Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, on Tuesday, October 21st, 1879, at the house of Mr. *Thomas Tibbetts*, the FOX HUNT INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, Rowley Regis, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then read.....”

Dudley Herald 22/11/1879

“Joseph Hadley was charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of *Thomas Tibbetts*, landlord of the FOX HUNT, Old Hill; also with assaulting him and Mrs. *Tibbetts*. Mr. Hayes prosecuted, and said that the defendant had apologised, and offered to pay the costs, and he would ask the Bench to let the charges be withdrawn. The Bench said they would hear the charge of refusing to quit. This being heard, and the case proved, defendant was fined 2s 6s and costs, or, in default, seven days.”

Dudley Herald 13/12/1879

“*Thos. Tibbetts*, landlord of the FOX HUNT, Old Hill, was charged with keeping his house open during prohibited hours, on the 5th inst. Mr. Hayes defended.

PC Wickstead said on the evening in question he went to defendant's house, and saw his wife's father there. It was then sixteen minutes past eleven by witness's watch. He went to Old Hill Church, and found his watch was four minutes fast.

For the defence, it was urged that defendant's clock had been stopped by the frost, and he was depending upon his watch for the time, and when the police-officer came in, his watch wanted ten minutes to eleven o'clock.

The Bench dismissed the case on payment of costs.”

Dudley Herald 6/3/1880

“*Thomas Tibbetts*, landlord of the FOX HUNT INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, was charged with unlawfully permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises. Mr. Addison prosecuted, and Mr. J. Stokes defended.

Inspector W. Walters said he visited defendant's house on the 24th February in company with PC Rowlands. He heard some very

bad language outside, and on going into the house he found about eight persons there. James Underhill, James Ball, and John Shakespear were quite drunk. The landlord requested Underhill and Ball to leave, but not Shakespear. He called the attention of the landlord to Shakespear. Some time after he returned and found Shakespear still there and drunk.

Mr. Stokes applied for an adjournment on the ground that he was taken by surprise, he understood that only Underhill and Ball were charged, but not Shakespear. He intended to prove that Ball and Underhill were sober.

Case adjourned for 7 days.”

Dudley and District News 13/3/1880

“*Thomas Tibbetts*, landlord of the FOX HUNT INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, was summoned for permitting drunkenness. Mr. W. O. Addison prosecuted, and Mr. Stokes defended.

On the night of the 24th ult Police-inspector Walters, in company with Police-constable Rowlands, visited defendant’s house and there found three men in a state of drunkenness. The landlord’s attention was drawn to the men’s condition and two of them then left, whilst one remained, and was seen again by the officers again on a subsequent visit.

A number of witnesses were called for the defence, and swore the men referred to were sober.

The Bench, however, considered the case proved, and fined defendant £5 and costs, without endorsing his license.”

Dudley Herald 20/3/1880

“At the Police Court, on Wednesday, before F. D. L. Smith, W. Bassano, and B. Hingley, Esqrs, James Underhill, James Ball, and John Shakespear, were charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of *Thomas Tibbetts*, landlord of the FOX HUNT, Old Hill, on the 24th ult.

The whole of the defendants denied the charge of drunkenness, but admitted that they were on the premises.

Inspector Walters said he visited the house on the day in question and saw the defendants there, and they were drunk.

The Bench fined each defendant 1s and costs, or in default seven days.”

Dudley Herald 28/8/1880

“The annual Licensing Session was held at the Police Court, Old Hill, on Wednesday.....

Police-superintendent Woollaston presented his annual statement of offending publicans during the past year.....

Thomas Tibbetts, FOX HUNT, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, open after hours December 10th, 1879, sentenced to pay costs; and permitting drunkenness March 10th, 1880, fined £5 and costs.....

The Bench refused to renew the license of *Thomas Tibbetts*, landlord of the FOX HUNT, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, as he had been convicted in December, 1879, and in March, 1880, when he was fined £5 and costs for permitting drunkenness.”

Dudley and District News 2/10/1880

“Adjourned Licensing Sessions. These sessions were held on Wednesday at Old Hill.....

Mr. Homer made an application for a six days’ license on behalf of *Thomas Tibbetts*, who at the annual licensing sessions was refused by the justices, he having been twice convicted in one year. He asked the Bench to review their decision, his client being a young man who, having taken his house on a sixteen years’ lease, and fitted it up at a great expense, would probably be ruined for life if his license was taken from him. He had promised faithfully to conduct the house well in future if the license was granted.

The Bench granted the application, remarking that he must understand that if he deviated in the slightest degree from the law he would be dealt with in the severest way the law allowed.”

County Express 19/2/1881

“James Powell, miner of Old Hill, Joseph Poole, labourer, Powke Lane, and William Ashfield, miner, Red Lion Road, Old Hill, were charged with stealing a set of harness, value £1 15s, the property of *Thomas Tibbetts*, publican, of Old Hill.

The harness was lent by prosecutor to a person named Blunt, some two months ago. About a month ago Powell offered it for sale to a carter named Burgess for the sum of 6s, and afterwards for 4s, but Burgess thinking it too cheap for the money refused to buy it, and it was subsequently sold to Henry Mason, carrier and beerhouse keeper, for 5s and two quarts of ale by the defendant Poole, and Ashfield received the money.

The prisoners were each sent to prison for a month, the imprisonment in the case of Powell to commence when the three months inflicted in the former case [fowl stealing] had expired.

The Bench told Mason that they considered he deserved to be in the dock as much as the other prisoners, and they should remember his conduct at the next licensing day.”

1881 Census

31, Garratts Lane – uninhabited.

County Express 14/5/1881

“On Tuesday last a meeting of the creditors of *Thomas Adams Tibbetts*, late of the FOX HUNT INN, Old Hill, was held at the offices of Mr. W. O. C. Addison, solicitor, Brierley Hill. Mr. Addison’s statement of affairs showed that the liabilities were about £650. It was resolved to liquidate the estate by arrangement, and give the debtor his discharge.”

Dudley and District News 28/5/1881

“The District Coroner (E. Hooper, Esq) held an inquiry on Saturday morning at the FOX HUNT INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, touching the death of Ruth Brookes, aged one year and nine months, the daughter of John Brookes, furnace labourer, residing in

Waggon Street.

Deceased was killed on the previous Thursday by the fall of a chain and nail shop. Evidence was now adduced by deceased's mother to the effect that on the morning of the date named, she had been working in the nailshop, which was in Garratts Lane, and had just left to go and prepare her husband's dinner, when she was startled by a crash, and returning, found that the shop had fallen in. A crowd had collected at the spot, and the deceased, who with an elder sister and others had been playing about the shop, was being extricated from the door frame and a beam and a heap of bricks which had fallen upon her. When extricated, Mr. Goulter, surgeon, who was present, pronounced her to be dead. It appeared, further, that deceased's elder sister, named Susannah, was actually in the shop when it fell, but only sustained slight injuries, owing to the rafters, from the position in which they fell, having formed a protecting screen around her.

The Coroner elicited from the mother that the Local Board's inspector had served her or her husband with a notice to quit the house and nailshop in consequence of the dilapidated state it was in. They had vacated the house and gone to live in Waggon Street, but she had continued to go to the shop to finish some work which she had on hand, and on this day the children had accompanied her. The landlord of the premises had also given her and her husband notice to quit as they had not paid any rent for twelve months.

The Coroner pointed out to the mother that she ought not to have continued working in the shop, knowing it had been condemned by the local authorities, and said she was really the only person responsible for the death of her child.

A verdict of Accidental Death was then returned.

One of the jurymen summoned, named Laban Hall, was some minutes late in making his appearance. Another jurymen was sworn in his stead, and on his arrival the coroner fined the late-comer 40s. After the inquiry had concluded, Hall apologised for being late, and said he had forgotten about the inquest. The Coroner then remitted his fine, but ordered him to be summoned on the next jury, and reminded the offender that if he was again late in attending the penalty would be enforced."

Annie Henrietta Dixon = Ann Henrietta Dixon = Hannah Dixon

County Express 21/8/1881 - Notice

"To the Overseers of the Poor, and the Superintendent of Police of the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, and to all whom it may concern.

I, *Annie Henrietta Dixon*, Licensed Victualler, now residing at the FOX HUNT INN, Old Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, do hereby give Notice, that it is my intention to apply, at the General Annual Licensing Meeting, for the Division of Rowley Regis, to be holden at the Public Office, at Old Hill, in the said County, on the 31st day of August next ensuing, at the hour of Eleven o'clock in the forenoon of the same day, for a Seven Days' License to hold any Excise License or Licenses, to Sell by Retail under The Intoxicating Liquors Licensing Act 1828, and the Acts amending the same, all Intoxicating Liquors to be consumed either on or off the premises, situate at Old Hill, in the said Parish, and known by the Sign of the FOX HUNT, which said premises are of the annual value by law required, of which house and premises one John Bate is the owner and the same are now in my occupation.

Given under my hand this 30th day of July, 1881.

Annie Henrietta Dixon."

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.

Mr. Cooksey (Old Hill) applied on behalf of *Ann Henrietta Dixon* for the six days' license of the FOX HUNT, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, to be extended to a seven days'. The house had formerly a seven days' license, but the last tenant was convicted and the license reduced. Mr. Cooksey said the Sunday trade of the house was thus being sent to adjoining houses. The Bench granted the application."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/9/1885

"A large meeting of miners was held last night, at the FOX HUNT INN, Old Hill, for the purpose of considering the wages question. Mr. H. Southall presided. Mr. B. Winwood, miners' agent, delivered a long address, in the course of which he urged the men to support only Liberal candidates at the coming election. It was decided to form a powerful union, and to agitate for the advance of 15 per cent."

County Express 15/5/1886

"On Tuesday night a meeting of miners was held at the FOX HUNT, Garratts Lane, Old Hill. Mr. B. Winwood, the local agent, addressed the meeting at length upon trades federation. The following resolutions were unanimously passed: 1. That this meeting believes the time has arrived for all men to become united, and we agree to form a union lodge at this house on Saturday next. 2. That this meeting is of opinion that the Clipperstone miners out on strike are deserving of our best support, and that we call upon all miners at the various collieries to make collections on their behalf every Saturday until the dispute is settled."

County Express 22/2/1890

"On Wednesday a social gathering was held at Mr. *T. Gould's*, the FOX HUNT, Old Hill. A splendid supper, provided by several gentlemen in the district, was put on the table by the hostess, to which ample justice was done by friends from Brierley Hill, Quarry Bank, Tipton, and Old Hill. After the cloth had been drawn, some capital songs and pianoforte solos were rendered."

1891 Census

Garratts Lane

- [1] *Thomas Gould* (52), butcher and victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Eliza M. Gould* (49), wife, born Brierley Hill;
- [3] *Harry J. Gould* (25), son, butcher, born Brierley Hill;
- [4] *Sarah M. Gould* (21), daughter, dress maker, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Ann S. Gould* (19), daughter, barmaid, domestic, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Florence L. Gould* (17), daughter, butcher's clerk, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *Ellen L. Gould* (15), daughter, milliner (apprentice), born Rowley Regis;
- [8] *Eliza M. Gould* (14), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [9] *Clara J. Gould* (10), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

Thomas Gould was also a butcher. [1892]

Birmingham Daily Post 10/1/1895

“*Samuel Bate*, landlord of the FOX HUNT INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, was charged with being drunk on his own licensed premises, on the 26th ult.

Police-constable Barrett deposed to visiting defendant's house about 10.30pm on the day named, and to finding defendant drunk in the clubroom.

Defendant pleaded guilty, and Mr. John Wright, on his behalf, expressed regret for the offence.

The magistrates imposed a fine of 10s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/9/1895

“The Old Hill adjourned annual Licensing Sessions were held yesterday. Mr. Waldron applied for a renewal of the licenses to *Samuel Bate* which were adjourned from the annual licensing day. Mr. Bassano asked how the houses had been conducted in the meantime, and Inspector Given replied that everything had been satisfactory. The licenses were renewed.”

Samuel Bate was also a butcher. [1896]

Samuel Bate's daughter, Sarah Sophia, married a Mr. Pearson and became licensee of the COCK.

County Express 21/8/1897

“The first of what is intended to be an annual demonstration of the friendly societies in the Old Hill district, was held on Sunday, the object in view being to help the funds of the Dudley Guest Hospital, Dudley Dispensary, and Birmingham Eye Hospital the day was bright and promising, and there were large numbers of people all along the route.

At one o'clock the 1st Worcestershire Volunteer Band started from the CROSS INN, proceeded across Halesowen Road, calling at Trinity Schools and GEORGE HOTEL; then across Lawrence Lane into Reddal Hill Road, calling at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, and proceeding to the Cross, where the final procession was formed. Meanwhile the Old Hill Brass and Red Band started from the WHITE LION INN, proceeded by way of Powke Lane and Garratts Lane to Wrights Lane (as far as the PRINCE OF WALES INN), and returned to Garratts Lane, calling for lodges at the BRITISH OAK INN, FOX HUNT INN, Tabernacle, DUKE WILLIAM INN, VINE INN, to the Cross. On the arrival of this contingent a huge line was formed, and very pretty it looked. Members of the various lodges wore their regalia, and these being interspersed with the more elaborate honorary members' scarves, gave the line a very bright appearance.....”

County Advertiser 16/10/1897

“A temporary authority at the FOX HUNT INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, was granted to *Henry Shakespeare*.”

Dudley Herald 29/1/1898

“*Edwin Williams*, of Queen Street, Quarry Bank, was charged with hawking without a license, and also doing malicious injury to a window belonging to *Henry Shakespeare*, of the FOX HUNT INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill.

Complainant said that the defendant came to his house hawking laces and told the company they were the best in England. He invited anyone to break one, and handed a pair to one of the men in the house. He broke it, and then a disturbance ensued. Williams struck the man with a stick, and then was put out. He commenced to break the windows, but was stopped when he had smashed three. When asked the reason of his conduct defendant said he was subject to fits.

PC Mycock said the defendant had no license to sell.

Defendant said he had had a stroke, and sold laces to keep him off the rates.

Defendant was fined 5s and costs in each case and 1s 6d damage.”

County Advertiser 4/2/1899

“*Thomas Baker*, of Dudley, was charged with being drunk and disorderly, and refusing to quit licensed premises, on the 28th inst. Police-constable Greenbough stated that about half-past six on the night of the date named, he saw defendant very drunk in Halesowen Road, Old Hill. Defendant persisted in his disorderly conduct, and when he was taken into custody became very violent, kicking and biting him.

Henry Shakespeare, landlord of the FOXHUNT INN, Garratts Lane, said that defendant came to his house drunk, and commenced

begging with a cigar box he had. Witness asked him to go about half a dozen times, but defendant said he should not go for him. Witness turned him out thrice, and on the last occasion carried him some distance from the house. Defendant was very violent. Mr. Bassano (to prisoner): You are very often here on some charge. – Prisoner: I hope you will open your heart this time and let me off. If you do I will leave the country.

Mr. Bassano: You have told us that a good many times before. – Prisoner: I have been in South Wales, and I wish I had not come into this country again.

Inspector Given: And so do I.

The Bench fined prisoner 20s and costs for being disorderly, and 10s and costs for refusing to quit, or in default six weeks' imprisonment."

* possibly the same person

1901 Census

31, Garratts Lane

[1] *William Walton* (74), licensed victualler, born Dodworth, Yorkshire;

[2] *Jemima Walton* (50), wife, born Bentley, Staffordshire;

[3] *James Walton* (29), son, inspect S. Staffs mines drainage, commission for all minerals raised to surface, born Walsall;

[4] *Ada Walton* (18), daughter, barmaid, born Codsall;

[5] *Beatrice Murray* (12), grand-daughter, born Ireland;

[6] *Horace Murray* (8), grand-son, born Malta;

[7] *Edith Barnbrook* (22), domestic servant, born Amblecote:

County Express 24/8/1901

"Mr. H. A. Pearson (county coroner) held an inquest on Monday at the FOX HUNT INN, Garretts Lane, on William Baker (66), gun-barrel maker, Beat Street, who had died suddenly.

It was stated that for upwards of 13 years deceased had been unable to follow his occupation owing to failing eyesight. On Saturday morning he informed Mrs. Round, with whom he lodged, that he was not well, and afterwards left, intending to get his sick note signed by a surgeon. On arriving at the Cross, near the tramway, he cried out and fell down. Assistance was immediately rendered him, but he died before medical aid could be obtained.

The Coroner said there were no suspicious circumstances, but he thought it best to hold an inquiry, especially as the man was living apart from his wife.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes."

Arthur Ernest Jew = Arthur Earnest Jew

County Advertiser 27/8/1904

"An Interim Authority was granted to *Arthur Ernest Pugh* [sic], from *Frederick Langley*, in respect of the FOX HUNT INN, Old Hill."

County Express 8/8/1908

"On Sunday afternoon there was held the twelfth annual service promoted by the united friendly societies in the Old Hill district. The occasion was favoured with brilliant weather, and there was a large attendance at the services. The proceedings opened with a large procession, which aroused considerable interest in the district. The Old Hill Ironworks Band started from the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Wrights Lane, at one o'clock, and proceeded to the OLD HOUSE AT HOME INN for sick and draw club, through Cherry Orchard, calling for Court Robin Hood's Cave and BRITISH OAK sick and draw club; by way of Wagon Street, calling for Success-to-the-FOX-HUNT Lodge; Elbow Street for Court Benjamin and KINGS HEAD sick and draw club; Halesowen Road, calling for Provident Institution, and on to the field. The Cradley Heath Salvation Army Band started from COOKSEY'S HOTEL at one o'clock with Snowdrop Lodge, by way of Halesowen Road, calling for Court Loyal Marlborough; Bank Street, Queens Street, High Street, and on to the field. The Cradley Heath Town Prize Band started from the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill, with Court Robin Hood the Brave; by way of Reddal Hill Road, calling for the WHY NOT sick and draw club, and on to the BRIDGE INN for Welcome to the Bridge Inn Lodge, across Plant Street, Lawrence Lane, Clyde Street, Petford Street calling for Druids Society; Pear Tree Street, Riddings Street, New Street, Halesowen Road, calling for Court Royal Sherwood and Rechabites Society and ROYAL EXCHANGE sick and draw club; High Street to the field. A grand procession was then formed....."

Tipton Herald 13/3/1909

"Adjourned Hearing at Old Hill.....

Superintendent Johnson objected to the renewal of the license of the FOX HUNT, High Street, Old Hill, on the ground of redundancy.

Mr. W. Waldron appeared for Mr. *Jew* and the lessees, and Mr. Bate for the owners, the executors of Samuel Thomas Bate.

Inspector Needham said he visited the house on Monday night, when there were about 25 customers in.

Superintendent Johnson said the conduct of the licensee had been good. During the last ten years there had been six transfers, and no conviction. There were seven licensed houses within 500 yards, three beerhouses 'on' and two beerhouses 'off'. The population of the parish in 1901 was 34,670. There had been a decrease of four licenses up to 1908. The FOX HUNT was smaller

and less commodious as the others. The house next door was larger and structurally better. He thought the FOX HUNT could be utilized as a shop. The other houses in the neighbourhood were capable of supplying the wants of the district.

Answering Mr. Waldron, the Superintendent said the FOX HUNT did a fair trade.

Mr. Waldron said the FOX HUNT was in every way adapted for the business for which it was licensed. There was a real necessity for the house in the district.

Mr. A. E. Jew said the takings for the year were between £15 and £17 per week.

Answering Mr. Bate: A new street had been cut in the district during the past few years, and a goodly number of houses had been erected.

The Chairman: In the policy of a reasonable reduction we shall schedule the house.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/5/1909

“Notice is Hereby Given, that the Principal Meeting to be held pursuant to the Licensing Rules, 1904, by the Compensation Authority for the County of Stafford, will be held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, at 10.30 o’clock am, on Friday, the 11th day of June, 1909.

And Notice is Hereby also Given, that the Compensation Authority will at the Meeting be prepared to hear, with reference to the Renewal of the Licences of the several Premises specified in the subjoined list.....

FOX HUNT INN, High Street, Old Hill. Alehouse. Licensee, *Arthur Ernest Jew*.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/6/1909

“The principal meeting of the Staffordshire County Compensation Authority, adjourned from the 11th inst.....

The decision of the local licensing magistrates to refuse the renewal of the FOX HUNT alehouse, Old Hill, tenant, *Arthur E. Jew*, was opposed. Mr. R. J. Lawrence, barrister (instructed by Mr. Cooksey, Old Hill) represented the licensing justices; Mr. Graham Milward, barrister (instructed by Mr. R. Bate, Blackheath) appeared for the owners of the premises (Messrs. J. R. and B. H. Bate); and Mr. Waldron was for the holder of the licence.

In opening the case, Mr. Lawrence said that the house was fully licensed, and he thought the main fact to be borne in mind in coming to a decision was the situation of the adjoining licensed houses. There was one – the QUEENS HEAD (a beerhouse) – actually next door. There was another full licence – the BRITISH OAK – only 51 yards away, and there were others within a short distance. He therefore contended that there was a strong case of redundancy, and said that it appeared to him that the question was which of the three houses – the FOX HUNT, the QUEENS HEAD, or the DUKE WILLIAM (another fully-licensed house only 206 yards away) – should go.

Police Inspector John R. Needham, who is stationed in the district, was called, and gave evidence as to accommodation provided at the FOX HUNT as compared with the other two houses that had been mentioned. He said there was no accommodation for the landlord of the FOX HUNT and his family except a kitchen and three bedrooms. In cross-examination by Mr. Milward, witness admitted that there was another beerhouse, called the VINE, only 250 yards away from the FOX HUNT, which was also a butcher’s shop. The beerpulls were all among the meat. (Laughter.)

Mr. Milward: Then it is a question of whether you have a mutton-chop or a glass of beer? – Witness: Yes.

Witness also admitted that the FOX HUNT did a good trade. Mr. Waldron made a formal application for the renewal of the licence, and Mr. Milward called Mr. A. W. Dando, auctioneer and valuer, who said that there were other beerhouses – the VINE and the BEEHIVE – in the locality, which were much inferior to the FOX HUNT. He had inspected the books, and he found that the turnover at the FOX HUNT was 287 barrels of beer a year. In 1906 it was 215 barrels, in 1907 324½ barrels, and in 1908 322 barrels. The sales of spirits were 157¾ gallons in 1906, 153½ gallons in 1907, and 113¾ gallons in 1908. In bottled goods – ale and stout – the turnover was 351, 349 and 423 dozens respectively in the last three years. On this turnover, he said the compensation to be paid would reach a large amount. Mr. Milward was about to call other witnesses, when the Bench stopped the case and intimated that they had decided to renew the licence.”

1911 Census

77, High Street – FOX HUNT INN

[1] *Arthur Ernest Jew* (34), publican, born Old Hill;

[2] *Mary Ann Jew* (32), wife, married 9 years, born Brierley Hill;

[3] *Arthur John Benton Jew* (8), son, born Old Hill:

Tommy Williams played football for Leicester City.

1939 Register

77, High Street

[1] *A. Earnest Jew*, date of birth 17/1/1877, licensee, widowed;

[2] *A. J. (Arthur Jack Benton) Jew*, dob 20/12/1902, brewer and manager, married;

[3] *R. (Rose) Elizabeth Jew*, dob 23/12/1901, unpaid domestic duties, married;

Arthur Ernest Jew was also a brewer.

He died in 1947.

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.....

FOXHUNT, Cradley Heath, Warley.”

Simon Charman's partner was *Lynne Whitehouse*.
He was originally a chef.

It was refurbished in 1999.

Halesowen News 12/8/1999

“The FOXHUNT officially opens with a real Tally Ho on Saturday, August 14.

This popular family pub in Highgate Street, Old Hill has had a complete facelift and a splendid refurbishment.

Live Saturday entertainment is now a firm favourite.

Simon and *Lynne* took over The FOXHUNT almost a year ago, after it had been closed for some time, and are quietly delighted with the transformation that had taken place.....”

Old Hill and District Homing Society, founded in 1894, was based here from 2006.

[2008]

Closed [2009]

It was converted into housing. [2010]

GATE HANGS WELL

222, (191), (128), Halesowen Road, OLD HILL

OWNERS

Ambrose James [1884]

Alfred Cockin, Old Hill

Arthur Handel Cockin, Woodlands, Hayley Green, Halesowen (acquired on 19th April 1939)

Darby's Brewery Ltd. (acquired on 20th February 1941)

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Horatio James [1829] – [1838]

Ambrose James [1850] – [1851]

Horace James [1855]

Ann James [] – **1855**;

Thomas Billingham (**1855** – [])

Samuel White [1857] – [1865]

Samuel Wyld [] – **1866**;

John Woodhouse (**1866** – [])

Ambrose Hunt* [1868] – [1870]

Ambrose James* [1871] – [1872]

James Ambrose Hunt* [1873]

James Batty [1881] – [1885]

Thomas James [1890] – [1916]

Blanche Mary Cockin [] – **1919**;

Arthur Handel Cockin (**1919** – **1927**);

Edward Biddle (**1927** – **1928**);

Florence Biddle (**1928** – **1929**);

Edward Willetts (**1929** – **1931**);

Jesse Oldacre (**1931** – **1932**);

Frank Crampton (1932 – 1933);
Harold Harbach (1933 – 1939);
Cecil John Sweetman (1939 – 1948);
Harold Hickson (1948 – 1956);
George William Cresswell (1956 – 1962);
Joseph William Daniel Cook (1962);
Trevor Bryn Totney (1962 – [1965]
Ken Banks [] – 1983)
Philip Christopher Walters [1986]

NOTES

128, Halesowen Road [1881], [1891]
191, Halesowen Road [1896], [1900], [1901], [1908]
222, Halesowen Road [1911], [1912], [1924], [1932], [1939], [1940]

GATE [1834], [1851], [1864], [1865], [1868], [1870], [1872], [1873]
FOX AND GATE [1862]

Horatio James was born on 27th February 1778.
He was married to Ann.

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

24th September 1824 - Ambrose, son of Horatio and Ann James, victualler, Wilkes Fold.
24th December 1826 - Eneas, son of Horatio and Ann James, victualler, near Old Hill.
19th February 1829 - Thomas, son of *Horatio* and Ann *James*, victualler, GATE public house.
18th March 1832 - William, son of *Horatio* and Ann *James*, victualler, near Old Hill.
27th July 1838 - Joseph, son of *Horatio* and Ann *James*, near Old Hill.

[It is likely that the parents, above, were the same people, especially with Ambrose being christened in 1824. I have not included the first two as being licensees of this pub, because the locations in the register are vague.]

Horatio James, retailer of beer, Old Hill. [1835]

1851 Census

Old Hill

[1] *Ambrose James* (26), gun filer, born Dudley;
[2] Hannah James (24), wife, household work, born Rowley Regis;
[3] Thomas James (1), son, born Rowley Regis:

Black Country Bugle - Pub of the Month

“One of Old Hill’s most venerable taverns, the GATE HANGS WELL, was mentioned in a directory, printed in 1851, as being an ale-house much frequented by brickmakers and colliers In 1851 it was kept by *Ambrose James*, a collier from South Wales who preferred to brew beer than toil at the coal face A few days later [in 1855] similar devil marks were discovered at the GATE HANGS WELL.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 1/8/1855

“*Thomas Billingham*, of the GATE INN, Rowley Regis, was fined 20s and costs, for allowing card playing in his house on July 24th.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 12/9/1855

“The adjourned licensing meeting was held at the Public-office, Wordsley, on Monday last. Four publicans, whose licenses had been suspended at the annual meeting at Stewponey on account of complaints made against them, again appeared. They were *Thomas Billingham*, the GATE, Rowley After a strong caution from the bench, their licenses were renewed.”

County Advertiser 19/12/1857

“On Friday last, an inquest was held before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, at Mr. *S. White*’s, the GATE INN, on the body of a fine youth, named Richard Taylor. It was shown from the evidence, that on the preceding Wednesday, deceased, who was a rail cleaner, was at work in one of the pits belonging to the British Iron Company. He was in the gate road, which is six feet wide, when suddenly a very large quantity of coals detached fell upon him, crushed his head, broke his arm and thigh, and thus when taken out, he was quite dead. It was proved to the satisfaction of the coroner and jury that the place where the fall occurred had been duly examined that morning, and the witnesses said that it had been caused by a ‘bump’ or giving way of the earth. The coals had also the usual tree prop. After hearing the diction of the coroner, the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1861 Census

Halesowen Road – GATE INN

- [1] *Samuel White* (51), victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Elizabeth White* (52), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Samuel White* (16), son, coal miner, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Eliza White* (14), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Mary White* (3), granddaughter, born Rowley Regis:

Stourbridge Observer 2/9/1865

“On Saturday morning last an inquest was held at the GATE HANGS WELL, Rowley Regis, before Mr. Edwin Hooper, on the body of *Ira Dingle*, aged 18, who met with his death on the previous Wednesday morning, in a pit of Messrs. Dawes, at the Withymoor Colliery. The accident was of an ordinary nature, but some excitement was caused from rumours having been circulated to the effect that the death of the deceased resulted from the pit not being properly timbered.

Henry Landers, a miner, deposed to being a workman at Messrs. Dawes and Sons, Withymoor Colliery. He knew the deceased (*Ira Dingle*), who worked in the same pit as himself. On the previous Wednesday, at about half past eight o'clock, the deceased and himself were both at work loading in a gateway. It was a six foot road, and nine feet high. There were some trees there, but they were wide apart. A piece of coal came from the roof and the side and caught deceased on the back and threw him with his chest on the skip. The fall weighed about 2cwt to 3cwt. The workmen present at once began to take the coal from off the deceased, who only lived about three or four minutes after the fall. He was dead before they had time to dress him and bring him to bank. The butty and *William Gill* both examined the pit in the morning before the men began to work. This was about six o'clock in the morning. The mass of coal which fell was about two yards from the nearest tree. Deceased did not speak at all after the fall of coal. He considered the place safe when he commenced work. He had been at work at the pit nine months, and in that time one man had been killed, as well as the deceased. The ground bailiff usually visited the pit about once a fortnight.

William Gill, miner, working at the colliery, said at the time of the accident a mass of coal fell from the roof and side, and struck deceased upon the neck, causing him to fall upon a skip ring. He died a few minutes after the accident. In answer to the Coroner, the witness said that there was not room for placing more timber, and he believed that had the working been raised the result would have been the same.

Benjamin Callear, ground bailiff, gave evidence to the same effect, and stated that the pit as it was at present was quite safe without further timber. Every precaution was taken in the colliery to render the workings safe.

This was the whole of the evidence.

The Coroner in summing up said that if the Government Inspector, upon examining the workings, found any alteration necessary, the proprietors of the colliery would at once see that the necessary precautions were taken forthwith.

The Foreman, after consulting with the rest of the jury, said that they were of opinion that death resulted from accident.

The proceedings then terminated.”

County Advertiser 22/9/1866 - Advert

“The GATE HANGS WELL INN, Old Hill, Rowley Regis.

To Parties Furnishing, Butty Colliers, and Others.

Mr. Chandler will Sell by Auction, on Monday, October 1st, 1866, at Eleven o'clock, a portion of neat Household Furniture, Eight-day and Thirty-hour Clocks, capital Malt Crusher, quantity of Pit Skips and Rings, and other Effects, being surplus Stock not required by incoming Tenant.”

* possibly the same person

1871 Census

Halesowen Road

- [1] *Ambrose James* (45), gun barrel filer, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Hannah James* (44), wife, formerly nail maker, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Thomas James* (21), son, gun barrel filer, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Emeline James* (17), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Anne James* (13), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Sophia James* (11), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *Hannah James* (5), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] *Alice James* (3), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [9] *Arthur H. James* (1), son, born Rowley Regis:

Ambrose James was born in 1824.

He died in 1886.

West Bromwich Weekly News 22/1/1881

“An inquest was held at the GATE HANGS WELL INN, Old Hill, on Wednesday, before E. Hooper, Esq, district coroner, on the body of *John Tearney*, aged 35, engine tender, of Halesowen Road, Old Hill. Evidence was brought forward which showed that the deceased was at work on Sunday afternoon at the Rowley Hall Colliery, and about half past three o'clock he went to the mouth

of the pit and when the cage was about one foot below the surface he attempted to get in, and the middle ring of the cage caught his head and killed him instantaneously. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1881 Census

128, Halesowen Road

- [1] *James Batty* (48), coal miner, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Hannah Batty (52), wife, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Mary Ann Batty (21), daughter, general servant, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Thomas Batty (18), son, gas pipe screwer, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Samuel Batty (16), son, striker for blacksmith, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] James Batty (14), son, warehouse boy, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] George H. Batty (10), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

West Bromwich Weekly News 24/9/1881

“*James Batty*, landlord of the GATE HANGS WELL, Old Hill, was charged with permitting drunkenness.

Mr. Thomas Homer, of Brierley Hill, defended.

PC Rowlands said at 10.15pm on the 3rd inst he visited defendant’s house, and found two men in the tap room. Both were drunk. One was lying down on the screen; the other was drinking from a cup. He then called the attention of the landlord to it, when he at once ordered them out.

(Cross examined): Did not see the men go in. The landlord said he did not know that they were drunk.

PC Rowe corroborated.

For the defence, Hannah *Batty* said one of the men called for a pint of beer, and she supplied him. While she was attending to him, a man who was drunk entered the room, and asked for refreshments, but she, seeing his condition, refused to supply him. The officers then came upon the scene, and called the landlord’s attention to it, who immediately ordered them to quit.

Mr. Homer pleaded ignorance on the part of the defendant.

Mr. Bassano said they did not consider the defendant in that case could be held free from blame. It was undoubtedly the duty of every publican to ascertain for himself whether a person is drunk or not.

They thought that defendant had not taken that due precaution which was necessary.

Fined 10s and costs, or 14 days.”

Dudley and District News 1/10/1881

“Henry Freeman was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of Wm. [sic] *Batty*, GATE HANGS WELL, Old Hill, on the 3rd inst.

Prisoner: I don’t know the place.

PC Rowlands saw him there with another man, both being more or less intoxicated.

Fined 1s and costs, or 7 days.”

County Express 31/12/1881

“Reuben Charles, miner, Old Hill, was charged with being disorderly and refusing to quit the GATE HANGS WELL INN, Halesowen Road, on the 25th inst. He was fined 1s 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 Batty, GATE HANGS WELL, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, permitting drunkenness, 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.”

Dudley and District News 27/9/1884

“*James Batty*, landlord of the GATE HANGS WELL, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, was charged with selling ale without a license.

Mr. Waldron prosecuted, and pointed out that if a publican sold drink on premises other than those licensed in his name he was liable to a heavy penalty. Mr. Shakespeare defended.

At the back of the defendant’s premises is a marble alley, the property of a separate landlord. The police authorities being suspicious of the defendant using this alley for gambling purposes, set a watch on the 15th inst, being Rowley wake. At four o’clock on the morning of that date, PCs Wickstead and Rowlands secreted themselves in the alley and watched till three in the afternoon. At a quarter past twelve o’clock several men came in and began playing marbles. Betting followed, and beer was called for.

The defendant fetched a jug full, and a man named Willetts put some coppers in his hand. A second quart was brought in by the defendant's son. The defendant himself was playing. The officers heard that it was for £2 a side. Inspector Walters was informed of what had taken place. That functionary repaired to the house, and told defendant that he would be prosecuted for allowing gambling to take place on his licensed premises. The defendant instantly replied that the premises were not his, but belonged to another man. The inspector then told him that he would be summoned for selling beer off his licensed premises. Evidence was given by Ambrose James, the owner of the GATE HANGS WELL, to the effect that the marble alley was not his property.

Mr. Shakespeare, for the defence, cited authorities to show that as long as the original identity was not destroyed the addition of other premises to the licensed house was not an offence.

The Bench considered the case proved, and fined the defendant £5 and costs. The solicitor's fee was also allowed."

County Advertiser 29/8/1885

"Charles Shepherd, Tery Street, Blackheath, was charged with being quarrelsome in the house of *James Batty*, GATE HANGS WELL, Halesowen Road, and refusing to quit when requested. Prosecutor said the defendant came to his house on the 2nd inst, and after having some beer caused a disturbance. When asked to leave he refused.

Defendant was fined 1s and costs, or seven days."

County Advertiser 29/8/1885

"On Wednesday the annual brewster sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Rowley Regis, were held at the Court House, Old Hill.....

The following was the black list Licensed victuallers.....

James Batty, GATE HANGS WELL, Old Hill, permitting drunkenness, 21st September, 1881, fined 10s and costs; also selling ale without a license, 24th September, 1884, fined £5 and costs.....

The Bench said they would not now renew the licenses of those who had been convicted, but would reserve them for consideration till the adjourned licensing day."

County Advertiser 19/9/1885

"*James Batty*, GATE HANGS WELL, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, was charged with permitting drunkenness on the 22nd ult. Police-constable Rowlands said that at twenty minutes to eleven on the evening in question he received a complaint of a man having been assaulted at defendant's house. He went there and heard cries of 'Murder' and in the kitchen found half-a-dozen men fighting together on the floor. One of the men, named Charles Shepherd, of Waterfall Lane, was very drunk and used bad language. When the disturbance was put down witness asked what the row was about, to which defendant said the men had not been there long. Witness pointed out two men named Lewis and Priest, who had a cup of beer on the table before them. The defendant took up the cup and drank and then handed it to Priest and Lewis, who also drank. The two men followed him out and staggered down the road, arm in arm.

Inspector Walters and Police-constable Bradbury said they saw the men Priest and Lewis when they left the defendant's house, and they were then drunk.

For the defence, it was stated the man Shepherd came to the defendant's house on the night in question, and after being there some time began quarrelling, and a row ensued. At that time the officer came in, and Shepherd was put out. He was not drunk, but quarrelsome. Lewis and Priest were not drunk.

The defendant and seven other witnesses said the men were not drunk.

The Bench said there was some doubt in the matter, and dismissed the case."

County Advertiser 3/10/1885

"*James Batty*, GATE HANGS WELL, Old Hill whose names appeared on the black list, had their licenses renewed."

Thomas James was born in 1850.

He was also a brewer.

County Express 16/8/1890

"*Thomas James*, landlord of the GATE HANGS WELL INN, Halesowen Road was summoned for permitting drunkenness in his house. Mr. Waldron prosecuted, and Mr. Benbow Hebbert defended.

Inspector Bishop and Police-constable Wickstead stated that they found, on the night of Bank Holiday, a man named Lowe drunk in the defendant's tap room. There was a jug containing ale before him on a table. The defence was that Lowe was not supplied with ale in the house, neither was he drunk. The magistrates said there was some doubt in the case, and they would give the defendant the benefit of it. The case was dismissed."

1891 Census

128, Halesowen Road

[1] *Thomas James* (41), publican, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Elizabeth James (34), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Fanny James (18), daughter, domestic, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Poll James (16), daughter, domestic, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Ambrose James (14), son, errand boy at tube works, born Rowley Regis;

- [6] Joseph James (12), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
[7] Edith James (9), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
[8] Emily James (6), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 29/9/1894

“Warwick Plant, fishmonger, Cradley, was charged with unlawfully failing to produce certain weights to Mr. Harold Van Tromp, inspector of weights and measures, and obstructing him in the performance of his duty, on the 19th inst.

Mr. Van Tromp said he saw defendant’s dray, containing a quantity of fish, outside the GATE HANGS WELL public house, and there were also some weights on the dray. Some of the lead was out of two of them, and one of them had been condemned. He went into the public house and asked those present to whom the dray belonged. Defendant stepped forward and said they were his. Witness then said the weights were not correct, and told defendant he should have to take them with him. Defendant said he would not, and snatched them away from witness. He thrice refused to give them up.

Harry Toy, assistant to Mr. Van Tromp, corroborated the latter’s evidence.

Defendant said the reason he refused to give up the weights was because he had perishable goods in his possession, which he was bound to sell.

The Magistrates’ Clerk (Mr. Goodman) handed up to the Bench a record of previous convictions, and while doing so was interrupted by defendant who said, ‘They know all about that gov’nor.’

Defendant was fined 50s and costs, or one month.”

1901 Census

191, Halesowen Road – GATE HANGS WELL

- [1] *Thomas James* (51), publican, born Old Hill;
[2] *Annie James* (46), wife, born Old Hill;
[3] *Joseph James* (22), son, brewer, born Old Hill;
[4] *Thomas Tromans* (18), step-son, bricklayer, born Old Hill;
[5] *Emily James* (16), daughter, born Birmingham;
[6] *Hannah James* (75), mother, widow, born Old Hill:

Tipton Herald 26/9/1903

“*Thomas James*, landlord of the GATE HANGS WELL INN, Old Hill, was charged with selling whiskey prejudicial to the purchaser.

Mr. Van Tromp prosecuted, and Mr. Collis (Stourbridge) defended, and pleaded guilty.

Leonard Parkes (assistant inspector under the Food and Drugs Act) stated that on the day in question he went into the defendant’s premises and called for two pennyworth of whiskey, which was served him by Mrs. *James*, the defendant’s wife. He was followed into the place by Samuel Edwin Toy, the inspector.

The latter stated that he went into the shop, and asked Parkes where he had been served from. He pointed to a small barrel, which Mrs. *James* admitted was the one. Witness bought three quarterns from the same barrel, and divided it into three parts, leaving one with the defendant, and delivered the other two to Mr. Van Tromp.

Mr. Van Tromp stated that he received the two samples from the last witness, marked ‘134 CL’, and sent one to the analyst, whose certificate stated that the sample was 7 per cent below the statute limit of 25 per cent.

Mr. Collis, for the defence, said it was merely by an error on the part of the defendant, but not to his knowledge. The purchaser had the right to reduce the strength of the whiskey by 25 per cent. When reducing the strength the defendant ought to have used a thermometer in conjunction with the instrument he did use. The defendant was in the habit of using an instrument which told him how much he was reducing it. The instrument worked, however, according to the temperature of the whiskey, with the result that it sometimes gave a wrong decision. He hoped the Bench would not inflict a fine as the defendant had kept the house for 16 years without a complaint being made, and further, that the law was very strict upon the publican. He hoped that by paying the costs the Bench would dismiss the case.

The Bench inflicted a fine of £1 and costs.”

County Advertiser 18/2/1905

“*James Morgan*, coal dealer, of Halesowen Road, Old Hill, was charged with cruelty to a horse by working it whilst in an unfit state on the 9th inst.

Inspector Gibbs stated that he saw defendant’s horse at the GATE HANGS WELL INN, where the cart had been damaged. The horse was very lame and simply skin and bone. It was totally unfit for work.

A fine of 15s, including costs, was imposed.”

County Advertiser 9/6/1906

“*Thomas James*, licensee of the GATE HANGS WELL INN, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, was charged with keeping a dog without a license on the 29th ult.

Police-constable Horne stated that on the date in question he visited defendant’s house and found two dogs for which he had only one license.

Defendant was fined £1, including costs.”

1911 Census

222, Halesowen Road

- [1] *Thomas James* (61), widower, licensed victualler, born Old Hill;
- [2] *Ambrose James* (34), son, assistant in bar and brewery, born Old Hill;
- [3] *Joseph James* (32), son, brewer of beer, born Old Hill:

County Express 6/1/1912

“Dividend Clubs..... GATE HANGS WELL, Old Hill.
At the recent assembly a dividend of 11s 2d per member was disbursed.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/11/1915

“The death is announced at Old Hill of Mr. *Thomas James*, licensee of the GATE HANGS WELL, at the age of 65. The license had been in the family for over 100 years.”

County Express 12/2/1916 - Advert

“Re *Thomas James* (Deceased). Preliminary. Old Hill, Staffs.
To Brewers, Maltsters, Wine and Spirit Merchants, The Trade, and Others.
Alfred Hill has been instructed to Sell by Public Auction at an early date.
All that Well-known, Free, Home-Brewing Fully-Licensed House and Premises, situate and known as the GATE HANGS WELL, Halesowen Road, Old Hill.
Full particulars in due course.
Vendor’s Solicitors, Messrs. *Thomas Cooksey and Co.*, Old Hill, Staffs.”

Arthur Handel Cockin was also a brewer.

Dudley Chronicle 26/2/1928

“The following licenses were transferred.....
GATE HANGS WELL, from *Ed. Biddle* (deceased) to *Florence Biddle*.”

Harold Harbach – see also OLD ENGINE.

1939 Register

- 222, Halesowen Road
- [1] *Cecil J. Sweetman*, date of birth 14/9/1900, licensed victualler, married;
 - [2] *Maud Sweetman*, dob 7/3/1895, unpaid domestic duties, married:

George William Cresswell – see also BLUE BALL.

Sandwell Evening Mail 4/3/1988

“A former pub was severely damaged in a blaze believed to have been started deliberately. Cradley Heath and Dudley firemen were called to the old GATE HANGS WELL pub in Halesowen Road, Old Hill, yesterday afternoon. Cradley Heath fire station officer *Steve Wainwright* said the pub had closed at the end of January and had been boarded up.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 10/3/1988

“Firemen searched a bricked-up Cradley Heath pub for a lost cat after the owner heard her missing moggy had been sighted there. But fireman *Graham Hickman* said his officers found no trace of the chocolate coloured Burmese cat called *Pickles*, despite a thorough search of the GATE pub in Halesowen Road. ‘The building has been bricked up after a recent fire but we managed to get through an upstairs window using ladders,’ he said.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 28/3/1988

“A £1 million pub which will create 19 jobs had been planned for the Old Hill area.
Bass, Mitchells & Butlers plan to demolish the closed GATE HANGS WELL pub in Halesowen Road and build nearby.
A letter from the brewery to Sandwell Council said that the pub would be built on traditional lines aimed at customers in the 25 and over age group, provide 18 part-time jobs and one full-time, include full catering provision and provide parking space for 117 vehicles.
Council officials said in their report that the ‘ambitious project’ would cost about £1 million and provide a focal point at a key site at the ‘entrance’ to Old Hill.”

[1990]

Sandwell Evening Mail 18/12/1991

“The GATE HANGS WELL pub in Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath, has applied to Sandwell Council for permission to extend the premises and car park.”

Closed

Demolished

GEORGE HOTEL

249, (256), (226), (166), Halesowen Road / Priest Street, OLD HILL

OWNERS

E. Gould, Draper, Cradley Heath [1882]
Mrs. Gould [1890]
North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1896)
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1919]
Sue Whittall and Mark Franks

LICENSEES

Thomas Burgess [1879] – [1882]
John Hickton [1883] – [1890]
Herbert Jones Chatham [1890] – [1895]
Laban Hall Fleming [1896]
Stephen Deeley []
Edwin Johnson (1897 – 1901)
Mrs. Alice Johnson [1901]
Mrs. Emma Jane Boddis [1904] – 1907);
William John Thomas Priest (1907 – []
William Adams [1912] – [1916]
David Pearson [1916]
Adam Hannah [] – 1919);
Frank Murdoch Tibbetts (1919 – 1922);
David Pearson (1922 – 1924);
William Bernard Keeling (1924 – 1926);
Thomas Henry Maybury (1926 – 1932);
Alfred Nock (1932 – 1936);
George William Groves (1936 – 1938);
Thomas Preece (1938 – 1939);
John Edward Walker (1939 – 1949);
Charles Beard (1949 – 1956);
John Edward Cutler (1956 – [1965]
Carmel Davies (1998 – []

NOTES

166, Halesowen Road [1881], [1891]
226, Halesowen Road [1896], [1900], [1901], [1904]
256, Halesowen Road [1912], [1916], [1924], [1932], [1939], [1940]
249, Halesowen Road [1990], [1996], [1997], [1998], [2003]

County Advertiser 21/6/1879 - Advert

“Sale of Valuable Freehold and Leasehold Old-Licensed Public House, Dwelling House, and Premises, Reddal Hill, Old Hill.
Notice Is Hereby Given that the Sale by Auction of the above (advertised to take place on Monday, the 7th day of July next, at the house of Mr. *Burgess*, GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill, by Messrs. Rollinson and Beckley, Auctioneers, Brierley Hill, Will Not Now Take Place.

Dated this 20th day of June, 1879.

Gould and Elcock, Solicitors, Stourbridge.”

County Advertiser 16/9/1879 - Advert

“She Donkey Found, August 24th, if not owned in three days will be sold to defray expenses.
Apply, GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill, or Police Station.”

County Advertiser 27/12/1879 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant, not under 20. Good references.
Apply at once, GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill.”

Dudley Herald 5/6/1880 - Advert

“Old Hill, Rowley Regis, Staffordshire.

Valuable Freehold Building Sites, near to Old Hill Railway Station on the Great Western Railway.

Mr. H. King has received instructions of offer for Sale by Auction, on Monday, the 14th day of June, 1880, at the GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill, aforesaid, at Five o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions of Sale then to be read. Thirty-Nine Valuable Freehold Building Sites.....”

1881 Census

166, Halesowen Road

[1] *Thomas Burgess* (45), licensed victualler, born Dudley;

[2] Selina Burgess (42), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Ann Shaw (42), general servant, born West Bromwich;

[4] John Mills (17), boarder, brewer, born Dudley:

Dudley and District News 5/11/1881

“*Thomas Burgess*, landlord of the GEORGE HOTEL, Halesowen Road, was charged with being drunk on his licensed premises, on the 26th ult.

Attracted thither by hearing a disturbance, PC Rowlands found defendant drunk and wrestling with two men. His wife interfered, and he struck her on the mouth to the effusion of blood.

The Magistrates remarked that it was a very serious thing when a man entrusted with a license was found behaving in such a lawless manner.

He would be fined 10s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/11/1881 - Advert

“Found, near Hales Owen, black Retriever Dog. If not owned in three days will be sold.

Apply, GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill.”

County Express 22/4/1882

“Isaac Palmer (17), who resided at New Street, Old Hill, was on Tuesday following his employment as a horse driver at the Old Homer Hill Colliery, belonging to Mr. James Broughall, when he was crushed between a tub and a tree, and so severely injured that he died the same night.

Mr. Edwin Hooper (District Coroner) held an inquest yesterday afternoon, at the GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill.

The evidence showed that when the deceased was driving a horse in a gate-road the animal suddenly stopped, which caused the deceased to be crushed between a tub and a tree, from the effects of which he died. No blame was attached to any person, and the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

County Express 3/6/1882 - Advert

“GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill. To Publicans, Brewers, and Others.

Mr. T. Pateshall is instructed to Sell by Auction, as above, on Monday, June 12th, 1882, the whole of the Public House Fittings, Household Furniture, &c, comprising Fixtures in Liquor Vaults and Smoke Room, contents of Sitting Room, Kitchen and Club Room, the Appointments of Five Bed Rooms, the whole of the Stock-In-Trade, Excellent Brewing Plant, and other Effects.

Sale at Eleven o'clock in the Morning.”

County Express 10/6/1882 - Advert

“Public Announcement.

The Sale by Auction of Household Furniture, Brewing Plant, &c, at the GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill, advertised for Monday next, will not take place.

T. Pateshall, Auctioneer, Cradley Heath.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/7/1882 - Advert

“GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill. To Let, at once, that excellent full-licensed free Hotel; leading thoroughfare, close to station and police courts; surrounded by works. Certain fortune to steady, persevering couple. In-coming very low.

E. Gould, Draper, Cradley Heath, near Brierley Hill.”

County Advertiser 29/7/1882

“*Thomas Burgess*, landlord of the GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill, was charged with being drunk and disorderly on his own licensed premises on the 19th inst.

When the case was called on defendant addressed the Bench as follows: Gentlemen, allow me to tell you, I shall not speak another word if I stand here for ten hours. You can do what you like with me; I shall not speak another word for anybody.

The evidence of Police-constable Rowlands was that he visited defendant's house on the evening named in the charge, and found

defendant upstairs cursing and swearing and throwing his wife's clothes through a window into the yard. Defendant also threw two pictures and witness noticed that two broken chairs lay in the passage. Some time afterwards the defendant came into the smoke room, and high words taking place between him and his son, they pushed against each other. Defendant used bad language towards his wife and son, pushed the piano out of the room into the passage, and 'carried on' for a long time. Eventually witness fetched Inspector Walters to see the defendant, who was drunk and like one mad.

The magistrates' clerk asked defendant if he wished to ask the officer any questions, but he maintained a dogged silence, and it was not till the Bench had fined him 20s and costs, with the alternative of 14 days, that he found his tongue. He then said, 'I'll do the days.'"

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.....

Thomas Burgess, GEORGE HOTEL, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, drunk on licensed premises, fined 10s and costs; drunk and disorderly, 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."

Thomas Burgess – see also BULLS HEAD, Cradley Heath.

County Express 4/11/1882 - Advert

"A £100 Money Society will commence at the GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill, on Tuesday, November 14th."

County Advertiser 11/11/1882 - Advert

"GEORGE HOTEL, Halesowen Road, Old Hill. To Parties Furnishing, Brokers, and Others.

Mr. Thos. Homer will Sell by Auction, on Tuesday, November 14th, 1882, a quantity of neat and clean Household Furniture, belonging to Mrs. Lovesey, who is leaving the neighbourhood (which will be removed for convenience of sale to the above hotel)....."

County Advertiser 23/12/1882

"Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the GEORGE HOTEL, on Monday last, touching the death of William Nock (23), miner, of Pear Tree Lane. Deceased was employed at the Butterfly Colliery, worked by Messrs. Gill Bros, on the previous Thursday morning, clearing some stuff away, when a quantity of stuff came from the roof, and falling upon him completely buried him. When his body was recovered twenty minutes later, he was quite dead. Mr. Scott, Assistant Government Inspector of Mines, was present, and recommended that timber should be secured laterally. Had that been done before, the accident, perhaps, might not have happened. The law did not describe how timber should be set – that was left to the judgement of officials. In this case the timber was set by one of the proprietors and appeared safe. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

The Coroner advised that the suggestion of the inspector be carried out. He further impressed upon colliery proprietors and workmen the desirability of mutual insurance. By joining in mutual insurance both masters and the families of those unfortunate men who lost their lives were benefitted. It had recently come under his notice where men who had joined with the masters in a scheme of mutual insurance, had only paid a shilling or two, and the men meeting with a fatal accident, their families had received as much as 100%. He therefore impressed strongly upon masters and men the desirability of joining together in mutual insurance."

County Express 20/1/1883

"Worcester Diocesan and District Change Ringing Association.

On Saturday last a quarterly meeting of this Association took place when ringers from Worcester, Malvern, Bromsgrove, Halesowen, Dudley, Netherton, Stourbridge, Belbroughton, Old Hill, and Cradley attended. Ringing commenced at Cradley and Old Hill in the afternoon, when some touches of gransire trebles being rung at Cradley, and some gransire minor at Old Hill. The meeting, which was due to have taken place at Cradley, did not, owing to some reason or other on the part of the vicar of Cradley, the Rev. J. H. Thompson, who would not grant the use of his schoolroom for the occasion. We are pleased to say that the vicar of Old Hill, the Rev. A. K. Atkinson, almost at the last moment kindly offered the use of one of the rooms in the Trinity Hall, Old Hill, but owing to the meeting being announced to take place at Cradley, and not receiving an answer from the Rev. J. H. Thompson till after the announcement, some of the ringers went to Cradley and some to Old Hill. Consequently, at 7 o'clock in the evening, the meeting had to take place at the GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill. Mr. Perkes (Master, Malvern) occupied the chair....."

County Express 21/7/1883 - Advert

“Old Hill. Valuable Freehold Properties and Building Land.

Mr. T. Pateshall is instructed to Sell by Auction, at the house of Mr. *John Hickton*, the GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill, on Tuesday, the 7th day of August, 1883, at Six for Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions.....”

County Advertiser 12/12/1885 - Advert

“Sale at the GEORGE HOTEL, Halesowen Road, Old Hill.

Mr. Detheridge will Sell by Auction, on Monday Next, December 14th, 1885, a quantity of Household Furniture, removed to the above Inn for convenience of Sale.

Sale punctually at Two o'clock in the Afternoon.”

Dudley Mercury 3/11/1888

“Haden Hill Victoria Cricket Club. The members of this club held their annual dinner at the GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill, on Friday last. After the withdrawal of the cloth, Mr. Parsons was elected to the chair.

The Chairman proposed the ‘Queen and Royal Family,’ which was heartily drunk.

The Secretary (Mr. S. Mason) then read the annual report, which showed that the club had, considering the efficient teams it had met, achieved a good amount of success, having played 16 matches, the result being 6 won, 5 lost, 1 tie, and 4 drawn.

A vote of thanks to Mr. G. A. H. Haden Best, for the use of the field, was unanimously passed.

During the evening songs were rendered by the members and friends, and the singing of the National Anthem brought a very enjoyable evening to a close.”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/12/1888

“Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill, yesterday, respecting the death of Joseph Pearson (40), a pikeman, who died on the 13th inst from the effects of injuries sustained whilst employed at the Lye Cross Pit, the property of the Earl of Dudley, on the 11th inst. Mr. W. B. Scott (Government inspector of mines) was present.

James Lock, a doggy employed at Lye Cross Pit, stated that on the 11th inst about ten o'clock, he was ten yards away from deceased. Witness examined the pit before he set deceased on, and found it all safe. Witness was a few yards away when he saw the

deceased with a large piece of rock on his back. Deceased was said to have known his work better than any man in the pit.

Mr. Scott stated that he had examined the pit, and found that a large piece of rock had fallen upon the deceased.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

County Advertiser 5/4/1890 - Advert

“Preliminary Announcement.

Mr. T. Pateshall is favoured with instruction to Arrange for Sale by Auction, early Next Month.

All that highly valuable and important Freehold Old-Licensed House, the GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill, now in the occupation of Mr. *John Hickton*; together with Eighteen Dwelling-Houses adjoining.

Full particulars will shortly appear, and in the meantime further information may be obtained from Mr. Enoch Gould or the Auctioneer, both of High Street, Cradley Heath.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/4/1890 - Advert

“Old Hill, Hales Owen, and Hunnington.

Mr. Thomas Pateshall will Sell by Auction, at the GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill, Tomorrow (Tuesday) April 29, at Six o'clock pm – all that very Superior and Important Freehold Old-Licensed Premises, the GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill, now in the occupation of Mr. *John Hickton*.

The Property has a bold and commanding appearance, and occupies a singularly advantageous corner position in an exceedingly busy and respectable neighbourhood, and is in close proximity to extensive Manufactories. The Premises are well arranged, and contain Bar, Sitting Room, Smoke Room, Club Room, six Bed Rooms, and extensive Cellaring, together with very convenient Out-buildings.

Eighteen Dwelling Houses adjoining, and let to weekly to tenants.

Two Houses, in Queen Street, Hales Owen, occupied by Jones and Farley.

Two Dwelling Houses at Hunnington, with about half an acre of Land, available for building purposes.

For further particulars, apply to Messrs. John Wright and Tanfield, Solicitors, or the Auctioneer, all of Cradley Heath.”

County Express 3/5/1890

“On Tuesday evening Mr. T. Pateshall offered for sale by auction the GEORGE HOTEL, Halesowen Road. There was a large attendance, but the bidding was not spirited. The highest bid was £1,000, and the vendors (the executors of the late Mrs. Gould) refused to allow the hotel to be sold at that sum.”

John Hickton issued tokens from here.

Herbert Jones Chatham = Herbert Jones Chattham

Herbert Jones Chatham married Charlotte Westwood in 1886.

County Express 25/10/1890

“James Homer, Roland Homer, Halesowen Road, and Edward Hawkins, Gorsty Hill, were charged with stealing a quart of whiskey, of the value of 5s 6d, the property of *Herbert Jones Chatham*, the GEORGE HOTEL, on the 7th inst.

Mrs. *Chatham* said on the date named the defendants came into the vaults of the GEORGE HOTEL and were supplied with some ale. She had occasion to leave for some period, and when she returned she saw Roland Homer and Hawkins were helplessly drunk. In one of the pint cups on the table she could distinctly smell whiskey, a quart of which she subsequently missed. Police-constable Wickstead said he arrested the prisoners, and they all admitted having put the pint cup under the tap three times. Roland Homer was fined £1 and the costs or twenty-eight days, and the other defendants were fined 10s and the costs or fourteen days.”

1891 Census

166, Halesowen Road – GEORGE INN

[1] *Herbert Jones Chatham* (23), publican, born Shropshire;

[2] Lottie Chatham (25), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Adelaide Lottie Chatham (3), daughter, born Dudley;

[4] George Chatham (1), son, born Dudley;

[5] Annie Pearson (15), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Lily Greenfield (9), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

Birmingham Daily Post 10/10/1891

“Yesterday Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill, respecting the death of John Hall, aged 4 years, whose parents reside in Spring Meadow, who died on the 6th inst, from the effects of burns received on the 4th inst.

The mother of the deceased stated that on the first-named date she left the deceased in the house in charge of a neighbour, whilst she went to fetch some iron, and when she returned home she found the child was badly burned. Deceased told his father that he was playing with a bit of burning rag, when his clothes became ignited.

Hannah Pulley stated that the deceased ran into her house in flames, and she extinguished them. The mother of the deceased did not ask her to mind the child.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

In June 1892 *Herbert Jones Chatham*, licensed victualler of the GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill, appeared as a witness at the inquest into the death of Mary Ann Gill, when the jury returned a verdict of Manslaughter against Henry Pugh. Harry Pugh appeared at the Summer Sessions on 15th June 1892; the charge was ‘feloniously did kill and murder Ann Maria Gill.’ He was found not guilty, and was dismissed.

County Advertiser 23/7/1892 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant, not under 20.

Apply, Mrs. *Chatham*, GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/5/1893

“A meeting of rivetmakers was held last night at the GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill. Mr. T. Brookes presided, and explained that on Saturday last fourteen days’ notice was given to the employers to return to the 4s 6d list. It was impossible for a man to keep body and soul together on the wages they were getting at the present time. He complained that one employer was going round the district buying rivets off weak operatives at a reduction of 3d per cwt. The greatest evil in their trade was women’s labour. He mentioned one of the leading employers was endeavouring to arrange a conference between masters and men. Mr. T. Homer addressed the meeting, and a resolution was passed agreeing to turn out on strike on Saturday week next if the masters refused to concede the advance. It was also decided to form a union in the trade.”

County Advertiser 15/7/1893 - Advert

“The GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill, Staffs.

To be Let, the above excellent Well-established Old-Licensed House. Early possession may be had.

Apply to T. Pateshall, Auctioneer, Cradley Heath.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 2/9/1893 - Advert

“Wanted, a respectable Housekeeper, used to public business and assist in booking; age about 40.

Apply, *H. Jones Chatham*, GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill.”

County Advertiser 3/2/1894

“James Tromans junr was charged with assaulting James Guest, and James Tromans senr and Joseph Tromans junr, all of Spring Meadow, Old Hill, were charged with using threatening language to Guest, on the 28th inst.

Complainant alleged that he was in the GEORGE HOTEL, during the Sunday dinner time, and saw defendants come in. They asked for a quart of ale, and directly they had been supplied, James Tromans junr came up to him and challenged him to fight.

Witness refused, and the other defendants threatened him. Mr. *Chatham*, the landlord, turned them out, and they waited for him. When he came out of the house at 2.30pm, James Tromans junr struck him three or four times in the face, while the other defendants threatened him.

James Tromans junr said complainant struck him on the Saturday night, and that he did not assault him on the day named. The

other defendants denied using any threats.

James Tromans junr was fined 10s and costs, and the other defendants bound over to keep the peace for six months.”

County Advertiser 3/11/1894 - Advert

“GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill.

Mr. T. Pateshall is instructed to Sell by Auction, as above, on Monday, November 12th, 1894, a Portion of the Genteel Household Furniture, consisting of Windsor, Horsehair, Cane-seated, and Easy Chairs; capital Mahogany Sideboard, Full-compass Cottage Pianoforte, in Walnut Case; Dinner Service, China Tea Ware, Painted Desk, Carpets, Polished Toilet Tables, Toilet Services, Hand-some Toilet Glass, Brass-mounted, Half-tester, and French Bedsteads; Prime Feather Beds, Spring and Wool Mattresses, Mahogany Night Commode, excellent Mahogany Chest of Drawers, Child’s Cot, Antique Carved Oak Chest, Clocks, Fire-proof Safe, Kitchen Requisites, Cooking Utensils, Wringing Machine, and other Effects, belonging to Mr. *Herbert J. Chatham*, who is leaving the premises.

Sale at Eleven o’clock in the Morning.”

Herbert Jones Chatham was also a brewer. [1895]

Birmingham Daily Post 7/2/1895

“Yesterday, Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill, touching the deaths of Samson Hill (32), Cherry Orchard, and James Smith (29), Spring Meadow, who were killed following their employment in Bourne Hill Colliery, on Saturday. Messrs. J. Williams (certified manager) and S. Smith represented the colliery company; Mr. W. H. Pickering (assistant Government inspector of mines) was also present.

Thomas Hill, brother of Samson Hill, said that the latter complained of his work being dangerous, and said the earth was liable to fall at any time.

Elizabeth Hill, the widow, however, said she had never heard her husband complain of his occupation.

Ann Maria Smith, widow of James Smith, said she had not heard her husband complain of his employment being dangerous.

Benjamin Palmer, underground manager at the colliery, deposed that about 1.15pm on Saturday, he, Smith, and Hill were at work close together. He gave instructions to Smith to take a tree out, as he considered it perfectly safe. Whilst Smith was knocking the tree out with a rail a large quantity of coal and slack fell and buried him and Hill. Witness was also knocked down by the fall, and he called for assistance. A man standing close by came and rescued him. Whilst he was trying to extricate Hill, another fall of coal took place, completely burying Hill. Witness obtained a pick and again reached Hill, but before he could get him out a third fall occurred, and he was buried again. Smith at that time lay a distance away, and it was impossible for witness or the others to assist him. It was about seven hours after the accident when the bodies of the men were recovered, and then life was extinct. In Reply to Mr. Pickering, witness stated that he did not examine the roof before Smith commenced to draw the tree, but had examined the place in the morning, and it was then perfectly safe. The fall of coals was so great that it broke nine or ten trees. He was protected from the fall by a tub.

In answer to the Coroner, witness said there was a plentiful supply of timber, and everything was done for the safety of the men.

Mr. Pickering observed that Smith in using a rail instead of the proper tools committed an act of indiscretion, but it did not amount to a breach of the law. It transpired that the relatives of the deceased men will receive £50 for each under the Employers’ Liability Act, and the colliery company will defray all costs connected with the funerals.

Mr. Smith, on behalf of the directors, expressed sympathy with the bereaved families, and promised to do everything possible to ameliorate their distress.

The jury found a verdict of Accidental Death in each case.”

County Advertiser 8/6/1895 - Advert

“Friendly Societies’ Acts. Advertisement of Dissolution by Instrument.

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the GEORGE HOTEL No.2 Mutual Loan and Investment Society, Register No.2301, held at the GEORGE HOTEL, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, Dudley, in the County of Stafford, is Dissolved by Instrument, registered at this Office, the 1st day of June, 1895, 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.

E. W. Brabrook, Chief Registrar. 28, Abingdon Street, Westminster. The 1st day of June, 1895.”

Laban Hall Flemings was also a printer and stationer of 82, Garratts Lane. [1896]

Birmingham Mail 29/6/1896

“At the Old Hill Police Court today, Arthur Tromans, James Totney, and Harry Clifton, chainmakers, all of Cradley Heath, were charged with assaulting Samuel Chetwin, also of Cradley Heath, on the 22nd inst.

Mr. Waldron explained that on Wednesday last the prosecutor appeared at the Court to give evidence against a chainmaker named David Bradley, who was fined £2 for an assault on him. It would be remembered that the assault in that instance arose out of the recent dispute in the block chain trade. After the case was finished on Wednesday last prosecutor visited the GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill, where in the bar he met a number of men who worked for Mr. Sykes, one of the employers, the defendants being among them. Without any provocation Tromans rushed at the prosecutor and dealt him a violent blow on the nose, and the other two defendants joining in the assault.

For the defence, Mr. Tinsley pleaded great provocation. He said the prosecutor was very excited and jubilant over the victory he

had gained at the expense of the man Bradley.

Mr. Bassano said the Bench were determined to stop the tyranny which existed among the workmen in the chain trade, and Tro-mans and Totney would each be fined £2 and costs, in all £3 14, or in default one month's imprisonment.

The charge against Clifton was dismissed."

County Advertiser 18/7/1896

"On Monday afternoon, Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill, concerning the death of Reuben Charles (50), formerly residing at 26, Peartree Street, who was killed whilst following his employment at the Hawes Hill Colliery, Old Hill, on Friday, the 10th inst. Mr. R. Norris represented the colliery company, and Mr. W. B. Scott, Government Inspector of Mines, was also present.

Jane Charles, wife, identified the body, and said deceased was a miner employed at the Hawes Hill Colliery. She last saw her husband alive about ten minutes past three on Friday afternoon, and he was then in good health. About half past five o'clock the same evening she heard deceased was injured, but she was afterwards informed that he was dead. Deceased was the night doggy at the pit. He always seemed satisfied with his work, and never complained of it. She believed the Employers' Liability Insurance was in operation at the colliery.

George Fellows, a pikeman at the Hawes Hill Colliery, said about 4.30 on the 10th inst deceased stood by witness with a shovel in his hand moving some dirt for the purpose of setting a tree, when suddenly a bump came and knocked witness away. As soon as witness recovered he shouted and ascertained that deceased was under a large quantity of coal dirt that had fallen with the bump. Witness with some other men quickly got to work, and after labouring for about an hour they succeeded in getting deceased out, but he was then quite dead. Witness had a very narrow escape of being killed. The place where the accident occurred was the safest in the pit, and it was only about six feet in height. The force of the bump knocked two trees out.

In reply to the Coroner, witness said he was digging a hole in which to put a tree, and deceased was removing the dirt as he threw it out.

In answer to Mr. Scott, witness stated that deceased examined the working on the afternoon of the accident.

George Jennings, loader at the colliery, said on Friday afternoon deceased was loading a tub on the main road when a bump came and knocked some settings out. A quantity of dirt fell upon witness and knocked him down, and it severely injured his hand. Witness felt quite safe in working at the place.

David Willetts, a pikeman, said he was working with deceased on Friday afternoon. Deceased sent witness to fetch a tree, which was a distance of about six yards, and before he could get back the bump had occurred. Whilst witness was fetching the tree deceased went on loading the tub, and he was doing that when he was killed. Deceased was always very careful.

Inspector Given said deceased's left foot was severed and his neck was broken, whilst in addition he sustained other terrible injuries. Witness believed the gate road where the accident happened was a new one.

Mr. Scott said he could not throw any more light upon the case, as the gate road where the accident occurred was one of the ordinary class. There had not been any breach of the Mines Regulation Act.

Mr. Norris said Mr. Scott had called the attention of the manager to some necessary improvements which would be carried out.

The Coroner said there was no breach of the Act in the case, and the colliery seemed to have been fairly well managed.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

County Advertiser 10/10/1896

"Henry Garrett, Old Hill, was fined 10s and costs for refusing to quit the GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill, kept by *Laban Hall Fleming*, on the 26th ult."

County Express 21/8/1897

"The first of what is intended to be an annual demonstration of the friendly societies in the Old Hill district, was held on Sunday, the object in view being to help the funds of the Dudley Guest Hospital, Dudley Dispensary, and Birmingham Eye Hospital the day was bright and promising, and there were large numbers of people all along the route.

At one o'clock the 1st Worcestershire Volunteer Band started from the CROSS INN, proceeded across Halesowen Road, calling at Trinity Schools and GEORGE HOTEL; then across Lawrence Lane into Reddal Hill Road, calling at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, and proceeding to the Cross, where the final procession was formed. Meanwhile the Old Hill Brass and Red Band started from the WHITE LION INN, proceeded by way of Powke Lane and Garratts Lane to Wrights Lane (as far as the PRINCE OF WALES INN), and returned to Garratts Lane, calling for lodges at the BRITISH OAK INN, FOX HUNT INN, Tabernacle, DUKE WILLIAM INN, VINE INN, to the Cross. On the arrival of this contingent a huge line was formed, and very pretty it looked. Members of the various lodges wore their regalia, and these being interspersed with the more elaborate honorary members' scarves, gave the line a very bright appearance....."

County Express 2/10/1897

"Old Hill Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Stephen Deeley applied for a temporary permit for the FIVE WAYS HOTEL. Inspector Given said Harry Letts was fined £5 and costs for permitting drunkenness. Since then a change had taken place in the tenancy, *Stephen Deeley*, from the GEORGE HOTEL having gone in and was conducting it to the satisfaction of the police. He had no personal objection to Mr. *Deeley*. The house belonged to the North Worcestershire Breweries Company. The license was withheld last time, and remarks were made as to the house continually changing hands. The application was now granted.....

An interim authority was granted to *Edwin Johnson*, for the GEORGE HOTEL."

County Advertiser 27/8/1898

“On Sunday afternoon the annual hospital parade and open-air service, arranged by the various friendly societies in Old Hill and the surrounding district took place. Processions were formed at different points of members of the Foresters, the Free Gardeners, and provident societies, numbering altogether about 1,000, and these, accompanied by the Blackheath, Halesowen Temperance, and Old Hill Bands, paraded the principal streets of the locality, after which they marched to a field in Garratts Lane, lent for the occasion by Mr. A. Sidaway, where a special service was held. Addresses were delivered by the Revs. E. Brewer, MA (vicar of Old Hill), and W. B. Cheshire (Primitive Methodist). A collection was made along the route and at the service in aid of the Guest Hospital, Dudley Dispensary, and Birmingham Eye Hospital, this realising £25 14s 5¾d.

The following was the order of procession issued by the committee. The Blackheath Village Band will start from the WHITE LION INN, Powke Lane, at 1-45 prompt, proceed down Garratts Lane, calling for societies at the BRITISH OAK INN, Tabernacle, DUKE WILLIAM INN, and VINE INN, turning across Queen Street on to the old football ground (by kind permission of Mr. W. H. Jarvis). The Halesowen Temperance Band will start from the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Wrights Lane, at 1-45 prompt, proceed round Cherry Orchard Street, into Wrights Lane, turning down Wagon Street, calling at the OLD ENGINE INN, proceeding down Elbow Street and King Street, across Halesowen Road, to the old football ground. The Old Hill Band will start from the CROSS INN at 1-45 prompt, calling for societies at Trinity Schools and GEORGE HOTEL, proceed across Lawrence Lane, turning up New Street, Ridding Street, Pear Tree Street, Pear Tree Lane, thence into Reddal Hill Road, calling at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, and proceeding to the old football ground. A grand procession will be formed as follows.....”

County Advertiser 19/8/1899

“Joseph Sidaway, of Pearson Street, Old Hill, was charged with being disorderly and refusing to quit the licensed premises of the GEORGE HOTEL, kept by Mr. *Edwin Johnson*, on the 8th inst. Complainant stated that on the date named about eight in the evening two men were creating a disturbance in the house. His attention was called to them by his wife, and he ordered them out. They went out, and afterwards defendant, who was in the house, began to be disorderly. Witness told him he must leave the same as the others, but he refused for a time. Defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs.”

AND

“John Williams, of Peartree Lane, Old Hill, was charged with assaulting *Edwin Johnson*, landlord of the GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill, on the 8th inst. Complainant said that on the date in question a bother occurred in his house, and he had to put out a man named Sidaway. Defendant caught hold of witness by the collar, and said ‘When you touch him you touch me.’ The Bench fined defendant 2s 6d and costs.”

Edwin Johnson married Alice Florence Foley, the daughter of William and Nancy of the ROUND OF BEEF. He died in early 1901.

1901 Census

226, Halesowen Road – GEORGE HOTEL

- [1] Mrs. *Johnson* (26), widow, innkeeper, born Great Bridge;
- [2] George Johnson (2), son, born Old Hill;
- [3] Alice Pretoria Johnson (5 months) daughter, born Old Hill:

County Express 4/5/1901

“A meeting under the auspices of the Brickmakers, General Labourers’, and Gas Workers’ Society was held at the GEORGE HOTEL, on Monday, for organising purposes. Mr. H. Simpson and Mr. J. Smith addressed the meeting, which was only a small one.”

County Express 17/5/1902

“A painful matrimonial case occupied the attention of Messrs. W. Bassano, J. F. Pearson, G. H. Holcroft, and F. Green, at the Old Hill Police Court on Wednesday, when *Herbert Jones Chatham*, described as a coal merchant, of Whitehall, Cradley Heath, was charged with deserting his wife, *Charlotte Chatham*, and with wilfully neglecting to maintain his children. Mr. Waldron appeared for Mrs. *Chatham*, and Mr. Ward defended.

Mr. Waldron stated that Mr. and Mrs. *Chatham* were married in 1886, and there were three children of the marriage. In 1894 – 7½ years ago – they were keeping the GEORGE INN, Old Hill. Prior to September that year Mr. *Chatham* was guilty of great cruelty to his wife. He bit her, dragged her up and down stairs, shook her, and pinched her wrists. The result of the cruelty was that she suffered very much in health, and was compelled in 1894 to leave her husband. She went to live with her father, Mr. Westwood, who at that time kept the JOLLY COLLIER INN [WIZARD AND GLASS], Cradley Heath, and resided with him until his death. When she left her husband she took with her a daughter, and subsequently another child was born, but the eldest son continued to live with his father until a few days ago. During his lifetime, Mr. Westwood was content to keep his daughter and grandchildren, and after his death Mrs. *Chatham* took the public house as a tenant, and had been earning a living there for herself and her children ever since. Of course that duty was rather an expensive one, and Mrs. *Chatham* felt the time had arrived when her husband should be called upon to contribute towards the support and maintenance of his own children. He was not instructed to ask for one farthing towards Mrs. *Chatham*’s maintenance, for she felt that she could support herself. From the moment Mrs. *Chatham* left her husband at the GEORGE HOTEL the last named had never contributed anything towards the support and maintenance of his children. As to means, Mr. *Chatham* was ostensibly carrying on business as a coal merchant, and from the way he lived must be in a fair condition.

Mrs. *Charlotte Chatham*, in her evidence, bore out Mr. Waldron’s opening statement. She was cross-examined at great length by Mr. Ward. As to her means, she said she was not well off, but her position had improved very much financially within the last few

years. She admitted she had received thousands under her father's will, but she would not state how many. She denied that she had left her husband in a passion; it was after consulting Inspector Given. That was the third time she had left him. When asked to give particular instances of cruelty and the dates, complainant said if her husband would produce her diary it would answer all that was required. In the January of 1894, after he had been drinking, he bit her in the thick of the arm, and she bore the marks for three weeks. He expressed his sorrow for it afterwards, and said he did it 'in a fit.' On the August Bank Holiday he took hold of her two wrists, shook her, and threw her into the passage. She did not know why he did this, and added she did not think her husband knew either. She admitted she retaliated when she had the chance, and her husband occasionally got the worst of it, and added to Mr. Ward, 'I am little and plucky like yourself' – (laughter). Mr. Ward remarked it was not very often he was complimented by a witness. Continuing under cross-examination complainant admitted throwing a shooting boot at her husband on one occasion, but denied throwing a pudding at his head, neither did she ever threaten him with a poker, nor do her best to aggravate him. Although she said her husband drank to excess at the GEORGE HOTEL, which was in a few yards of Old Hill Police Court, she admitted he was never summoned for being the worse for drinking his own house. She thought her conduct had been wise and prudent, and she had not written to say that she and her husband were a couple of fools.

Mr. Ward here produced a letter written by Mrs. *Chatham* in 1893, in which she said, 'Dear old boy. You are a fool, and so am I, to make each other think we love each other. We have both made a mess of it, but never mind, I will meet you as you wish.' Complainant said that letter did not truly represent the state of affairs down to September, 1894, between her and her husband. She did not admit there was a good deal of bad temper on both sides; there was bad temper on the one side, and very great provocation on the other. Her husband was very jealous of her, and there might have been mutual recriminations. She admitted writing five letters, which were put in. One, dated June 27th, 1895, stated, 'I have received your letter, and regret you should trouble to write me again. I cannot consent to see you at all. My experience of you and your treatment in the past have turned my love into hatred, and your present position makes me feel more hopeless for any differences in the future. I think if you had any love for your children you would endeavour to keep them. You need not trouble about me any further. I have no wish to see you, and it is a pity we ever met.'

Witness explained that the reference as to her husband's 'present position' meant his drunkenness, not his position in life. Asked if she would return to her husband, complainant said she would not return if he would give her £5,000.

Mrs. Sarah Grove (now living at New Street, Cradley) who was formerly a servant at the GEORGE HOTEL, said Mr. *Chatham* treated his wife miserably, and was constantly 'cursing and raging over her.' Mrs. *Chatham*'s life was most unhappy. Cross-examined there was a great deal of quarrelling between the husband and wife. She remembered Mrs. *Chatham* throwing a dish at her husband. She considered Mrs. *Chatham* was very patient – far more patient than witness would have been.

Mr. Ward, for the defence, submitted that the summons for wilful negligence must be dismissed, for the evidence showed there was no neglect within the period which the Statute permitted.

Mr. Walter Bassano said the clerk had advised them of that, and that summons would drop.

Mr. Ward contended that as regard the desertion the evidence showed there had been frequent quarrels, and it was said three separations had taken place. Before they could grant an order on a summons for desertion in a case of this kind, there must be proved to have been conduct by the husband which would justify the woman leaving her husband. He suggested there had been faults on both sides, and the wife had taken her remedy into her own hands. Mr. Ward then dealt with the evidence in detail, and said the defendant was now getting a living by selling coal. He was working for his mother, and was practically a servant. He asked the court to say there was not sufficient evidence to justify the allegation that Mrs. *Chatham* left her home because it was unsafe for her to live with her husband. Her means were amply sufficient to maintain the children in a way consistent with their station, and he pointed out on the other hand they had no evidence as to the means of the defendant.

The Defendant stated he did not know why his wife left him in September, 1894. She took advantage of his absence to remove her goods, and when he returned, he found she had gone. There was no quarrel at that time that he could remember. His wife had an ungovernable temper, and was very aggravating. There was a quarrel between them on one occasion over some poetry he found in her pocket. He never assaulted his wife violently, and denied throwing her into the passage. He may have caught hold of her wrists to prevent her using violence to him. She threw anything at him she could get hold of in her temper. The utmost he could earn now was £1 per week.

Mr. George Chatham was called, and said he once saw Mrs. *Chatham* threatening the defendant with a poker.

The Bench held there had been desertion. They gave Mrs. *Chatham* custody of the children, and ordered defendant to contribute 10s per week towards the children's maintenance, and to pay costs and solicitor's fee of £1 1s."

County Advertiser 27/8/1904

"On Sunday afternoon the eighth annual parade and service arranged by the various friendly societies in the Old Hill district took place under favourable circumstances. The proceedings commenced with a large procession.....

The Old Hill Brass Band started from the BLUE BALL INN, Peartree Street, and proceeded by way of Peartree Street, Ridding Street, and New Street to Halesowen Road, calling for societies at the GEORGE HOTEL. Afterwards they proceeded across Spring Meadow and Cherry Orchard to the field.....

Upon arrival at the field a grand procession was formed This paraded the principal streets of the locality for some time, after which they proceeded to a field in High Street, kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. A. E. Sidaway. Here a service was held, the chair being occupied by Dr. T. E. Mitchell. Notwithstanding the threatening state of the weather there was a large attendance..... A collection was made upon the route, and at the service, on behalf of the Dudley Guest Hospital, Dudley Dispensary, Birmingham Eye Hospital, Birmingham General Hospital, Birmingham Ear and Throat Hospital, and the Old Hill Nurses Fund."

County Advertiser 22/12/1906

"Re Foresters' Court Miners' Guide.

This was an action commenced by the trustees of the Ancient Order of Foresters' Friendly Society against the trustees, officers, and members of Court Miners' Guide, No.5781 branch of the Order, formerly held at the GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill, Staffordshire, for illegal division of the court funds. The fund divided amounted to £145 5s. Previous to the action efforts had been made by the officials of the Order and District to induce the court members to refund, but without success. The present action was brought to compel repayment. Two of the members did not appear. The remaining members appeared through Messrs. Thomas Cooksey and Co., solicitors of Old Hill, but did not file any defence. The action named came on, on motion for judgement in default of defence. Mr. John St. Lawrence (instructed by Mr. Samuel Ward, of Dudley) appeared for the trustees of the Order.

Mr. Leslie: If your lordship pleases, this is a motion for judgement in default of defence.

Mr. Justice Warrington: It is rather a curious case. What I want you to satisfy me about is, that the defendants are all jointly and severally liable.

Mr. Leslie: That is the sole point your lordship wants me to deal with? – Mr. Justice Warrington: Yes.

Presuming that his lordship knew the facts, Mr. Leslie said these defendants, who were the only members, as I understand, of this small court, met one evening and divided up the whole funds of the lodge. I should submit that their having done that with regard to a fund which did not belong to them individually or collectively, they were jointly and severally responsible for misappropriation of the fund. They employed the three trustees, who were also members of the lodge, as their agents, to effect this wrongful appropriation.

Mr. Justice Warrington: You are moving, I suppose, on the ground of following trust funds which have been wrongfully disposed of with notice of a trust? That is really your view? – Mr. Leslie: Yes, my lord.

Mr. Justice Warrington: It is not only that, but each of them is responsible for what he himself received, and each would be responsible for what he paid over to other people.

Mr. Leslie: Each no doubt would be responsible for what he got, but I also submit that each is responsible for dealing with the whole fund. It was done with the consent and instigation of every one.

Mr. Justice Warrington: Do any of the defendants appear?

Mr. Leslie: No, my lord, and we have had a notice some months back that they do not intend to appear – that is to say, two of them did not appear to the writ, and the others have not put in a defence, and we have a communication from their solicitors to say they are instructed to take no further part in the proceedings. That was on the 12th of July last.

Mr. Justice Warrington: Your statement is – that they wrongfully and unlawfully agreed amongst themselves to misappropriate the sum of £145, the rule being that no Court shall divide any of its funds and anyone violating this rule shall forfeit the money so divided to the relief fund of the High Court of the society to be recovered by legal process.

Mr. Leslie: I have the rule here, my lord.

Mr. Justice Warrington: I am looking at the allegations in your claim. You are the trustees.

Mr. Leslie: We are the trustees of the whole Order, this Court being a branch in the Black Country.

Mr. Justice Warrington: I think that is enough.

Mr. Leslie: If your lordship pleases.

Mr. Justice Warrington: What you ask for is that plaintiffs recover against all the defendants £145?

Mr. Leslie: And costs.

Mr. Justice Warrington: Yes, with costs.”

Walsall Advertiser 20/11/1909 - Advert

“Wanted, General used to public business; from Wednesbury or Darlaston.
GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill.”

County Express 6/1/1912

“Dividend Clubs..... GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill.

The annual dinner in connection with the GEORGE HOTEL Sick and Draw Club was held on Wednesday week. After the drawing of the cloth, songs were rendered by Messrs. G. Tolley, C. Harris, S. Dunn, J. Hughes, J. Hill, and Woodall, the last-named also acting as accompanist. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the host and hostess.”

Frank Murdoch Tibbetts – see also HEATH TAVERN.

Black Country Bugle

Letter from Rachel Smith (daughter of David Pearson)

“.....he [father] was a well known pigeon racer in the Old Hill area he also bred cocker spaniels.”

William Bernard Keeling – see also PRINCE OF WALES.

1939 Register

256, Halesowen Road

[1] *Thomas Preece*, date of birth 11/5/1910, licensed victualler, married;

[2] *Amy B. Preece*, dob 16/3/1915, assisting licensed victualler, married;

[3] *Eliza Preece*, dob 14/3/1874, partly incapacitated, widowed:

Thomas Preece – check also FIVE WAYS, Cradley Heath.

Closed
It reopened as SATCHMO'S in 1998.

[2010]

Closed [2011]
It became a shop in 2012.

GOLDEN HARP

Reddal Hill, CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Thomas Sidaway [1833] – [1835]

NOTES

It had a nailhouse at the rear.

Thomas Sidaway was also a nailmaster. He sold the business to Tinsley & Danks.

GRANGE

Church Road, ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

H. B. Darby, Blackheath
T. W. Williams, Rowley Brewery
Thomas B. Williams and Lizzie Bate (acquired 1st March 1939)
Ansells Ltd. (acquired on 15th June 1946)

LICENSEES

William Henry Reginald Darby (1936 – 1940);
Lily Florence Darby (1940 – 1941);
Harry Griffiths (1941 – 1948);
Eric Gordon Lancaster (1948 – 1949);
Robert Arthur Kendrick (1949 – 1952);
John Leonard Leashon (1952 – 1957);
Albert Harris (1957);
Ralph Windsor (1957 – 1958);
Harold Bennett (1958 – 1961);
Daniel Charles Boden (1961 – 1965);
Derrick James Wroe* (1965 – []
Derek Wroe* [1975] – [1982]
Barry Watkiss (1984 – [1985]
Sue Whittall [1987]
Carol Hayward [1999]
Neil Moran (2002 – [2003]

NOTES

It was originally Rowley Grange, owned by the Barrs family.

The license was transferred from the ROYAL OAK, Blackheath.

Black Country Bugle (1975)

'The Grey Ghost Of The Grange'

"The GRANGE began its life as a pub in 1936 – converted to such from the shell of the old farmstead, with stabling and orchard at rear. It had been the home of Mr. Tom Williams before he sold it to the brewery in 1936. The present bar was previously the dining room....."

1939 Register

Church Road – GRANGE INN

[1] *William Henry Darby*, date of birth 24/7/1910, inn keeper, married;

[2] *Lily F. Darby*, dob 13/8/1910, unpaid domestic servant, married;

[3] Winifred Barbara (Dudson) Farmer, dob 12/11/1932, at school:

Birmingham Mail 8/10/1945

"Nowhere in the many Japanese prison camps in the Far East were the prisoners treated more harshly than those who had the misfortune to be selected to build the railroad from Bangkok to Rangoon. This railroad was given Priority No.1 by the Japanese, who decided it had to be finished, come what may. They achieved their aim, but at a dreadful price. Men died by the hundred.

Two men who worked on this railroad told of the privations suffered by thousands of Britishers labouring on the track in the disease-infested, steaming jungle country. The men are Gunner Charles Nicholls, of 95, Tower Road, Aston, who was captured in Singapore while serving with the Royal Artillery, and Gunner *Reg Darby*, of Meadows Walk, Cradley Heath, who before joining up was the licensee of the GRANGE INN at Rowley. This is what they said, 'We were moved to the Thailand camps early in 1943, and from May to December of that year we worked on the railroad. We want to forget those eight months. Men either died or went mad from their sufferings, unless they were able to keep a tight check on themselves. It was monsoon weather, which out there means torrential rain practically all the time in steaming, humid jungle country. The Japanese frankly told us the railroad had to be finished, and they employed every man who could stand on his legs. Those who went sick and couldn't stand were left to starve. We worked 16 hours a day with our clothes wringing wet, and we lived on rice and bamboo shoots. Jungle stew, we called it. Dysentery was rife, and although the Japanese tried to keep us going with quinine – after all a man standing on his two legs was valuable to them – they had not got enough medical supplies to go round.'

Gunner *Darby* said, 'I was working on the railroad with 29 ulcers on my legs, but I was lucky compared with some of the other poor devils. They dropped as they worked, and there was just nothing we could do about it.'

Gunner Nicolls said, 'My weight dropped to 97lbs while I worked, and when the British came I had lost over 2 stone. I was on the track at a place called Conchiqua, but the men called it Death Valley. Cholera broke out and knocked the men down like ninepins. The Japanese behaved like beasts, and beat the men if they 'slacked'.'

The Japanese paid small wages to the men for their labour, and the money was spent on buying food and cigarettes from the barges which on rare occasions came up the river. Average price paid for one cigarette was a Thailand tickel, or dollar, worth about 1s 2d in English money. This was about a fortnight's pay for each man.

The men saw no Red Cross parcels, and letters were few. In four and a half years Gunner *Darby* received only five letters from his wife....."

Evening Despatch 14/10/1943

"As the result of the third harvest home at the GRANGE INN, Rowley Regis (licensee, Mr. *H. Griffiths*), the record sum of £240 15s 8½d was raised for the Forces Comforts Fund run by the house. Garden produce, eggs, and poultry were the chief items sold. The Rev. H. Card (Vicar of Rowley Regis) and Ald. A. Taylor were among those present."

Harry Griffiths was married to Elsie.

Eric Gordon Lancaster – see also HEATH TAVERN.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/9/1949

"A bathroom fire at the GRANGE INN, Rowley, was yesterday put out by the Rowley Regis firemen. A water tank burst and hot water poured through the ceiling."

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/10/1952

"Fred Madeley, 32-years-old progress clerk, Newall Road, Blackheath, who admitted fraudulently converting money collected from patrons of the GRANGE INN, Rowley Regis, for a trip to Wembley for the last FA Cup final was conditionally discharged on payment of £15 costs towards the prosecution at the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions on Tuesday. Madeley, secretary and treasurer of the GRANGE INN Trip Club, was said by Mr. G. T. Griffiths to have repaid the whole of the £107 involved to 33 members of the club.

Mr. J. F. Bourke, for Madeley, said that when the time came to repay the money Madeley had only £35 to meet the £107. He was

missing for some time and resigned his job, but his firm thought so much of him that he was immediately reinstated when he came back. Mr. Bourke also said that Madeley's clubmates wished him nothing but well. He added that a bill for £15 from a London hotel for accommodation booked by members of the club had been paid by Madeley."

Robert Arthur Kendrick – see also PORTWAY TAVERN.

John Leonard Leashon – see also PORTWAY TAVERN.

Albert Harris – see also ROYAL OAK, Rowley Regis.

Ralph Windsor – see also BELL, Cradley Heath.

A team from here took part in the Rowley Regis Darts League. [1959/60] , [1960/61], [1965/66]

Daniel Charles Boden – check also BULLS HEAD, Wednesbury.

* probably the same person

It was refurbished at a cost of £60,000 in 1982.

Derek Wroe was married to Waltraud.

Halesowen News 4/11/1999

"A Blackheath landlady decked out her pub with spiders and skeletons in aid of Sandwell General Hospital.

Carol Hayward, licensee of the GRANGE INN.....

Landlady *Carol* said, 'We managed to raise £126 and everyone got into the spirit by dressing up as witches and skeletons.'

Neil Moran was born in Rowley Regis.

It closed in 2003.

It was demolished in 2004.

HADEN CROSS

451, (169), (149), (100), (78), Halesowen Road, OLD HILL

OWNERS

Benjamin Attwood, Haden Cross

Mr. B. Darby [1889]

Showells Brewery Co. Ltd.

James Payne

J. Rolinson and Son Ltd.

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. (acquired on 19th October 1938)

Union Pub Co. [2005]

New River Retail [2015]

LICENSEES

Edwin Cooper [1866] – [1871]

Benjamin Darby [1880] – [1888]

Samuel Parkes [1891]

Samuel Baker []

Samuel Davies [1901]

Harry Pearson [1911] – [1912]

Michael Cockin [1919] – 1922);

Mrs. Rachel Cockin (1922 – 1925);

William George Matthews (1925 – 1926);

James Bally (1926 – 1927);

David C Priest (1927 – 1936);

Alice Jane Cartwright (1936 – 1937);
Frank Bird (1937 – 1938);
Mrs. Myra (Fereday) Downing (1938 – 1955);
Jack Hickman (1955 – [1965])
Stephen Harris [2007]
Laura Eden [2015] – 2016);
Sue (2016 – []
Stanley John ‘Stan’ and Karl Gardner [2017] – [2018]

NOTES

78, Halesowen Road [1881]
100, Halesowen Road [1891]
149, Halesowen Road [1901]
169, Halesowen Road [1912], [1924], [1940]
451, Halesowen Road [1976]

It had an ante '69 beerhouse license.

Stourbridge Observer 17/11/1866

“At Old Hill Petty Sessions on Wednesday last, *Edwin Cooper*, beerhouse keeper, of Haden Hill, was charged by Superintendent Mills with having his house open for the sale of beer on the 11th last. Police-constable Marriott proved that there were six men in the house drinking. They had a quart jug and a pint jug of ale. Ordered to pay costs.”

Stourbridge Observer 25/1/1868

“A Man Gored to Death by a Cow. On Saturday morning, a labourer named John Cross, forty-nine years of age, residing at Haden Hill, was attacked by a cow belonging to his employer, Mr. Best. The infuriated animal, for some cause not at present known, knocked the unfortunate man down, and inflicted upon his head such injuries that he died in a very short time. Mr. E. Malins, surgeon, Cradley Heath, was called in, but life was extinct. An inquest was held on Wednesday last at the house of *Edwin Cooper*, Haden Hill, before Mr. Hooper, Coroner, and a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/8/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for Rowley Regis division was held on Friday, at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill..... The following beerhouse keepers had been fined during the last five years.....
Edwin Cooper, GOLDEN CROSS, Haden Hill.”

1871 Census

Hales Owen Road

- [1] *Edwin Cooper* (29), publican (beer seller), born Halesowen;
- [2] Sarah Ann Cooper (24), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] William R. Cooper (3), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Charles Cooper (1), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Phoebe Bradley (17), general servant, born Halesowen:

Edwin Cooper – see also THREE FURNACES.

County Advertiser 22/3/1873

“At a meeting of delegates of the Nailmakers’ Association, held at the HADEN CROSS, Haden Hill, on Monday, to take into consideration the decision of the nailmasters, at their meeting on Thursday last, it was resolved: That providing the masters do not pay, on the 29th instant, a 20 per cent advance on the 1872 list, a general strike will take place on the 31st instant.”

County Advertiser 2/3/1878 - Advert

“Important Sale of Valuable Freehold Properties, situate at Haden Cross, Cradley Heath, and Garratts Lane, all in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, comprising very desirable Residences, Public House, Malthouse, Building Land, and Twenty-Three other Dwelling Houses, and Premises.
Messrs. Bateman and Son beg to announce their instructions from the Executors of the late Mr. Benjamin Attwood, of Haden Cross, Rowley, to Sell by Auction, at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill, Rowley, on Tuesday, the 5th day of March Next, 1878, at Six o’clock in the Evening, and subject to conditions of sale, incorporating the Common Form Conditions of the Birmingham Law Society, the following very valuable Freehold Properties.....
Lot 5. HADEN CROSS INN, Malthouse, Yard, Land, and Premises.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/1/1880 - Advert

“Strayed from a field, a black Pony, with white star on forehead, cut tail, about 12 hands.

Anyone returning the same to *Benjamin Darby*, HADEN CROSS, Old Hill, will be rewarded.”

Dudley Herald 7/8/1880

“Alfred Charlton, nailmaster, Old Hill, was charged with assaulting Vincent Towers, on the 4th ult. Mr. Hayes defended. Complainant stated that he was in the HADEN CROSS INN on the day in question, and the defendant, who was also there, accused him of cheating his men. Upon replying, defendant called him bad names and struck him twice. After complainant’s evidence had been corroborated, Mr. Hayes called for the defence Richard Hill, who stated that the complainant used bad language to the defendant, and dared him several times to strike him. The Bench said there was no doubt but that a technical assault had been committed, under provocation, and fined defendant 1s, without costs.”

1881 Census

78, Halesowen Road

- [1] *Benjamin Darby* (25), butcher and publican, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Lucy Darby (20), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Samuel Wright Darby (3), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Mary Wright Darby (2), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Benjamin Wright Darby (1), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Rosehannah Harris (16), domestic servant, born Halesowen;
- [7] Clara Parkes (14), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 8/3/1884

“Isaac Tromans, chainmaker, Blackheath, was charged with stealing two pig’s feet, value 1s 6d, the property of *Benjamin Darby*, butcher, Old Hill. Defendant cut the feet off a pig hanging at the defendant’s door on the 27th ult. Defendant pleaded guilty, but said he was drunk at the time. A fine of £1, including costs, was imposed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/12/1887

“Mr. *Benjamin Darby*, maltster and butcher, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, met with a serious accident at Blackheath, whilst returning from Birmingham on Friday night. It appears that he arrived in High Street, Blackheath, about eight o’clock, when a collision occurred between another vehicle and the one in which he was riding, the result being that Mr. *Darby* was thrown to the ground with considerable violence and was rendered unconscious. He was promptly attended by Dr. Beasley. Yesterday there was very little improvement in the condition of the injured man, and he is considered to be in a critical state. Up to the present the police have been unable to ascertain the name of the person who it is alleged ran into Mr. *Darby*’s conveyance.”

County Advertiser 24/11/1888

“At the County Court on Thursday, before Sir Rupert Kettle, Judge, and a jury, a case was heard in which William Burton, cooper, of Langley, sued *Benjamin Darby*, publican, Old Hill, for the sum of £9 18s 8d, and there was a counter claim for £50. Mr. Sharpe was for the plaintiff, and Mr. Jackson for the defendant. Mr. Sharpe stated that about seven o’clock on the 19th of last December plaintiff was on his right side, driving a pony and truck past the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Blackheath, when defendant, who was in the trap, was thrown out and seriously injured. In subsequent conversation defendant admitted his liability and promised recompense, which he not only failed to pay, but had now made a counter claim. Evidence was then given. A verdict for the plaintiff for 40s was given.”

Benjamin Darby – see also HORSESHOE.

Birmingham Daily Post 28/12/1889 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Inns, Brewery, Malthouses and Premises, at Blackheath and Haden Cross, near Dudley. Oates, Perrens, & Wooldridge are favoured with instructions from the proprietor, Mr. *B. Darby*, to Sell by Auction, at the CROSS INN, Old Hill, on Tuesday, the 7th day of January, 1890, at Five o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be produced, the highly-important and Valuable FreeHold Public Houses, Malthouses, Brewery, &c, following, namely. Lot 1. That most Desirable Freehold Property, the Blackheath Brewery, together with the MALT SHOVEL INN, in the occupation of Mr. Reuben Davis, and the Ten-quarter Malthouse in the occupation of Mr. John Thomas Dixon, with a large yard, extensive stabling, and appurtenances, situate in High Street, Blackheath, a thickly-populated district, on the main road from Cradley Heath and Old Hill to Birmingham. Lot 2. That very Desirable Freehold Public House, HADEN CROSS INN, with Butcher’s Shop and Slaughterhouse; also the Ten-quarter Malthouse, together with the enclosed yard, with double-door entrance, Stable, Piggeries, Garden, piece of Turf Land, and Premises, containing an area of 2,710 square yards, situate at Haden Cross, on the main road from Hales Owen to Old Hill, Netherton, and Dudley, and a short distance from Old Hill Railway Station, a junction of three lines of railways. For further information apply to Messrs. Wright and Tanfield, Solicitors, Cradley Heath; or to the Auctioneers, Stourbridge and Droitwich.”

1891 Census

100, Halesowen Road

- [1] *Samuel Parkes* (49), beerhouse keeper, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Eliza Parkes (47), wife, born Kingswood, Somerset;
- [3] John T. Parkes (16), son, bricklayer's labourer, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Lucy Parkes (13), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] William S. Parkes (11), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Emma Parkes (8), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

Birmingham Daily Post 20/8/1891

“At the Police Court, yesterday, *Samuel Parkes*, landlord of the HADEN CROSS INN, Old Hill, was charged with supplying ale to a drunken person, and also with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises, on the 12th of August. Mr. Waldron prosecuted and Mr. Shakespeare defended.

The evidence for the prosecution was that on the 12th inst a woman named Wright, who was very drunk, went into the defendant's house, and was found about eleven o'clock at night suffering from a wound on the back of the head, and was then intoxicated. She was taken to the police station, and afterwards removed to the workhouse infirmary.

Mr. Shakespeare said he appeared on behalf of Messrs. Showell, the owners of the house, and he submitted that it was a very trumpety case, inasmuch as it was not proved that the woman was supplied with beer in the defendant's house.

Defendant was fined 20s, and £3 10s costs.”

County Express 29/8/1891

“The annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis division of Staffordshire were held at the Police Court, Old Hill, on Wednesday.....

Mr. Waldron appeared for *Samuel Parkes*, of the HADEN CROSS, who was fined 20s and costs for supplying ale to a drunken woman on the 19th inst. Renewed.”

County Advertiser 27/6/1896 - Advert

“SHOULDER OF MUTTON, Blackheath.

Cotton and Chappell are instructed by the Trustees of the late Mr. James Payne and other to Sell by Auction, on the Premises as above, on Wednesday, July 8th, 1896, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to Conditions then to be produced.....

Lot 3. All that Well-situated Freehold Public House, known as HADEN CROSS INN, containing Two Bed Rooms, large Club Room, Bar, Smoke Room, Kitchen, Two Cellars, Brewhouse with Furnaces; together with a Well-built Malt House in the rear, having stores over; Stabling for Five Horses, Pigsties, Slaughter-house, and a Field of Turf Land, the whole containing 2,710 square yards or thereabouts.

This House, which is situate in the best part of Haden Cross, is well supplied with Hard and Soft Water, is capable of carrying on the Malting Business, of that of a Butcher, in addition to the present Business.....”

County Advertiser 25/7/1896

“A man named *Samuel Baker*, who was for several years landlord of the HADEN CROSS INN, Haden Hill, Old Hill, died suddenly on Tuesday. Deceased who has lately been unwell went to visit a relative at old Hill, and whilst in the house he died suddenly. As deceased has been seen by a medical man during his illness, no inquest will be held.”

1901 Census

149, Halesowen Road

- [1] *Samuel Davies* (35), publican's manager, born Old Hill;
- [2] Hannah E. Davies (36), wife, born Old Hill;
- [3] Beatrice Davies (16), daughter, born Old Hill;
- [4] Alfred W. Davies (14), son, striker for gas socket maker, born Old Hill;
- [5] Charlie Davies (12), son, telegraph messenger, Post Office, born Old Hill;
- [6] Samuel Davies (11), son, born Old Hill;
- [7] Harry Davies (10), son, born Old Hill;
- [8] George B. Davies (8), son, born Old Hill;
- [9] Hannah E. Davies (7), daughter, born Old Hill;
- [10] Mary Davies (5), daughter, born Old Hill;
- [11] Michael C. Davies (3), son, born Old Hill;
- [12] Evelyn M. Davies (1), daughter, born Old Hill:

1911 Census

Haden Hill – HADEN CROSS INN

- [1] *Harry Pearson* (52), innkeeper, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Susan Pearson (49), innkeeper, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Miriam Pearson (15), adopted daughter, typist, anchor smith, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Mary Jane Lyndon (21), servant to above, born Wednesbury:

Harry Pearson, beer retailer, 169, Halesowen Road. [1912]

Mrs. *Rachel Cockin*, beer retailer, 169, Halesowen Road. [1924]

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/5/1936

“A change in the habits of women drinking, who, it was stated, now preferred wine to beer and stout was a reason for the increase in the number of applications for wine licenses, when the County Licensing Confirmation Committee met at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Tuesday. Sir William Goodwin (Chairman) presided. Of the 18 applications heard by the Committee, seven were in respect of wine licenses.....

HADEN CROSS INN, Haden Hill, Old Hill.....

Announcing that the applications were confirmed, the Chairman said they were all very much on the same lines – that ladies required wine, and he supposed they had to meet modern necessities.”

Myra Fereday married *Timothy Downing* on 6th October 1938, at Dudley Register Office.

1939 Register

Halesowen Road – HADEN CROSS INN

[1] *Myra Downing*, date of birth 18/7/1902, tenant, HADEN CROSS INN, married;

[2] *Timothy Downing*, dob 7/6/1914, bread salesman, married;

A Publican’s license was granted on 2nd February 1949.

It was transferred to a Full License 27th April 1949.

Birmingham Daily Post 1/6/1957

“Rowley Regis police are investigating theft of money from the till of the HADEN CROSS public house, Haden Hill. The robbery occurred in the afternoon while the wife of the licensee, Mr. *Jack Hickman*, was in the back garden. The thief entered through the open back door, took several pound notes from the till, leaving silver and copper, and let himself out through the front door.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 11/9/1986

“Keen Black Country gardener *Wilf Rimmer* is top of the crops at his local pub where his 23in runner bean takes pride of place behind the bar.

Wilf, aged 65, grew the giant specimen in the back garden of his home in Haden Hill Road, Old Hill – and now it is on display among the bottles at the HADEN CROSS pub in Halesowen Road.

Wilf reckons his runaway runner must be one of the longest grown this summer, which has seen the sun-loving crop badly hit by unseasonal temperatures.....”

Stourbridge News 16/1/2015

“It was three cheers for the regulars and staff of the HADEN CROSS pub this week after Sandwell Council refused planning permission for a supermarket to be built on the car park. The council threw out the New River application to build a Co-op superstore after 56 people objected and a 442 signature petition was handed in. The pub was packed on Tuesday night for a meeting of the Friends of HADEN CROSS INN when plans for the future were discussed.

Chairman of the Friends of HADEN CROSS INN, *Tim Haskey*, said, ‘We are over the moon about the planning application being turned down and hopefully New River will not try again because of how conclusive the refusal was. However, there is nothing stopping them trying to change the whole pub into a supermarket so we want to turn the place into a community asset. We are looking into everything we can about securing this wonderful pub and our long term goal is to buy the place for the community so it will be safe forever.’

Cradley Heath and Old Hill Councillor Ann Shackleton said, ‘I am delighted as I have been involved with this issue from the start and supported the newly formed friends group with their campaign. It is a triumph for people in the local community who have come together to fight the proposals and achieve an outcome that is right for their neighbourhood. However, the campaign continues to safeguard this highly valued, viable, public amenity.

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris and Labour’s parliamentary candidate *Stephanie Peacock* spoke at the meeting. *Mr Morris* said, ‘I worked on the Localism Bill in Parliament and hopefully it can be used to safeguard the pub. The supermarket planning application was extraordinary and it was no surprise it was turned down.’

Miss Peacock said, ‘We need to do as much as we can to save pubs like the HADEN CROSS and I will be looking into helping the friends group as much as I can over the coming years.’”

Halesowen News 5/1/2018

“Campaigners who helped save a landmark *Cradley Heath* pub from having a supermarket built on its car park have been honoured with a national award. The Friends of HADEN CROSS spent years battling with site owners *New River Retail* over the company’s plans to build a Co-op store on the land. And the group’s successful efforts have now been rewarded after they were named as a bronze winner in the CAMRA Pub Saving Awards 2017.

Tim Haskey, chairman of the friends group, said, ‘We are thrilled to hear the efforts of the local community have been rewarded in this manner. Whilst the winner and runner up were very worthy rural campaigns, ours showed that pubs in urban areas are equally as important to the communities they serve.’

A presentation at the pub is set to take place at 8pm on Monday (January 8) where the friends group will be handed their certificate by Dudley & South Staffs CAMRA. All are welcome. The friends group was formed in response to New River's plans and worked in partnership with Sandwell Council to make the pub and its surrounds an Asset of Community Value, meaning it would prevent any development without full planning permission. The group felt like they made a real breakthrough when New River's asset managing arm 'LT Management' agreed a tenancy deal with local publicans *Stan* and *Karl Gardner*, who also run the WATERFALL and the BELL AND BEAR. The father and son duo have made some significant changes to the pub during a period of refurbishment at the end of 2017.

Jim Mumford, the group's vice chairman, added, 'Since its recent refurbishment by new tenants *Stan* and *Karl* and under the management of Matt and his team, the HADEN CROSS is a thriving real ale pub, run by real people, growing from strength to strength. This would not have happened if the community had not remained strong and fought hard, together with the support of Sandwell Council and local politicians.'

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris called the friends group a 'real inspiration' to those who want to make a difference in their local community."

Stanley John Gardner – see also BELL AND BEAR and WATERFALL.

[2020]

HAILSTONE

Dudley Road, (1, Springfield Lane), Knowle, ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

Sarah Eliza Griffiths
T. and B. Woodhouse, Queens Cross, Dudley
Julia Hanson and Son Ltd.
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

William Henry [1848]
Joseph Danks [1851] – **1872**);
Elizabeth Danks (**1872**);
Francis Griffiths (**1872 – 1881**);
Richard Griffiths (**1881 – [1896]**)
David Edward Hollies [1900] – [1912]
Miss Hannah A M Griffiths [1916] – [1921] ?
Sarah Eliza Griffiths [1919] – **1923**);
Mary Ann Gill (**1923 – 1924**);
Harry Ernest Blount (**1924 – 1925**);
Harry Aston (**1925 – 1941**);
Louisa Aston (**1941**);
Edward Walter Hill (**1941 – 1944**);
Thomas William Nock (**1944 – 1945**);
Mary Ann Nock (**1945 – 1947**);
William Arthur Grainger (**1947 – 1950**);
Sidney Raymond 'Sid' Hill (**1950 – [1973]**)
Mrs. Sheila Lloyd [1986]
Paul Crump [1989] – [1990]
Michelle Woolfenden [1993]
Robert Barnes [2007]

NOTES

1, Springfield Lane [1900], [1904], [1908], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1932], [1940]
Dudley Road

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 13/3/1848 - Advert

“Freehold Land, Mines, and Dwelling Houses, situate about a mile and a half from Dudley, on the new Turnpike Road, from thence to Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by E. and C. Robins and Co., on Wednesday the 5th day of April next, at four o’clock in the afternoon, at the house of Mr. Smith, the HOTEL, Dudley, in one lot, subject to conditions then and there to be produced, by order of the Mortgagees.

All that small compact Freehold Estate, called the Knowle Farm, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, now or late in the occupation of Mr. William Davis, Butcher, Constitution Hill, Dudley; with the Public House, called the HAILSTONE INN, held by *William Henry*, and Two Houses adjoining, now or late in the possession of Benjamin Plant and Richard Slater; also, situated a short distance from the above, what formerly was the Farm House, Outbuildings, Fold, and Garden, but afterwards divided into several Cottages, Nail Shops, and small Gardens, now or late in the occupations of James Rock, John Kyte, William Woodhill, and others.....”

Joseph Danks = Joseph Dankes

1851 Census

Knowle

- [1] *Joseph Dankes* (42), publican, born Rowley;
- [2] Elizabeth Dankes (42), wife, born Rowley;
- [3] Henry Dankes (19), son, born Rowley;
- [4] Thomas Dankes (17), son, born Rowley;
- [5] Mary Dankes (14), daughter, born Rowley;
- [6] Edwin Dankes (11), son, born Rowley;
- [7] Lydia Dankes (8), daughter, born Rowley;
- [8] Elizabeth Dankes (4), daughter, born Rowley;

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/5/1852 - Advert

“Freehold Steam Flour Mill, Offices, & Dwelling Houses, Rowley Regis, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by H. Farrington, at the house of Mr. *Danks*, the HAILSTONE INN, Rowley Regis, on Wednesday, the 16th day of June, 1852, at four for five o’clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions to be read at the time of sale.....”

Joseph Danks was also an iron boat builder. [1854]

Worcester Journal 26/8/1854

“An inquest was held on Saturday, at the HAILSTONE INN, Rowley Regis, before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, on the body of William Burns, aged 25, an engineer at Mr. Jones’s Colliery, who met with his death by falling down the pit from a plank which is placed across the shaft for the use of the engineer whilst he oils the machinery. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned by the Jury.”

Brierley Hill Advertiser 16/8/1856

“Anthony Jarvis, a miner, living at Windmill End, was charged by Thomas Hobley, of Primrose Hill, with knocking him down, and afterwards robbing him of £1 9s 6d, on Monday week last, about ten o’clock at night, as he was going home.

It appeared that prosecutor had been to Rowley Hailstone, where there had been a tea party, on the day in question, and that he had afterwards gone to Mr. *Danks*’s, the HAILSTONE public house, and was drinking with some friends. Prisoner, who was well known to the prosecutor from a child, was amongst the company, when he (prosecutor) got up to leave, he was accused of having no money to spend. He said he had the price of a pint of ale left, and intended pulling a sixpence out of his pocket to show them, but by mistake pulled out a sovereign instead. He left to return home about half past ten, and when he got out of the house he counted his money, and found he had a sovereign, a half crown, a two shilling piece, and five single shillings.

When he got to the bottom of the first field, about two minutes’ walk, he was knocked down by a blow on the head from behind by the prisoner, who immediately got on the top of him. Prosecutor called him by name, and entreated him not to rob him, as he was an old man, and had known him from a child; prisoner took no notice and made no reply whatever, but placed his elbow on prosecutor’s throat, and rifled his pockets, of 19s and a tobacco box. There were two other men about twelve yards behind them, but prosecutor could not tell who they were, and was unable to call for assistance when prisoner had his arm on his throat. As soon as he was released, he followed prisoner, but lost sight of him before he got back to the house. He then went into the house (*Danks*’s) and told what had taken place. He also accused one Benjamin Burns with knowing something about it, and was turned out of the house by Mr. and Mrs. *Danks*.

In being cross examined by Mr. Lowe, prosecutor swore positively to the prisoner’s identity, denied being drunk, or having charged any of the company (who were at the public house when he returned after being robbed) with robbing him. Prosecutor wished the case to be adjourned, to have a witness, who was unable to attend on Monday. The case was accordingly adjourned till Wednesday.

On Wednesday Anthony Jarvis was again placed in the dock, and additional evidence given, which showed that the prisoner left the HAILSTONE public house about a quarter of an hour before prosecutor returned and complained of having been robbed, and that they had been seen previously talking together at the house.

Several witnesses were called for the defence, who stated that prosecutor was not sober, and that he charged five separate parties with having robbed him of £10; Mr. *Danks* stated that he put him out of the house in consequence of the disturbance he was making. When prisoner was apprehended by Constable Dorsett, he said, ‘The old man will suffer for this,’ and did not deny the

charge. It also appeared that he went to prosecutor's house the day after the robbery, and asked him what he meant by raising the report that he had robbed him. Prosecutor asked him how he dared show his face. He (prisoner) replied, 'Mind how you do it; if I have not the chance to do it, some one else will,' and denied any knowledge of the robbery. He was committed for trial. Two sureties in £80 each, and himself in £160, were required as bail." [At Stafford, on 13th March 1857, Anthony Jarvis was found not guilty of robbery with violence.]

Joseph Danks was also a steam engine boiler maker and iron boat builder. [1860]

Birmingham Journal 5/5/1860 - Advert

"Valuable Freehold Building Land, situate at the Knowle, in the Parish of Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Bateman, on Monday Next, the 7th of May, at Six o'clock in the evening, at the HAILSTONE INN, the Knowle, Rowley, and subject to conditions then to be produced.

About Twenty Lots of valuable Freehold Building Land, situate at the Knowle, in the parish of Rowley Regis, being part of the Meadow now in the occupation of Mr. *Joseph Danks*, the HAILSTONE INN, at the Knowle aforesaid, having excellent frontages to the right-hand side of the main road leading from Dudley to Rowley, and commanding beautiful views of the Hailstone Hill, Rowley Hills, and the surrounding country.

Lithographed plans and particulars, showing and fully describing the lots, may be had from Messrs. W. and Brooke Robinson, Solicitors, or the Auctioneer, Dudley; and at the Place of Sale."

1861 Census

Knowle – HAILSTONE INN

[1] *Joseph Danks* (57), publican, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Elizabeth Danks (55), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Henry Danks (28), son, blacksmith, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Lydia Danks (18), daughter, assistant at home, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Elizabeth Danks (14), daughter, born Rowley Regis:

Joseph Danks was also a boiler manufacturer and blacksmith. [1865]

Birmingham Journal 25/8/1866

"Mr. Hooper, District Coroner, held an inquest, on Monday, at the HAILSTONE INN, Rowley, upon the body of George Rollason, a miner, who was killed on the previous Friday, at the California Pits, Kates Hill.

Thomas Bannister, a deputy doggy, stated that he was at work with the deceased and another man when the accident happened.

The stall in which Rollason was at work was about 13 feet high, and there were several trees supporting it. It was about 10 yards to the 'bottom.' The deceased and witness tried the place before work began, and everything appeared quite safe. The only warning of the fall was a 'bump,' upon which witness called out to the men, but neither answered. About ten tons of coal fell, and the men were extricated in a few minutes, but life was extinct in both.

By Mr. Baker: The coal was overhanging about a yard and a half. There were no trees supporting the roof when the coal fell.

They had been removed just before in order to get the coal from the roof. The coal fell from the pillar as well as the roof. A much less quantity would have fallen if the overhanging coal had been taken off.

Mr. Latham promised that the suggestion of the Coroner and the Inspector, with regard to the coal overhanging, should be carried out. On every visit to the pit he would order that such coal should be taken down.

After a slight consultation, the Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Stourbridge Observer 2/2/1867

"An inquest was held on Wednesday at the HAILSTONE INN, Rowley, before Mr. E. Hooper, on the body of a married woman, aged 40, named Mary Ann Hollier, residing with her husband, a labourer, in the Dudley Road.

The deceased, it appeared had been confined, and, according to the evidence of the husband, she went on well until Sunday night. At about half past nine o'clock she was taken suddenly ill, and expired almost immediately in the arms of her husband and a neighbour named Catherine Lavender.

It was shown that the family of the deceased had been subject to heart disease and as no suspicion attached to any one, the jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes."

Joseph Danks was described as also being a boiler maker. [1868]

Stourbridge Observer 19/12/1868

"An inquest was held on Monday last, at the HAILSTONE INN, before Mr. Hooper, Coroner, touching the death of Caroline Hipkiss (17), who was killed on Thursday, the 10th inst, while at work at Mr. Chavasse's brickworks, Rowley.

From the evidence it appeared that she was at her ordinary work when her clothes were caught by the machinery, which pulled her round, and killed her on the spot.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

Stourbridge Observer 6/3/1869

"On Friday the 26th ultimo, a fatal accident occurred to a man named James Hopkins, a miner, who was at work at No.27 Pit, Salt

Wells Colliery, when a fall of coal took place, which crushed the deceased. He was removed to his home, but died in a few hours. An inquest was held on Wednesday last, before E. Hooper, Esq, Coroner, at Mr. *J. Danks's*, the HAILSTONE INN, and a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Joseph Danks was described as also being a steam engine boiler maker. [1870], [1872]

1871 Census

The Knowle

[1] *Joseph Danks* (63), farmer of 27 acres and licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Elizabeth Danks (64), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Henry Danks (39), son, boiler maker, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Elizabeth Danks (24), daughter, waitress, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Polly A. Plevé (21), general servant, born Dudley;

Birmingham Daily Post 17/6/1871 - Advert

“To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Bateman, on Monday Next, the 19th day of June, at Five for Six o’clock in the evening precisely, at the DUDLEY ARMS HOTEL, Dudley.....

Lot 6. Three Closes of valuable Freehold Land, with the ungotten Mines and Minerals thereunder, being part of the Knowle Colliery Estate, situated at the Knowle, in the parish of Rowley Regis, and near the Pottery and Lands of Messrs. H. Doulton and Co; the whole containing in quantity 5a 3r 26p, and now in the occupation of Mr. *Joseph Danks*.

Lot 7. The Old-licensed Inn and Premises, known as the HAILSTONE, situated at the Knowle aforesaid; together with the Three Dwelling Houses, Out-buildings, Yard, Gardens, and piece of Freehold Land adjoining; and the ungotten Mines and Minerals thereunder, now in the respective occupations of Mr. *Joseph Danks* and Messrs. Darby, Woodhouse, and Ward, the whole containing in quantity 2s 3r 37p, and of the aggregate annual value of £40.

Lot 8. The Close of excellent Freehold Meadow Land, with the ungotten Mines and Minerals thereunder, situated at the Knowle aforesaid, and containing 4a 3r 20p, also in the holding of Mr. *Joseph Danks*, and adjoining the last lot, with a very valuable and extensive frontage to the main road from Dudley to Rowley, thereby making a large portion of the Land available for Building purposes.

The last three lots, comprising the HAILSTONE Public House and Premises, with the Cottages adjoining, and the Lands held therewith, will, if thought more desirable at the time of sale, be offered in one lot.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/6/1871

“A sale was held at the DUDLEY ARMS HOTEL by Mr. Bateman, with the following results.....

The Knowle estate and HAILSTONE INN, Rowley, for which only £1,000 was offered, were not sold.”

Dudley Herald 9/3/1872

“.....for sale all that valuable freehold property comprising the old licensed inn and premises known as the HAILSTONE, situate at the Knowle occupied by *Joseph Danks*.”

Joseph Danks was the father of Henry and Thomas, who founded the company later known as H & T Danks of Netherton. He died in September 1872.

Stourbridge Observer 25/1/1873

“An inquest was held on Monday at Mr. *Francis Griffiths's*, the HAILSTONE, Rowley Regis, on the body of William Danby, aged 41 years, who met with his death on Friday last. Deceased was employed at Messrs. Jones’ pits, the Buffery, near Dudley, as banksman, and on Friday last was engaged in pushing a tub to descend the shaft, and also fell with it, and was killed. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

County Advertiser 22/3/1873

“John Peters was charged with being drunk and disorderly and refusing to quit the HAILSTONE INN, Dudley Road, when requested to do so by the landlord. *Francis Griffiths* said the defendant came to his house about seven o’clock on the night of the 3rd inst. He fastened the door, and defendant burst it open. He requested him to go, but he refused; and he (witness) put him out. The defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs.”

County Express 17/7/1875

“Sanitary Drainpipe Makers’ Association.

A meeting of the members of this association was held at the HAILSTONE INN, Rowley, on Tuesday night, when Mr. William Abbott, chairman of the association, presided, and in opening the proceedings, alluded to the late strike, which had lasted seventeen weeks. At that time they had no union of their own, but, having passed through great difficulties, they had seen the necessity for one, and though it was in its infancy, he hoped the day would come when they would not only be able to help themselves, but assist others.....”

County Express 10/7/1880

“A shocking accident occurred on Monday at the Brades, near Oldbury. Three navvies were at work in a small hole getting clay

for the Birmingham Canal Company, when a slip of land took place. The men were all buried, and it was some time before they were got out. Lawrence Kynnersley, aged 31, residing at Springfield, Rowley, was quite dead. William Needham, aged 25, also of Springfield, Rowley, was taken to the Dudley Hospital, where he died the same night from his injuries. The third man, Thomas Martin, was conveyed to his home at Gornal, in a most dangerous condition. Kynnersley leaves a widow and four children. On Thursday Mr. Edwin Hooper (South Staffordshire Coroner) held an inquest at the HAILSTONE INN, Rowley Regis, on the body of Lawrence Kynnersley, aged 31, labourer, one of the men killed in an accident at the clayhole. Ann Kynnersley said the deceased had frequently stated that he expected such an accident as that by which he was killed, as there were continual falls of clay, which could neither be heard nor seen until they actually occurred. Joseph Simner, overseer at the clayhole, said the marl fell a distance of twelve feet on to the deceased. The persons who were responsible for the safety of the men employed at the clayhole only went to the place once a fortnight. The Coroner remarked to the witness that he did not consider that was often enough for the safety of life. Witness said he was deputed to take account of the work done by the men employed, but they were left to look to their own safety. Addressing the jury, the Coroner said, 'I think this man is responsible to a great extent. The wonder is that all the men were not killed.' (To witness), 'If the proposed Act of Parliament had been in force I should certainly have held you liable. I do not express an opinion as to whether I am in favour of the Act or not, but in this instance it would have been a very good thing.' The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, accompanied with a recommendation to the effect that the Birmingham Canal company, to whom the marl hole belonged, should be communicated with, and requested to establish a system of periodical examination of the marl hole. The inquest touching the death of William Needham was held at the Guest Hospital on Thursday before Mr. Watts, and a verdict of accidental death was returned."

Francis Griffiths died in 1881.

1881 Census

1, Springfield Lane

- [1] *Richard Griffiths* (39), victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Alice Griffiths* (35), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Hannah Griffiths* (16), daughter, domestic servant, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Francis Griffiths* (6), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Mary Ann Griffiths* (4), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Thomas Griffiths* (3), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *Alice Griffiths* (1), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] *John Griffiths* (26), boarder, no occupation, born Rowley Regis;
- [9] *Marshale Hughes* (7), boarder, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [10] *Joseph Cutler* (39), lodger, carpenter, born Rowley Regis;
- [11] *Anne Woodhouse* (19), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis;

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

15th July 1883 - *Alice*, daughter of *Richard* and *Alice Griffiths*, licensed victualler, The Knowle.

County Express 9/2/1884

"*Richard Griffiths*, landlord of the HAILSTONE INN, Rowley, was charged with selling adulterated gin on the 7th December last. Samuel Toy visited the defendant's premises on the above date and purchased half a pint of gin. This he divided into three parts, giving one to the defendant and the other to Mr. Horder.

Mr. Horder submitted a sample to Mr. Jones, public analyst, who returned a certificate stating that the gin was 50 per cent under proof. This was 15 per cent under the minimum allowed.

Mr. J. Wright, for the defence, said that the defendant was not aware that he was making a breach of the law by doing what he did. There was a card hung in his establishment stating that all liquors sold there were adulterated. Defendant was fined 40s and costs."

County Advertiser 1/10/1887

"*Richard Griffiths*, landlord of the HAILSTONE INN, Knowle, was charged, at the instance of the Rowley Local Board, with refusing to comply with a notice of the inspector to the Board to remove a urinal. Mr. A. Wright (clerk to the Board) appeared to prosecute. He stated that he had seen the defendant that morning, and he said the urinal had been removed to the satisfaction of the inspector. He should only ask the Bench to order defendant to pay the costs, under the circumstances. Defendant was ordered to pay the costs."

County Advertiser 5/5/1888 - Advert

"Rowley Regis. Freehold Houses and Premises in Springfield Lane.

Mr. T. Pateshall is instructed to Sell by Auction at the house of Mr. *Richard Griffiths*, the HAILSTONE INN, Knowle, Rowley Regis, on Wednesday, the 16th day of May, 1888, at Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions....."

1891 Census

1, Springfield Lane – HAILSTONE INN

- [1] *Richard Griffiths* (50), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Alice Griffiths* (46), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Hannah Griffiths* (26), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Eliza Griffiths* (20), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Mary A. Griffiths* (15), daughter, dress maker's apprentice, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Thomas Griffiths* (13), son, grocer's errand boy, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *Alice Griffiths* (11), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] *John Griffiths* (34), brother, living on his own means, born Rowley Regis;
- [9] *James Bolland* (15), nephew, engine fitter's apprentice, born Oldbury:

County Express 19/9/1891

“Mr. Edwin Hooper (South Staffordshire Coroner) held an inquest at the HAILSTONE INN, Dudley Road, on Tuesday evening, respecting the death of John Peters (17), miner, Springfield Lane, who was drowned whilst bathing in a pool at Warren's Hill. Deceased told a companion that he was either going to swim or drown. Deceased could not swim, and was advised not to go into the middle of the pool. He, however, got out of his depth and sank. Witness swam after him, and succeeded in bringing him to the surface by holding his hand. Near to the side deceased put his arms round witness's neck, and they both sank. With difficulty witness effected his escape, but Peters was drowned.

In reply to the Coroner, witness said he had never heard the deceased threaten to commit suicide.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

County Advertiser 15/10/1898 - Advert

“Sale of Two Useful Brewing Plants, Casks, &c, at the HAILSTONE INN, Springfield, The Knowle, Rowley. Messrs. John G. Wright and Son will Sell by Auction, on Wednesday, October 19th, Two Useful Brewing Plants, including the one at the VINE INN, Rowley Regis, removed for convenience of sale; Malt Crusher, and other Effects.

Sale at Eleven o'clock in the Morning.

Auction Offices: No.28, Wolverhampton Street, Dudley.”

AND

Dudley Herald 15/10/1898 - Advert

“Wednesday Next.

Sale of Two Useful Brewing Plants, Casks, &c, at the VINE INN, and HAILSTONE INN, Rowley Regis, the former being removed to the latter place for convenience of sale.

John G. Wright and Son are instructed to Sell by Auction, at the HAILSTONE INN, Springfield, The Knowle, Rowley, near Dudley, on Wednesday, October 19, 1898, the Useful Brewing Plants as above, including Four Cast Iron Boilers, capital Gathering Square, Mash Tubs, Coolers, Copper Sieves, Quantity Casks, Malt Crusher, and other Brewing Effects.

Sale to commence at 11 o'clock in the morning prompt.

Auction Offices: No.28, Wolverhampton Street, Dudley.”

County Express 18/8/1900

“On Monday night Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest at the HAILSTONE INN, The Knowle, Rowley Regis, concerning the death of John Taylor (60), a retired chain manufacturer, who had died suddenly. The deceased – who has been known in the Black Country as the agent of Joseph Darby, champion jumper – on the 11th inst went to Dudley by train, and walked back to his house at The Knowle. He went into the HAILSTONE INN and ordered refreshment, and immediately afterwards fell down dead. Dr. Beasley said death was due to apoplexy. The jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes.”

1901 Census

1, Springfield Lane – HAILSTONE INN

[1] *David E. Hollies* (45), licensed victualler, born Netherton;

[2] *Alice Hollies* (43), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *Mary A. Hollies* (19), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Florence R. Hollies* (15), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[5] *Esther A. Hollies* (9), daughter, born Dudley;

[6] *James P. Hollies* (5), son, born Dudley:

David Hollies brewed his own beer.

Leominster News 17/2/1905

“At Dudley on Monday, John Smith, landlord of the RED LION INN, Northfield Road, Netherton, was charged with selling during prohibited hours; and *David Hollies*, HAILSTONE INN, Rowley, and Henry and Lorrige Pearce, Withymoor Road, were summoned for being on the premises during such hours.

Police-constable Scriven stated that at about 3.45 on the morning of January 8th he observed a light in one of the windows of the RED LION INN. On looking through he saw a servant carrying several drinks on tray, and subsequently heard the rattling of keys and the chink of money. Witness obtained admission to the house, and found *Hollies* sitting with his boots off. The landlord said *Hollies* had had a sudden seizure of gout, and was unable to go home. In the smoke-room witness found Mr. Pearce and his wife. Asked to account for the presence of all these people on the premises the landlord, evidently misunderstanding his position,

declared them to be all sober, and offered to send for a doctor to prove the assertion. There were drinks on the table.

Dr. E. A. Dando said that *Hollies*, who was subject to gout, was driven to his surgery suffering from the malady on the morning of the 8th inst, and was still lame.

The defendant Smith stated that *Hollies* went to his house at 10.45pm, and after mentioning that he had got the gout, ordered a glass of 'special Scotch.' At eleven o'clock *Hollies* said he could not walk home, and witness went to Pearce, who lived near, and asked him to help in getting *Hollies* home. They tried to get a conveyance, but were unable to do so, and eventually *Hollies*'s own vehicle was fetched. No drink was paid for after closing time.

Pearce said that he and his wife remained, as neighbours, with Smith in his difficulty with *Hollies*. No drink was given to them. Smith and *Hollies* were each fined 40s and costs, and Mr. and Mrs. Pearce 10s and costs each."

County Advertiser 25/11/1905

"Alfred Smith and Alfred Hampton, of Springfields, Rowley, were charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of the HAILSTONE INN, Springfield, Rowley, kept by *Davis Edward Hollies*, on the 18th inst. The landlord stated that on the date in question the defendants were customers at his house, when they commenced to use bad language. Witness remonstrated with them, and ordered them to leave the house, but this they refused to do until a constable was sent for. Defendants expressed their regret, and the Bench fined them each 10s, including costs."

1911 Census

Springfield – HAILSTONE INN

- [1] *David Edward Hollies* (55), licensed victualler, born Dudley Parish;
- [2] Alice Hollies (53), wife, married 33 years, assisting, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] James Philip Hollies (15), son, school, born Dudley;
- [4] Easther Hollies (19), daughter, assisting, born Dudley:

County Express 8/7/1911

"A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Dudley and District Licensed Victuallers' Association was held on Thursday evening at the HAILSTONE INN, Rowley, Mr. W. George presiding. Reference was made to the concession of £50,000 to the trade contained in the Budget, as suggested by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and it was contended that as a vast amount of money had been taken from the trade, a greater concession ought to be made.

It was decided that Ald. Matthew Smith, Mr. William George, Mr. T. P. Hanson, Mr. H. Pearson, and the secretary (Mr. E. H. Boilstone) should form a deputation to wait upon Sir Griffith Boscawen, MP, and point out to him the dissatisfaction that existed amongst the members of the trade, owing to the excessive taxation, and the necessity for the House of Commons granting further relief. The secretary said he understood Sir Griffith Boscawen would be in the constituency next week, and it was hoped the hon member would voice the grievances of the trade in the House of Commons.

A good number of additional licensed traders were elected members of the association, and the Chairman expressed satisfaction that an increased number of members of the trade were now realising the importance of combination."

County Express 7/10/1911 - Advert

"Rowley Regis, Staffs. Notice of Sale by Auction of Freehold Dwelling Houses.

Alfred Hill has been instructed by the Mortgagee, to Sell by Public Auction, at the House of Mr. *Hollis*, the HAILSTONE INN, Rowley Regis, on Monday, October 16th, 1911, at 6.30 for 7 in the Evening precisely, subject to Conditions of Sale to be then read....."

Springfield United FC were based here.

Dudley Chronicle 24/11/1932 - Advert

"Highly Important Announcement of Sale by Auction of 13 Freehold Fully Licensed and Beerhouse Properties, Dwelling Houses and Shops, a Valuable Freehold Property with full Off-License, a block of central business Premises and a Leasehold Property known as the Queens Cross Brewery with the LAMP TAVERN, Dwelling Houses, Offices and Land in Dudley, Stourbridge, King-swinford, Rowley Regis, Coseley, and Ettingshall.

Alfred W. Dando and Co. have received instructions from Mr. Thomas Woodhouse and the Exors of the Will of the late Mr. Benjamin Woodhouse (trading as Messrs. T. and B. Woodhouse) to Sell by Auction at the DUDLEY ARMS HOTEL, Dudley, on Tuesday, December 13th, 1932, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon precisely, subject to printed Conditions of Sale, as follows.

At Dudley.

Lot 1. The CASTLE AND FALCON INN, Wolverhampton Street. (Fully-Licensed).

Lot 2. The ANGEL INN, Castle Street, corner of Fisher Street. (Fully-Licensed).

Lot 3. The WHITE SWAN INN, Castle Street. (Fully-Licensed).

Lot 5. The ALMA INN, Hall Street. (Fully-Licensed), with the Shop adjoining No.92, occupied by Mrs. Moule, and various ranges of Buildings at the rear, approached from Oakeywell Street.

Lot 6. The COACHMAKERS ARMS INN, Stafford Street. (Fully-Licensed). With the Shop and Dwelling House adjoining.

Lot 7. The DOG AND PARTRIDGE INN, Cromwell Street, Kates Hill. (Fully-Licensed).

Lot 8. The CROSS GUNS INN, Cross Guns Street, Kates Hill. (Fully-Licensed). With the Dwelling House adjoining.

At Stourbridge.

Lot 10. The EAGLE VAULTS, High Street. (Fully-Licensed). With Blacksmith's Shop adjoining.

At Kingswinford.

Lot 11. The BRIDGE INN, Dawley Brook. (Fully-Licensed).

At Rowley Regis.

Lot 12. The HAILSTONE INN, Springfield. (Fully-Licensed).

At Coseley

Lot 13. The RED LION INN, Roseville. (Beerhouse-On).

Lot 14. The SWAN INN, Deepfields. (Fully-Licensed). With Cottage and Land adjoining.

At Ettingshall.

Lot 15. The FORGE HAMMER INN, Manor Road. (Beerhouse-On). With large area of Land adjoining.

Lot 16. The Leasehold Interest in the LAMP TAVERN, Dudley, and the Brewery Premises with the two private Dwelling Houses adjoining.

Note: The Auctioneers have every confidence in directing the attention of Brewers and others to the sale of the foregoing licensed and other properties occasioned by the death of Mr. Benjamin Woodhouse, who managed the business. Eight of the houses are situate in prominent positions in and around the town of Dudley and the remainder within a radius of five miles and all will be found to be well chosen for trading purposes and in good structural order and repair.

Full particulars and conditions of Sale are in course of preparation and may be obtained when ready, and the lease of the Brewery Premises inspected, at the offices of Messrs. Jobson and Marshall, Solicitors, 199, Wolverhampton Street (Tele. No.2041); or of the Auctioneers, 193, Wolverhampton Street (Tele. No.2256); all of Dudley.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/12/1932

“There was a large sale of Black Country licensed premises at Dudley yesterday. Thirteen properties realised £37, 400, in addition to out-going valuations. The houses sold were.....

HAILSTONE INN, Springfield, Rowley, £2,550.”

1939 Register

Dudley Road – HAILSTONE INN

[1] *Harry Aston*, date of birth 28/1/1875, tenant, HAILSTONE INN, married;

[2] *Louisa Aston*, dob 9/1/1881, helps husband in public house, married;

[3] *Beatrice M. Aston*, dob 1/1/1907, sleeps in public house, single:

Thomas William Nock married *Mary Ann Jones*.

He died in 1945.

See also CALIFORNIA.

A team from here took part in the Rowley Regis Darts League. [1959/60], [1960/61]

Approval of plans for alterations was given at Warley Licensing Sessions on 25th April 1966.

It was completely refurbished in 1989.

Paul Crump was married to Rose.

Sandwell Evening Mail 19/7/1990

“Thousands of pounds worth of damage have been caused to a Black Country pub conservatory in a vendetta against the licensee and his wife, said police. Windows worth more than £6,000 have been damaged with sharp instruments in two attacks on the HAILSTONE pub, Dudley Road, Rowley Regis. Now Wolverhampton and Dudley Brewery have offered a £200 reward leading to the prosecution and conviction of the attackers.

Licensee Mr. *Paul Crump* who moved to the pub, with his wife Rose and their two children aged four and 15, just 14 months ago, said, ‘The conservatory was built in October last year as part of a £133,000 expansion. Since then 19 panes of glass have been damaged in two separate attacks – the total amount of damage exceeding £6,000. One attack, past midnight, terrified our four-year-old daughter. The customers are well behaved but we have had to remove two or three people for causing trouble. The brewery have offered a £200 reward leading to the prosecution and conviction of the person or people involved.’

Insp. Graham Hunt, based at Old Hill police station, said, ‘The attacks appear to be a vendetta against Mr. and Mrs. *Crump*. We are keeping a close watch on the situation and anyone with any information should contact the CID.’”

[2007]

Closed [2008], [2013]

It was converted into a restaurant and takeaway in 2014.

Halesowen News 23/12/2014

“The owner of a recently-opened Rowley Regis restaurant has donated more than £300 to Sandwell mayor’s charity appeal. Wahidur Rahman opened The Hailstone Indian Restaurant, Springfield Close, last month, bringing back into use a long-empty former pub. He donated his entire opening night takings of £326 to the Mayor’s Charity Fund which is raising money this year for

Sandwell Women's Aid. The mayor, Councillor Derek Rowley, said, 'I was most grateful to receive this very kind donation from Mr Rahman and I wish him every success with his new restaurant.' The new premises opened in November and the restaurant has a five-star hygiene rating from Sandwell Council's environmental health team."

HALFWAY HOUSE

Sprink House, (Dudley) New Road, Springfield, ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Mrs. Mary Plant [1861] – [1871]

NOTES

1861 Census

Dudley New Road – Public House

- [1] *Mary Plant* (67), widow, publican, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Thomas Plant (38), son, born Dudley;
- [3] Isabella Plant (28), daughter, born Dudley:

Birmingham Journal 3/12/1864 - Advert

"Freehold and Old-Established Public House, called the HALF-WAY HOUSE, with Dwelling House, Out-Buildings, and Premises adjoining, situate at the Sprink House, on the New Road leading from Dudley to Rowley, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford.

To Be Sold By Auction, by Mr. Bateman, on Monday, December 12, 1864, at Six o'clock in the evening, at the DUDLEY ARMS HOTEL, Dudley, and subject to conditions then to be produced.

All that very desirable and Old-established Freehold Public House, called the HALF-WAY HOUSE, with the Dwelling House, Out-buildings, and Premises adjoining, situate as above, now and for many years past in the occupation of Mrs. *Mary Plant* and her under-tenant, of the yearly value of £20, and covering an area of 530 square yards.

For further particulars, apply to Messrs. Coldicott and Canning, Solicitors; Mr. Brooke Robinson, Solicitor; or the Auctioneer, all of Dudley."

1871 Census

Springfield

- [1] *Mary Plant* (78), licensed beer seller, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Thomas Plant (48), son, brewer, born Dudley:

Dudley Herald 24/2/1872

"Freehold and old established public house called the HALFWAY HOUSE situate at the Sprinkhouse, on the new road leading from Dudley to Rowley, in the Parish of Rowley."

County Advertiser 31/8/1878

"Samuel Darby charged Henry Melson, potter, of Rowley, with having assaulted him on the 24th inst. He alleged that on Saturday night he was leaving the HALFWAY HOUSE, Rowley, when some person at the door said, 'This is him.' He was then struck and knocked down, and a 'gang' attacked him, kicking him and beating him severely. One kick he received on the eye caused blood to flow for some time after. A witness named James Priest asserted that Melson was the man who first struck complainant, notwithstanding defendant called James Davis to prove that he was with him all the evening in question, and never saw him accost complainant in any way. Complainant said he could bring further evidence to support his case, and the Bench accordingly adjourned the hearing for a fortnight."

County Advertiser 28/9/1878

"Henry Melson, potter, of Rowley, appeared on an adjourned charge of assaulting Samuel Darby, on the night of the 24th ult. Complainant was leaving the HALFWAY HOUSE INN, at Rowley, on this night, and was knocked down by the defendant. Defendant called two witnesses to state that they did not see him commit the assault. The magistrates thought it proved against him, and inflicted a fine of 5s and costs; in default fourteen days."

AND

County Express 28/9/1878

“Samuel Darby was charged with having assaulted Henry Melson, at Perry’s Lake, Rowley. The case had been adjourned from a previous Court when Melson gave evidence to the effect that as he was in the act of leaving a public house known as the HALF WAY HOUSE he was attacked by several men who attacked him, but called witnesses to prove that defendant was one of the number.

Darby was fined 5s and costs.”

Dudley and District News 10/2/1883 - Advert

“To be Sold by Private Treaty before, or by Public Auction, on Monday, February 26th, at the HALFWAY HOUSE, Rowley, near Dudley, a quantity of Brewing Utensils, Brewing Plant, &c, either as one lot or in lots to suit purchasers. Apply, BULLS HEAD INN, Windmill End, near Dudley.”

Dudley and District News 24/2/1883 - Advert

“The HALF-WAY HOUSE INN, Rowley Road, near Dudley. To Publicans, Brokers, and Others.

Mr. W. Pearson has received instructions to Sell by Auction, on Monday, February 26th, a quantity of Household Furniture, Brewing Utensils, License, Goodwill, and other Effects, comprising Screens, Drinking Tables, Square Table and Benches, Dining Tables, Trestles and Tables, Lamps, Vats, Iron Boilers, Mash Tub, Shelves, Ale Measures, Cups, Jugs, Glasses, Ale Cans, Jars, Wort Sieves and Trough, Window Blinds and Curtains, Working and Barm Tubs, Barrels, Brass Taps, Four-pull Beer Machine and Piping all complete, Steelyards, Racking Taps, Spigget Cooler, Tun Pail, Laid Gawn, Trays, Funnels, Cellar Trough, Lead Piping into Cellar and Taps, Meat Rack, Spittoons, Ornaments on Frame, Malt Crusher, Spill Cans, Sign in front of house, Marble Alley, &c.

Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock prompt.

The License and Goodwill will be sold at the house of Mr. J. P. Mansell, BULLS HEAD INN, Windmill End, at 6 o’clock in the evening of the same date.

Auctioneer’s Office and Residence, Cradley Road, Netherton.”

HAMMER

CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

LICENSEES

NOTES

It was situated near Cradley Forge Pool and the Meeting House.

[1822]

HANDEL HOTEL

1, (19), (94), Oldbury Road, (Market Place) / Birmingham Road, BLACKHEATH

OWNERS

Charles M’Kenley [1855]

William Laister [1864], [1877]

Mary Elizabeth Downing Whitehouse

North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1896) [1903]

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1909)

LICENSEES

Daniel Wright [1854]

Thomas Wright [1854]

Charles M'Kenley [1854] – [1855]
Charles M'Kirby [] – **1857**);
Benjamin Slim (**1857** – [1858]
Thomas Slim [] – **1859**);
Thomas Simcox (**1859** – []
Miss Sarah Jane Slim [1860] – [1865]
William Laister [1864] – [1865]
Caleb Short [] – **1865**);
William Hunt (**1865** – **1869**);
William Laister (**1869** – **1874**)
Samuel Hayward (**1874** – []
George Henry Lester [1875]
William Laister [1875] – [1876]
George Cox [] – **1881**);
George Hartridge (**1881** – []
Alfred Cox [1876] – **1882**);
John Hadley (**1882** – []
Thomas Hadley [1882]
Silas Whitehouse [1883] – [1885]
Edward Mason [1886] – [1892]
Edward Brine [1893] – [1897]
Alphonse Smets [1898] – [1912]
Clifford Harris Pearson [1916] – **1922**);
Frederick Crampton (**1922** – **1927**);
Albert Rose (**1927** – **1929**);
Walter Edmunds (**1929** – **1935**);
John James (**1935** – [1965])

NOTES

HANDEN ARMS [1862]
HANDELS HEAD [1878]

It was situated opposite to the SHOULDER OF MUTTON.

It was the headquarters of Blackheath Town FC.

Daniel Wright was also a butcher. [1854]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 2/1/1854 - Advert

“HANDEL HOTEL, Bleak Heath, Rowley Regis, Hales Owen Road, about six miles from Birmingham.

By John Roderick. To be Disposed Of by private Contract (by direction of the Proprietor, who is retiring from business), the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above well-known, old-established Licensed Victualler's House, in a populous neighbourhood, and brewing regularly 1100 bushels of Malt per annum, with a good sale of Wines and Spirits; and a large Wholesale Trade might easily be established.

The premises are commodious, built expressly for the business, lighted with gas, and comprise five bed-rooms, large room to dine 250 persons, front tap-room, bar, parlour, private sitting-room, large Brewhouse, good Stabling, and capital cellars, and may be had on Lease if required, at a moderate rental. Coming-in about £500.

Apply to John Roderick, Auctioneer, 54, New Street, Birmingham.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 12/6/1854 - Advert

“To Publicans, Brewers, and Others.

Important Unreserved Sale at the HANDEL HOTEL and Brewery, Bleak Heath, near Rowley, two miles from the Oldbury Station. By John Roderick. To be Sold by Auction, on Monday next the 19th day of June, commencing at eleven o'clock.

The Household and Public House Furniture, Fixtures, and Fittings; comprising a variety of Chamber Furniture, twenty strong deal forms, music stands, drinking tables, beaufet, oak wardrobe, Windsor chairs, modern gas fittings, capital six-pull ale machine, thirteen-tap liquor fountain, thirteen gilt and painted barrels, measures, glassware, a gross of bottles, twenty new bottle baskets, forty-five eighteen-gallon casks, twenty one hundred-gallon casks, sixteen thirty-six gallon casks, two capital 450-gallon store casks, all in capital condition; an expensive apparatus for making gas without cost, with retort, condensers, worm box, purifier, gasometer, &c, complete, suitable for a Manufactory or country Hotel, and capable of supplying twenty lights, ladders, wheelbarrows, and numerous other effects, the property of Mr. *Thomas Wright*, who is removing in consequence of other engagements. Catalogues may be had.”

Birmingham Journal 9/12/1854 - Advert

“To be Sold by Private Contract, Five new substantially and conveniently-built Houses, Shops, and Out-buildings, well supplied with Soft Water, situate in the improving neighbourhood of Blackheath, between Rowley Regis and Oldbury; let to respectable tenants, producing at low rents £33 per annum.

Apply to Mr. G. H. Collis, 38, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham, and Mr. *M'Kenlay*, at the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath.”

Birmingham Journal 6/10/1855 - Advert

“On Friday, October 19th, 1855.

Important & Extensive Freehold Properties, known by the sign of the HANDEL HOTEL, with Five Other Houses, Buildings, and Land Adjoining, situated at Bleak Heath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, Staffordshire.

Mr. J. S. Parkes has received instructions from Mr. *Charles M'Kenley* to Sell by Auction at the house of Mr. Edward Perrins, the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Church Street, Oldbury, on Friday, October 19th, 1855, at Five o'clock in the afternoon, in three lots, and subject to conditions then to be produced.

All that important, extensive, and recently-erected Freehold Property, situated at Bleak Heath, in the parish of Rowley Regis aforesaid, and known by the sign of the HANDEL HOTEL, with Five other recently-erected and well-tenanted Freehold Houses and Building Land adjoining.

Lot 1. Consists of all that capital, well-built, and recently-erected Freehold Premises, known by the sign of the HANDEL HOTEL; comprising extensive Corner Spirit Shop, fronting the Dudley and Birmingham and Hales Owen and Oldbury Turnpike Roads, Parlour, Smoke Room, Tap Room, Brewhouse, with Cellaring under the whole, six large and lofty Bed Rooms, Concert Room, 74 feet long by 22 feet wide, a Ten-quarter Malthouse, Brewery, Office, Stabling for six Horses, Coach-house, Piggeries, and other Out-buildings, with very large Water Tank, to hold 400 barrels, an excellent Well of Water with Pump, extensive and well enclosed Yard, the whole of which has been built in the best possible manner and regardless of expense.....”

Birmingham Journal 16/5/1857 - Advert

“Unserved Sale. To Pawnbrokers, Dealers, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. J. S. Parkes, on Monday Next, May 18, at the house of Mr. *Benjamin Slim*, HANDEL HOTEL, Black Heath, removed for convenience of sale – a quantity of Drapery Goods and Wearing Apparel.....”

Brierley Hill Advertiser 20/3/1858 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale at the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Detheridge, on Monday next, March 22nd 1858 useful and general Household Furniture removed to Mr. *Benjamin Slim*'s for convenience of Sale.....”

Brierley Hill Advertiser 8/5/1858 - Advert

“Sale at the HANDEL HOTEL, Black Heath, near Rowley.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. W. Hawkins, on Monday, May 17th, 1858, a large quantity of Brewing Utensils, Mashing Tub, Iron Furnaces, Wood Vat, gathering Tubs, well seasoned Casks, Four-pull Beer Machine, Sieve and Piping, Ale and Spirit Measures, Spirit Shop Counter, Screens, Drinking Tables, Window Guards, Pocket of prime Hops, Chairs, Tables, Clocks, Horse-hair Sofa, Chimney Glasses, Chests of Drawers, and other effects, belonging to a gentleman who is leaving the neighbourhood, and removed as above for convenience of Sale.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.”

County Advertiser 8/10/1859

“The inquest on the body of Amos Tout, a tailor, who was found drowned in the canal, near Mr. Badger's furnaces on the day following Rowley wake (as reported in the *Advertiser* a fortnight since), was resumed on Friday last at the HANDEL HOTEL, before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner. Mr. Beattie, surgeon, of Oldbury, deposed to making an examination of the body, but found no marks of bruises or other indications as to the cause of death. A witness, named Haden, stated that the deceased was drinking with him at the CROSS public house, at two o'clock on the night of the wake, and that the road by the canal was in the direction of his home. He left him at the public house. The jury at once returned a verdict of Found Drowned.”

1861 Census

Black Heath – HANDEL HOTEL

[1] *Sarah Jane Slim* (35), unmarried, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Sarah Slim (71), mother, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Hannah Edwards (15), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

Birmingham Daily Post 22/11/1864 - Advert

“HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, near Oldbury.

Clearing-Out Sale of the Public-House Fixtures, Brewing Plant, Seasoned 400-gallon, 120-gallon, and smaller Ale Casks, two tumps of Worcester Hops (1864), capital four-pull Ale Machine, portion of the neat Household Furniture, Eight-day and thirty-hour Clocks, large felt and Kidderminster Carpets, prime home-cured Bacon, strong narrow-wheel Cart, Spring Market Trap, set of Cart Gearing, and other valuable Effects at the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath aforesaid, and which will be sold by auction, by Mr. Chandler, tomorrow (Wednesday), November 23, at Eleven o'clock, by direction of Miss *Slim*, who is leaving.

Catalogues may be had at the place of sale, and of the Auctioneer, High Street, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 17/12/1864

“On Wednesday, Sarah Stokes was brought up in custody, charged with obtaining 10s from *William Laister*, of Blackheath, by means of false pretences. About twelve months ago the prisoner went to Mr. *Laister*, and asked for employment. She represented herself as a widow, and very ill off. Mr. *Laister* agreed to take her into his employment, and she asked for a sovereign to get decent articles of clothing to come with, at the same time referring him for her character to Mr. Jackson, of Stourbridge. He gave her 10s, and he had never seen her since till the previous day, when he gave her into custody, she having come into his house, the HANDEL HOTEL. He had ascertained that her husband was still alive, and that she was living with him. The prisoner was remanded for a week, to allow the police time to enquire into the manner in which she became possessed of property represented by certain pawn tickets found in her possession.”

County Advertiser 14/1/1865 - Advert

“HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, near Oldbury.

To be Let, the above Old-licensed House and Premises, containing Front Corner Liquor Shop, Parlours, Tap Room, very large Concert or Club Room, Bed Rooms, spacious dry Cellars, Brewhouse, Yard, &c. Coming in about £70. Being situated in an important and rapidly improving position on the Oldbury turnpike road, it offers unusual advantages to an enterprising person. Possession may be had at once.

Apply to Mr. Chandler, Auctioneer, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 11/3/1865

“On Wednesday, at the Police Court, William Hodgetts, collier, was charged with assaulting William Steventon, collier, on the 1st inst. The assault took place in the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath (Mr. *Laister*'s). The defendant went to the complainant, challenged him to fight, and then struck him. They had two rounds, after which Steventon sat down on a bench. Shortly after the defendant pulled the complainant off the bench by the hair of the head, and while he was on the ground kicked him in a most severe manner. Mr. *Laister*, landlord of the hotel, stated that he heard Steventon say he would give in to Hodgetts, and afterwards he sat down on a bench. Hodgetts went to Steventon as he sat on the bench and beat him in a severe and cowardly manner. He had forbidden the defendant coming to the house. The defendant was fined 10s and costs; in default twenty-one days. Hodgetts was then charged with being guilty of riotous and disorderly conduct in the HANDEL HOTEL, on the above day. Mr. *Laister* withdrew the case on the defendant promising to keep away from the house and paying the costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/4/1865 - Advert

“To be Let, with immediate possession, the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, near Oldbury. It is situate in a rapidly improving position on the Oldbury Turnpike Road, and near to the intended Railway Station on the Stourbridge Extension Railway, and which will shortly be opened for traffic.

Apply to Mr. Chandler, Auctioneer, Cradley Heath.”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/5/1865 - Advert

“Bleak Heath, near Rowley Regis. The HANDEL HOTEL, and Wine and Spirit Vaults.

By Joseph S. Parkes. To be Disposed Of by Private Treaty, the above Valuable Hotel and Wine and Spirit Vaults, situate as above, and being at the junction of four Turnpike Roads, leading to Rowley Regis and Dudley, Hales Owen, the Quinton, and Oldbury, in the centre of the town, and the nearest to the Railway Station on the Stourbridge Extension Line, in the most improving neighbourhood in the midland counties, and surrounded by important Collieries, Brick Works, Nail, Chain, Rivet, and other Works.

There is a well-attended Market on the Saturday.

The Premises consist of six Bed Rooms, large and well-fitted Concert Room, to seat 400 people, a capital front Spirit Shop, Smoke Room, Tap Room, Cooking Kitchen, excellent Brewery, Coach-house and Stabling, lock-up Yard, with an unlimited supply of hard and soft Water.

The Premises have undergone a through repair and decorations.

To an energetic and business person an opportunity like the present seldom offers itself.

The Premises may be let upon lease, at a very low rental, nominal. Immediate possession may be had.

For further particulars, and to treat, apply to Joseph S. Parkes, Auctioneer, Surveyor, and Hotel Valuer, Wesley Street, Oldbury.”

Stourbridge Observer 15/7/1865

“On Wednesday last at the Public Office, Daniel Parsons, Benjamin Gould, William Slim, William Poole, Joseph Priest, and William Portman, were charged by *Caleb Short*, landlord of the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, with refusing to leave his house, on Saturday night last. From the evidence of Mr. *Short*, it appears that the defendants are in the habit of coming to his house, and causing disturbances. Complainant said he had had a large room used for dancing, &c, to which the public were admitted upon payment of 3d, which was returned in refreshments. Defendants went into this room and commenced fighting, and created a great disturbance. When he told them to leave they refused. They were all, with the exception of Benjamin Gould, who did not take so active a part in the proceedings as the rest, fined 5s and costs, in default 14 days' hard labour, and Gould was ordered to pay costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/11/1865 - Advert

“The HANDEL HOTEL, Black Heath, Staffordshire, near Rowley.

To be Let, the Goodwill and Possession of the above Old-established and spacious Hotel, situated in the centre of a very large and

populous district, surrounded with Chain and Rivet Manufactories, and close to the new line of Railway, and opposite the contemplated Market Hall. The Premises consist of well fitted-up Front Liquor Shop, large Front Tap Room, capital Smoke Room, Back Kitchen, Cooking Kitchen, large Brewhouse, well fitted-up with Boilers, Vats, &c, six Ale Cellars, Wine ditto, large Concert Hall, 70ft long; six Chambers, 3-horse Stable, and Piggeries with spacious Yard, and every convenience for carrying out a large and extensive Business. An excellent Trade is being done. The sole cause of the present Proprietor leaving is on account of indisposition. Stock and Fixtures to be taken to at a valuation. The in-coming will be moderate, and the rent is exceedingly low for such a Premises, only £35 per annum.

For further particulars and to treat, apply to John Bent, Auctioneer and Publicans' Valuer, No.5, Union Street, Dudley."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/1/1867

"A meeting of the members of the Reform League was held at the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, on Tuesday evening, the secretary of the Birmingham Branch of the Reform League was called to the chair. Mr. Hadley moved a resolution, affirming that in the opinion of the meeting, that no bill would be received as satisfactory settlement of the claims of the people unless it embraced manhood suffrage and vote by ballot. Mr. Jennings seconded the resolution, which was supported by Mr. Dalzell, and carried. A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings."

County Advertiser 22/6/1867

"Yesterday morning, an inquest was held at the HANDEL HOTEL, before Mr. E. Hooper, on the body of Joseph Sant, a boy about fourteen years of age. During the night of Tuesday last deceased was at work in the Tump Colliery, at Blackheath, belonging to Messrs. Davis and Son, when a fall of coal took place, and deceased was so severely injured that death almost immediately took place. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

William Hunt was also a pump maker. [1868], [1870]

County Advertiser 17/10/1868

"On Monday afternoon, a meeting was held at the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, Rowley, to hear addresses from the Liberal candidates, Mr. H. W. Foley, MP, and Mr. W. O. Foster, MP. The large room was well filled. Mr. W. B. Collis, of Stourbridge, presided....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 17/10/1868 - Advert

"An Excellent Opportunity.

To be Let, the HANDEL HOTEL, Black Heath, parish of Rowley. The House comprises six Bed Rooms, Concert or Lodge Room, 80 feet long, Liquor Shop, Tap Room, Smoke Room, Cooking Kitchen, Brewhouse, fitted up complete, immense Cellars, Stable and Coach-house, large enclosed Yard, with Entrance Gates. Incoming moderate. The present proprietor having other large business engagements is the only reason for his wishing to decline this Establishment.

For further particulars apply on the premises, or to Mr. T. Danks, Auctioneer, Dudley."

County Advertiser 23/1/1869

"Bankruptcy Act, 1861.

Unreserved Sale, on Tuesday, January 26th, 1869, at the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, near Rowley.

To Publicans, Machinists, Blacksmiths, Brokers, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. John Bent, on Tuesday, January 26th, 1869 (by order of the Official Assignee), the whole of the excellent Brewing Plant, well-seasoned Ale Casks, Spirit Vault Fittings, contents of Concert Room, Vices, Bellows, Round and Square Iron, Hand Lathe, Drilling Machine, Four-horse-power Engine, quantity of New Horse Shoes, Blacksmiths' Tools, &c, together with the Household Furniture, Feather Beds, Linen, Safe, Chest of Drawers, Dressing Tables, Toilet and Chimney Glasses, Cottage Pianoforte, with the usual Kitchen Requisites, belonging to *William Hunt*, a Bankrupt.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock in the Morning

NB. The House and Premises to be Let; and the Fixtures to be taken to at a fair valuation.

Catalogues may be had from George Kinnear, Esq, Official Assignee, Birmingham; the Auctioneer, No.205, Wolverhampton Street, Dudley; or at the place of Sale."

AND

Dudley Herald 23/1/1869

"Bankruptcy Act 1861. Unreserved sale at the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath to be sold by auction the whole of the Spirit Vault Fittings and Brewing Utensils comprising shop counter, 12-pull spirit fountain, excellent 5-pull beer machine (with stop taps and piping), spirit barrels, pewter ale and spirit measures, jugs, cups and glasses, drinking tables, benches, rail-back ditto, stage fittings, well seasoned ale casks, excellent pair of cooking vats, 16 bushel mash tub, 4hp beam engine blacksmith's tools belonging to *William Hunt*, a bankrupt The house and premises to be let."

Birmingham Daily Post 1/2/1869 - Advert

"The Bankruptcy Act, 1861. In the Court of Bankruptcy for the Birmingham District.

William Hunt, of the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Pump Maker, having been adjudged Bankrupt under a Petition for Adjudication in Bankruptcy, filed in her Majesty's Court of Bankruptcy for the Birmingham District, 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 5th day of February, 1869, at Twelve o'clock at noon precisely, at the said Court at Bir-

mingham. Mr. George Kinnear, of Waterloo Rooms, Waterloo Street, Birmingham, is the Official Assignee, and Mr. G. B. Lowe, of Dudley, and Messrs. Hodgson and Son, of Birmingham, the Solicitors acting in the Bankruptcy. Mr. G. B. Lowe, Dudley, Agents. Hodgson and Son, Solicitors, Birmingham.”

County Advertiser 12/6/1869

“The license of the HANDEL HOTEL, Black Heath, was transferred from the assignees of Mr. *William Hunt*, to *William Laister*.”

William Laister = William Lester = William Leicester = William Lister

Stourbridge Observer 3/7/1869

“An inquest was held on Monday last, at the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, before Mr. Hooper, Coroner, touching the death of William Mogg (15).

From the evidence adduced, it appears that deceased was an idiot, and on Friday last got on to the railway at Rowley Station. At four minutes past five a fast train passed the station and knocked deceased down, and so injured him that he died in half an hour after.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/9/1869 - Correspondence

“To the Editor of the *Birmingham Daily Post*.

Sir. The end of the nailers’ strike, on Wednesday, was celebrated at Blackheath by the first and only public gift during the whole length of the strike, through the kindness of Mr. *Laister*, of The Hayes, Blackheath, who gave away upwards of 300 gallons of excellent soup, which was most ably distributed by Thomas Willetts, Edward Hall, and E. Payne, at the HANDEL HOTEL, to nailers, who seemed very thankful for it. If you find a corner in the *Post* for the above, you will much oblige.

A Nailer, September 16, 1869.”

Stourbridge Observer 11/12/1869

“Charles Gadd was charged with assaulting Job Gadd, his cousin, on the 4th inst, at Blackheath. Complainant said he lived at Blackheath, and on the above date he met a friend from America, and together they went into the HANDEL HOTEL. They had not been there long before defendant came in, and, without saying anything, rushed at complainant, struck him twice, and blackened his eye.

Defendant pleaded guilty, and was fined 6d and costs; in default 14 days.”

County Express 19/3/1870

“Joseph Round was charged by the police with being drunk, breaking a cup, and refusing to quit the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, on being requested to do so by the police on Saturday night, the 12th inst. He pleaded guilty and was fined 1s and costs, or in default, fourteen days’ imprisonment.”

County Advertiser 21/5/1870

“*William Laister*, of the HANDEL HOTEL, Black Heath, was summoned by Henry Withers, of Halesowen, on a charge of illegally having in his possession a certain dog. It seemed that some time ago a valuable spaniel dog followed the complainant home. Next day he took it to the police, who recommended him to advertise the dog in the local papers. He had done so, but no owner was forthcoming. A week or two since, the complainant lost the dog, which was found by the defendant, who also advertised it. Complainant applied to defendant for the dog, but he refused to give it up on the ground that he had quite as much right to it as complainant. The Bench ordered defendant to give the dog up at once, and pay the costs.”

County Express 18/6/1870

“Thomas Knight was charged with refusing to assist Police-constable Slynn while in the execution of his duty as a police-constable, in quelling a disturbance, on the 30th of May, on being requested to do so.

Police-constable Slynn said he was attempting to put down a disturbance in Blackheath, on the 30th ult, which had arisen outside a public house, and as the prisoners resisted him, and as there was a large crowd around, he called on defendant and several others to assist him, but he took no notice whatever.

Defendant said the police officer asked a man to assist, ‘and Thomas Knight,’ but he did not think he wanted him or he would have helped. A short time afterwards he asked a policeman what he could do, and he told him to bring a cart to take the men in. He went for a cart but there was one there before him.

He was committed for trial to the Sessions, bail being allowed, on surety in £10.

[At the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions the Grand Jury ignored the bill against Thomas Knight.]

Edward Southwick was also charged with refusing to assist Police-constable Taylor, on the 30th ult, while quelling a disturbance in the highway.

Police-constable Taylor said he and another constable found a man named Stephenton drunk in the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, and requested him to leave. As he refused they endeavoured to move him by force, when he became very violent, and they were compelled to handcuff him. There was a great crowd of people round, consisting of some hundreds. They asked defendant to assist them.

Police-constable Hume, who was with the last witness, gave corroborative evidence.

The Bench discharged the prisoner, as the evidence was not sufficiently strong.”

AND

“John Rose was charged in three different summonses with being drunk and disorderly and assaulting two parish constables, all at the same time, on Tuesday last, very early in the morning.

Police-constable Hume proved that he was drunk and disorderly in High Street, Blackheath, at half-past twelve on Tuesday morning, and creating a great disturbance.

Aaron Moyle, parish constable, said there was a disturbance outside the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath. Police-constable Hume came up and took the defendant into custody, afterwards leaving him in his charge. As several persons were pulling at the prisoner behind, he went towards them, when the prisoner struck him three times in the face and made his nose bleed. He struck him in return about the same number of times.

Parish constable Bennett gave corroborative evidence, adding that the prisoner also assaulted him while he was assisting the last witness.

The prisoner was fined 5s and costs for the assaults, and directed to pay costs for the charge of drunkenness.”

Stourbridge Observer 16/7/1870

“On Tuesday an inquest was held at the HANDEL HOTEL, Rowley, before Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, on the body of Edward Stuart, a collier lately employed at the Gawn Colliery, belonging to Mr. N. Hingley.

It appears from the evidence deceased was working down the pit, when some coal fell on him from the side, and he died in about ten minutes.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Stourbridge Observer 13/8/1870

“At the Petty Sessions, on Wednesday last, *William Laister*, landlord of the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, was charged by Superintendent Mills with permitting drunkenness in his house.

Police-constable Taylor said that he visited defendant’s house, and found a number of men there. Several of them were drunk, and two men, named respectively, Jennings and Allen, were stripped, and standing up to fight. Witness tried to stop it, but defendant told him not to interfere, but to let them fight it out.

Police-constable Young corroborated.

Mr. Hayes then addressed the Bench for the defence, and denied that the defendant had permitted disorderly conduct, and that he had four witnesses to prove that Jennings came into the house and began a quarrel; that he ordered him out of the house, and had summoned him; and denied that he told the police to let them fight.

Ordered to pay the costs.”

AND

“Thomas Jennings was charged by *William Laister* with being drunk, and refusing to quit his house, when requested.

Complainant, who is the landlord of the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, proved the case.

Defendant pleaded guilty, and was fined 1s and costs.”

County Express 27/8/1870

“The annual licensing meeting for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division was held yesterday.....

William Laister, HANDEL HOTEL were all cautioned in reference to the future conduct of their houses.”

Stourbridge Observer 17/12/1870

“Thomas Harvey and William Crumpton were summoned for being drunk and refusing to quit the HANDEL HOTEL, Old Hill, on the 10th inst, when requested.

William Laister said on the above date defendants were in his house, drunk. He ordered them out, and they refused to go, and he had them removed.

Defendants pleaded guilty.

Crumpton was fined 2s 6d and costs; and Harvey 6d and costs.”

1871 Census

Blakeheath

[1] *William Laister* (40), licensed victualler and maltster, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Thomas Willetts (65), general servant, born Rowley Regis:

Stourbridge Observer 9/12/1871

“Noah Barnsley was charged by Joseph Attwood with assaulting him on the 24th ultimo. Mr. Addison appeared for the complainant, and Mr. Hayes for the defendant.

Complainant said he went into the HANDEL HOTEL at Blackheath, on the night of the above date. Several persons were inside the room. A dispute arose about a dog, when the defendant struck him a blow on the chest, which knocked him down. Witness then struck again, when defendant steeped down, put his head between his legs, and threw him over. They both fell together. Defendant got up and ran out of the house. Witness also ran out, because there was a cry of ‘Police.’ Defendant fell down by some palisades, and witness fell over him.

William Cole, a butcher, was called to give evidence, and corroborated the complainant in the assault.

In cross-examination he admitted that he had offered the defendant £2, a leg of mutton, and a bottle of wine to settle it.

The Bench remarked that one side appeared to be as bad as the other.....”

[In January 1873 Noah Barnsley, blacking maker, claimed damages from Joseph Attwood and William Cole, butchers, for £25, for loss of earnings for ten weeks owing to broken ribs. He did not succeed.]

William Laister was also a maltster. [1872]

Birmingham Daily Post 26/7/1872

“The High Price of Meat.

At a meeting of butchers, held on Wednesday evening at the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, Rowley Regis, it was resolved not to kill any animals or sell any meat for fourteen days.”

William Laister was also a brewer and wine and spirit dealer [1873]

Stourbridge Observer 6/6/1874

“At the Police Court on Wednesday last, before Messrs. Barrs and Hingley, *Samuel Hayward*, formerly of Brierley Hill, applied for a transfer of a license from *William Leicester*, of the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath. Superintendent Mills said that before the license was transferred he wished to inform the Bench that the applicant had been convicted twice for keeping a disorderly house, and on one occasion was fined £5, and on another 10s, and also had his license endorsed; but the last conviction was more than twelve months past.

Mr. Hingley: I will not grant a license. Such men as you are not fit to keep a public house.

Applicant: Gentlemen, it is more than eighteen months since I was convicted. Please to give me a chance. The notice is signed by the minister and others.

Mr. Hingley: The minister ought to be ashamed of himself to sign it, and will tell him so the first time I see him.

The Applicant: Please to give me another chance.

Mr. Hingley: No, I shall not. Go and get something else to do to earn a living, and not make men drunk.

The applicant then retired.”

County Express 4/7/1874

“Old Hill, Wednesday, before F. W. G. Barrs and N. Hingley, Esqs.....

The license of the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, was transferred from *William Laister* to *Samuel Hayward*.”

County Express 1/8/1874

“On Saturday last the deputy-coroner W. H. Topham Esq, held an inquest at the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, to enquire into the circumstances attending the death of George Bennett, aged 47, a labourer. It appeared on the Monday previous about 6pm deceased was loading a cart with hay in a field when by some accident he fell off on to the back of his head. He was picked up and taken home but died the next day about three o'clock. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Stourbridge Observer 22/8/1874

“William Portman was charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the HANDEL HOTEL, on the 15th inst. Police-constable Jackson proved the case, and said defendant insisted upon going on the stage, and singing a song, and refused to go when requested.

Defendant said he only wanted to sing a song. Fined 5s and costs, in default 14 days.”

Stourbridge Observer 17/10/1874

“Joseph Walters, a miner, was charged with assaulting *Samuel Hayward*, landlord of the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, on the 3rd inst. Complainant said defendant was very disorderly and when witness refused to fill him any drink, defendant threw a spill box at him, hitting him on the chest. Fined 5s and costs.”

County Express 31/10/1874

“John Laking, saddler, was charged with stealing gas fittings belonging to *William Laister* on Tuesday.

Prosecutor said he lived at Blackheath. He had a sale at the HANDEL HOTEL on Tuesday. From information he received he followed the prisoner who was helping another to carry a clock. The gas pendant produced was found in the clock case.

PC Jackson said he saw the defendant take the gas pendant. Witness told him he must not take it but defendant afterwards put it in the clock case.

Defendant said he found the pendant in the clock case. He took it out, but put it back on being spoken to by Jackson.

The Bench dismissed the case.”

County Advertiser 6/3/1875

“Samuel Ward and John Jones were charged with having, on the 27th ult, been drunk and disorderly and refused to quit the HANDEL HOTEL, Tividale, when requested to do so. Defendant Ward was fined 20s and costs, and the other defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs.”

County Express 24/7/1875

“William Blakeway, ostler, was charged with refusing to quit the HANDEL HOTEL, on the 8th May last. *George Henry Lester*, landlord, said that on the day in question he came to the house and was creating a disturbance and assaulting the servants, and he

was ordered to leave, but he refused. Defendant said that he went for his wages and complainant refused to pay him. Mr. Hingley said the defendant was perfectly justified in refusing to leave until he had received his wages. The case was dismissed.”

County Express 25/9/1875

“William Hodgetts and Michael Bastable were charged with having refused to quit the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, kept by *William Laister*, on the 31st ult.

It appeared that defendants went into prosecutor’s house in a drunken state, and created a disturbance. They were requested by the landlord to leave but refused to do so.

Defendants denied the charge, but previous convictions having been proved they were each fined 40s and costs, or two months’ imprisonment.”

County Advertiser 20/11/1875

“*William Laister*, HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, was charged with selling ale after eleven o’clock on the night of the 6th inst, and before six o’clock on the morning following. Mr. Addison defended.

Police-sergeant Wallace stated that at about fifteen minutes to one on Sunday morning he heard voices in the defendant’s house. On listening he heard defendant say, ‘Bring a quart of ale, some glasses, and some cigars.’ He then entered the house where he found the defendant and a neighbour named Patrick. There was some ale on the table.

Cross-examined: Did not hear of any money, nor see the ale brought in.

Mr. Addison stated that Mr. Patrick had received a cask of ale, and in friendship took some into the defendant’s house. They were discussing it together when the officer came in.

The case was dismissed.”

Dudley Herald 27/5/1876

“The recent efforts to effect an affiliation between the rivet makers of Blackheath and the National Amalgamated Association of Nut and Bolt Makers, are likely to prove satisfactory, the branch formed in the Blackheath district in connection with the National Association three weeks ago now numbering over 60 members. On Monday afternoon the establishment of the branch was commemorated by a tea meeting at the HANDEL HOTEL Assembly Room, Blackheath. About 200 persons sat down, and a public meeting was afterwards held, Mr. B. Hadley, an employer in the district, presiding.....”

Dudley Herald 8/7/1876 - Advert

“HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, Rowley.

Sale of Household Furniture, Brewing Utensils, Horses, Gigs, Spring Traps, Phaetons, Harness, and Sundry Effects.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Bateman, on Monday, the 17th day of July, 1876, upon the Premises at the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, Rowley, a quantity of useful Household and Chamber Furniture, Brewing Utensils, Horses, Carriages, Harness, and a variety of other Effects, belonging to Mr. *Laister*, who is leaving the Hotel, particulars of which will be given in Catalogues of Sale to be had at the place of Sale of from the Auctioneer, Dudley.

Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock precisely.”

County Advertiser 12/8/1876 - Notice

“To the Overseers of the Poor, and the Superintendent of Police, of the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, and to all whom it may concern.

I, *Alfred Cox*, the holder of a Six Days’ Victualler’s License, now residing at Blackheath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, do Hereby Give Notice that it is my intention to Apply, at the General Annual Licensing Meeting for the Division of Rowley Regis, to be holden at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, at Old Hill, in the said County, on the 25th day of August next ensuing, at the hour of 11 o’clock in the forenoon of the same day, for a Seven Days’ License to hold any Excise License or Licenses to Sell by Retail, under The Intoxicating Liquors Licensing Act, 1828, and the Acts amending the same, all Intoxicating Liquors to be consumed either on or off the Premises, situate at Blackheath, in the said Parish, and known by the sign of the HANDEL HOTEL, which said Premises are duly rated for the relief of the poor, as by law is required, of which House and Premises one *William Laister* is the Owner, and the same are now in my occupation.

Given under my hand this 26th day of July, 1876.

Alfred Cox.”

County Advertiser 11/11/1876 - Advert

“Wanted, a strong, honest, industrious Servant Girl. One used to public-house preferred.

Apply Mrs. *Cox*, junr, HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath.”

County Advertiser 25/11/1876

“Christopher Bate was charged with having been disorderly and refusing to quit the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, on the 11th inst. The landlord of the hotel proved the offence, and defendant was then charged, at the instance of Police-sergeant Hand, with being drunk and disorderly in the public highway on the same date.

There were eight previous convictions recorded against him. In the first case he was fined 5s and costs, and in the case of drunkenness sentenced to a month’s hard labour.”

County Advertiser 6/1/1877

“Solomon Roberts and George Hingley were charged with being drunk and disorderly in the public highway, on the 5th inst; Hingley was also charged with being disorderly on the licensed premises of *Alfred Cox*, on the same date. Mr. Hayes defended Hingley.

Police-constable Sykes said that he found the defendants drunk and fighting together in the highway, near to the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath. Mr. *Cox*, the proprietor of the HANDEL HOTEL, proved that defendants were disorderly in his house, and had to be forcibly ejected.

Mr. Hayes admitted that his client had had drink, but denied that he was drunk or disorderly.

The magistrates considered all the cases proved, and fined each defendant 2s 6d and costs for being drunk and disorderly, and Hingley 2s 6d and costs for being disorderly upon *Cox*'s premises.”

County Advertiser 29/9/1877

“Adjourned Licensing Session.....

Alfred Cox, landlord of the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, applied for a seven days' license, his house at present only licensed for six days. Mr. Hayes appeared on behalf of the applicant, and Mr. Addison for the owner of the house, Mr. *Laister*. Mr. Hayes explained the circumstances under which the application was made, stating that when the house was formerly held by the owner, Mr. *Laister*, it was only opened on six days a week, Mr. *Laister* allowing his seven days' license to lapse. The present occupier now asked to resume the full license.

Mr. Addison examined Mr. *Laister* as to his taking a six days' license instead of a seven days' license.

There was no opposition. Application refused.”

AND

“David Parsons of the RAILWAY INN, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, applied for a six-days' spirit license. Mr. Hayes supported and Mr. Addison opposed the application, the latter appearing on behalf of Mr. *Laister*, owner of the HANDEL HOTEL. Mr. Hayes urged that his client had established a car and vehicle agency, and his house being near the railway-station, and not near to any old-licensed house, accommodation of the nature asked for was necessary. Mr. Addison's cross-examination elicited from the applicant that his house was a little over a hundred yards from the HANDEL HOTEL; but he did not think there were seven beerhouses within three hundred yards of it. The magistrates' clerk did not think the latter fact applied to the present case, the application being for a spirit license. Mr. Hayes presented a testimonial, signed by residents of the neighbourhood, in support of his client's application. There was no opposition made to it other than by Mr. Addison. Application refused.”

County Express 26/1/1878

“On Tuesday an inquest was held at the HANDEL HOTEL, on the body of a child named *Eliza Cox*, daughter of the landlord, aged eleven weeks, who was found dead in bed by the mother, on Sunday morning last at ten o'clock. A verdict of Accidentally Suffocated was returned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/2/1878 - Advert

“5s Reward. Lost, from HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, on 2nd inst, large black Dog, white on breast and toes. Answers to Noble. Anyone returning him shall receive the above reward.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/12/1878 - Advert

“The HANDEL LIQUOR VAULT, Market Place, Blackheath, Rowley Regis. By Roderick and Son.

To be Sold (by direction of Mr. Alfred Cox) the 12 years' Lease, Goodwill, and Possession of the HANDEL LIQUOR VAULT, occupying a very important business position in the Market Place at the corner of the Oldbury and Birmingham Roads, at Blackheath, Rowley Regis, with Brewhouse, Malthouse (which can be let off for £30), Stabling, Yard, and Premises.

Coming-in about £600.

Apply to Roderick and Son, Auctioneers, Temple Row West, Birmingham.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/12/1878 - Advert

“The HANDELS HEAD VAULTS, Market Place, Blackheath, Rowley Regis; a genuine Vaults, with large counter and out-door business. Long lease. In-coming about £600.

Apply, Roderick and Son.”

County Advertiser 12/4/1879 - Advert

“Staffordshire. Valuable Building Sites, at Blackheath, close to Rowley Regis Station, on the Birmingham and Stourbridge Railway, and fronting Roads leading towards the same.

Mr. H. King is instructed to Offer for Sale by Auction, on Monday, April, 21st, 1879, at the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, Rowley, at Four o'clock in the Afternoon, and subject to conditions of sale then to be produced.....”

County Advertiser 18/10/1879

“At a meeting of miners held on Wednesday at the New Connection Rooms, Old Hill, to consider the question of wages, it was resolved ‘That inasmuch as the price of furnace coal has been raised, the wages of the men should be increased according to the Birmingham agreement.’ It was further resolved ‘That the Council of the South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire miners' delegates be called together as early as possible to take action in the matter.’ Similar resolutions were passed at a meeting held at the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, on Tuesday night.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/3/1880

“A numerously attended meeting of the supporters of Messrs. Anson and Renton, the Liberal candidates for the Western Division of the county of Stafford, was held last night, in the assembly room of the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath.....”

1881 Census

94, Oldbury Road – HANDEL HOTEL

- [1] *Alfred Cox* (30), licensed victualler and maltster, employing 1 man, born Halesowen;
- [2] Elizabeth Cox (31), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] Alfred Charles Cox (9), son, scholar, born Halesowen;
- [4] Lizzie Frances Cox (8), daughter, scholar, born Halesowen;
- [5] George Henry Cox (6), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Emily Ada Cox (4), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] William Edward Cox (5 months), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] Emma Baker (23), general domestic servant, born Oldbury:

County Advertiser 6/8/1881 - Advert

“HANDEL Brewery, Blackheath, Rowley Regis.

Messrs. Harper and Hackett have received instructions to Offer for Sale, on Tuesday, August 16th, 1881, the whole of the valuable Brewing Plant, consisting of Copper Boiler, Mash Tubs, Copper Refrigerator, Working Squares, Cooling Vats, 6 and 2½ horse power HP Steam Engines, Boiler, Crushers, Barrels, Piping, excellent Gas Plant, in working order; Grand Pianoforte, Traps, Harness, Bay Mare, 15 hands high; and other Effects as per Catalogue.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.

For catalogues and particulars, apply to the Auctioneers, Powke Lane, Rowley Regis.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/9/1881 - Advert

“Housekeeper (respectable, Working) Wanted.

Apply, Walter Cox, HANDEL Brewery, Rowley Regis.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 15/10/1881

“At the Oldbury County Court, on Friday, before Mr. W. D. Griffiths, judge, Edward Darby, miner, of Blackheath, brought an action to recover £11 4s from the trustees of Court Briton’s Glory, Order of Foresters, held at the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, alleged to have been due as sick pay. Mr. Jackson, West Bromwich, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Shakespeare defended. It appeared that the plaintiff met with an accident on the 29th of September, 1876, through which he was thrown upon the funds of the society. According to the rules of the society he received 8s per week for six months, and 6s per week afterwards. At the end of 12 months the pay was reduced to 4s per week, which he was entitled to receive as long as he was unable to follow his employment. The pay was, however, discontinued.

The defence was that the plaintiff, being guilty of a misdemeanour, was suspended on October 23, 1879.

Mr. Jackson contended that the rules only allowed a member to be suspended for one month.

After hearing the case. The Judge gave a verdict for the plaintiff for the full amount claimed, to be paid in a month.”

Wednesbury Herald 7/1/1882

“Traveller wanted in the Beer Trade for Wednesbury and District. Character must bear the strictest investigation. Apply Walter Cox, HANDEL Brewery, Black Heath, Rowley.”

Alfred Cox – see also ODDFELLOWS ARMS, Oldbury.

Dudley and District News 30/9/1882

“Old Hill Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. Oldershaw, Blackheath, applied on behalf of *Thomas Hadley*, the proprietor of the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, for a six days’ license to be altered to a seven days’. Refused.”

AND

County Express 30/9/1882

“Old Hill Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. Oldershaw made an application on behalf of the freeholder of the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, for a license to sell on Sunday. He mentioned that a Foresters’ Club was held at the house, and the funerals sometimes took place on Sundays.

Mr. Bassano said it would be better for the people who attended the funeral if they took tea. They might walk more steadily.

The license was refused.”

Dudley and District News 17/2/1883

“Liquidations. The following persons have filed their petitions.....

Walter Cox, formerly residing at No.32, Birmingham Road, Blackheath, Rowley, brewer and wholesale beer dealer, HANDEL Brewery, Blackheath, but now residing at No.2, Roebuck Lane, West Bromwich, with liabilities estimated at £500.”

County Advertiser 12/5/1883 - Advert

“To Let, at Midsummer next, the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, Rowley Regis.
For particulars, apply to Mr. Oldershaw, Solicitor.”

County Advertiser 16/6/1883 - Advert

“HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. T. Pateshall, on the above Premises, on Monday, June 18th, 1883, the whole of the Public House Fittings and Fixtures, Malting Tools, Quantity of Household Furniture, &c, comprising Cross-leg and Oblong Ale Tables, Lot of Tables and Trestles, Quantity of Seats and Forms, Show Spirit Casks, capital Five-pull Beer Machine and Piping, large Counter with Mahogany Top, Ale and Spirit Measures, large Gas Lamp, Patent Weighing Machine, Gas Fittings, Eight-day Clock, excellent Semi-Grand Pianoforte, suitable for Concert Hall, Windsor Chairs, Mahogany Sofa, elegant Pitch-Pine Chamber Suite, complete; Dog Cart, useful Brown Mare, Malt Screen, Two Malt Crushers, Six Hogshead Casks, small Gasholder, with Retorts, &c; and other Effects, belonging to Mr. *Alfred Cox*, who is leaving the Premises.

Sale at Eleven o'clock in the Morning.

Catalogues may be had at the Place of Sale, and of the Auctioneer, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 15/9/1883

“John Neale, Old Hill, was charged with being drunk on licensed premises on the 4th inst. Evidence was given that defendant was seen staggering about the road by Police-constable Leadbeater, who subsequently saw defendant at the HANDEL HOTEL sitting at a table with his head hanging down. The officer called the landlord's attention to the man's condition, and the landlord said he did not know that the man was there. A witness now stated that defendant was sober when he went to the HANDEL HOTEL. The Bench fined defendant 1s and costs.”

County Advertiser 1/12/1883

“Samuel Kite, labourer, Springfield, Rowley, for being disorderly and refusing to quit the HANDEL HOTEL, was fined 1s and costs.”

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

16th December 1883 - George, son of *Silas* and Mary Elizabeth Downing *Whitehouse*, victualler, the HANDEL.

Silas Whitehouse was also a brewer. [1884]

Dudley and District News 12/1/1884

“Thomas Hill, miner, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, was fined 1s and costs for being drunk on the licensed premises of *Silas Whitehouse*, known as the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, on the 5th inst. PC Leadbeater proved the case.”

Dudley and District News 26/1/1884

“*Silas Whitehouse*, landlord of the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, was summoned for permitting drunkenness. Mr. Waldron appeared to prosecute, and Mr. Shakespeare to defend.

Mr. Waldron, in the course of his opening remarks, ventured to say that until this case came before the Bench they had never had a case before them where a man had been kept in pawn for drink. Thomas Hill, miner, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, stated that on Saturday morning, the 5th inst, about about 8.40, he went to the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, with a man named Thomas Bryant. Bryant left about two o'clock and was to return again, but failed to do so. About four o'clock he was going to leave the house when the landlady wanted him to pay for ten quarts of ale. He declined to pay for it, because Bryant was to pay his share for the ale, and offered to let the landlady kept his watch until he had seen Bryant. The landlady refused to have the watch, and kept him at the house for two hours, and during that time he went to sleep in the kitchen. He left the house about six o'clock, and paid the defendant for the ten quarts of ale on the following Monday morning.

PC Leadbeater deposed to visiting the hotel about six o'clock, and seeing the defendant, who was very drunk, leaning against the wall in the passage.

Mr. Shakespeare, for the defence, stated that the defendant and others went into the house at the time stated, and had the ten quarts of ale between them. About two o'clock they left the house, and the man Hill was not seen there until nearly six o'clock. At two o'clock the men left without paying for the ale that they had had, and when Hill came again about six o'clock, the landlady asked him to pay for it, but he declined to do so. The landlady then went for a policeman, an act that any publican would not have done if he had been guilty of an offence. Was the evidence, being the evidence of a drunken man, reliable as to having obtained beer there, and was it such evidence upon which the Bench could convict a respectable man?

Mr. Bassano remarked that they did not consider this a bad case, but the Bench wanted the publicans of that district to realise the fact that they kept houses for the supply of refreshment, and not for people to be supplied with drink hour after hour. He imposed a fine of 10s and costs.”

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 presented the black list.....

The license of *Silas Whitehouse*, HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, was renewed on the defendant promising to be more careful in future.”

County Express 7/2/1885

“Benjamin Hingley, fruiterer, was charged with being disorderly on the premises of *Silas Whitehouse*, of the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, and refusing to leave when asked to do so. Mr. J. Wright defended.

Prosecutor stated that the defendant came into his house on the 28th ult and asked for some ale. Prosecutor refused to fill any, and told defendant to go out. Defendant returned three times, and struck prosecutor on one occasion.

Defendant was further charged with being drunk and disorderly on the same occasion.

Police-constable Whiston said he was called to the house to put defendant out. Defendant had been ejected twice, and was very disorderly.

Mr. Wright expressed the regret of the defendant at what had occurred, and asked the Bench to deal lightly with the case.

Defendant was then further charged with using threatening language to Joseph Bird on the same night.

Complainant said he was in the Hotel when defendant came in, and in the course of his disorderly conduct defendant threatened to kill him.

A witness named Laister corroborated as to the threats.

On the first charge defendant was fined 5s and costs, or fourteen days, on the second 2s 6d and costs, or seven days, and the third charge was dismissed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/4/1885

“An inquest was held yesterday, before Mr. E. Hooper, at the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, respecting the death of Edward Jones (50), of Long Lane, who expired on the 24th instant. On the day in question, whilst deceased, who is a shoemaker, was working in a shop, he broke a blood vessel, which resulted in his death.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

County Advertiser 28/8/1886

“The annual licensing session for the Petty Sessional division of Old Hill was held to-day.....

Mr. Waldron applied on behalf of *Edward Mason* for the renewal of the license to the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath. Mr. Shakespeare opposed the application. Mr. Waldron said that an order was sent to the *Dudley Herald* for the insertion of the usual notice for two consecutive weeks, but it only appeared once. The mistake was afterwards found out by the proprietors, and a rectification of the mistake was made in the *Midland Evening News*. The application was ultimately withdrawn.”

County Express 11/9/1886 - Notice

“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 or Division of Rowley Regis, in the said County, and to all whom it may concern.

I, *Edward Mason*, Licensed Victualler, the holder of a Six Days' License, now residing at Blackheath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, do hereby give Notice that it is my intention to apply, at the Adjourned General Annual Licensing Meeting, for the Division of Rowley Regis, to be holden at the Public Office, at Old Hill, in the said County, on the 29th day of September next ensuing, for a Seven Days' License to hold an Excise License to Sell all Intoxicating Liquors by Retail, to be consumed on and off the Premises, situate at Blackheath, known as the HANDEL HOTEL, in the Parish of Rowley Regis aforesaid, in pursuance of the Intoxicating Liquors Licensing Act, 1838, and Acts amending the same, of which said premises the Trustees of Mrs. *Laister* are the owners, and the same are of the annual value by law required, and are now in my own occupation.

Given under my hand this 31st day of August, 1886.

Edward Mason.”

County Advertiser 2/10/1886

“Adjourned Licensing Day.....

Mr. Waldron, of Brierley Hill, made an application on behalf of *Edward Mason*, landlord of the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, for a seven days' license. Mr. Vernon appeared to oppose the application.

Mr. Waldron stated that some years ago an agreement was entered into by the different landlords in the neighbourhood to close their houses on Sundays. That was done for a time, but eventually one or two of the landlords withdrew from the agreement, and he now applied for the license to the above hotel to be made into a seven days' license, instead of a six days'. There was ample accommodation at the house for everything, and he might also urge further that there was also a club held at the house, and when a funeral took place the members had to go to the house for their regalia, and also to get refreshment. This generally occurred on a Sunday, because people in the neighbourhood were very poor, and had to bury their dead on Sundays. The other houses which were opened on Sundays were doing good trades, and he thought it was hardly fair to the applicant to have house closed.

Mr. *Laister*, a former tenant of the HANDEL HOTEL, and owner of the property, stated that he entered into an agreement with the other landlords to close the public houses on a Sunday, but some of them soon broke faith, and were now doing a good trade on a Sunday. He would withdraw the application if all the other houses were shut up again. There was ample room at the house for stabling, and *Mason* let out carriages on hire now.

Mr. Bassano stated that a memorial had been presented to the Bench bearing the signatures of all the principal inhabitants of Blackheath, asking them not to grant the seven days' license. As to that part which Mr. Waldron considered made his application stronger, the memorialists stated that the hiring out of vehicles tended to promote the habit of drinking, because a number of young persons would, perhaps, go and hire a vehicle, and before going would have something to drink. The Bench could not set their faces against that memorial, because it was very well known it set forth what was really the truth. At the same time the Bench wished to put all publicans on an equality, and it was rather hard for one publican to have his house shut whilst his opposite neighbour had his house open.

Mr. Waldron said he would promise, on behalf of his client, not to let out vehicles on Sundays, and the Bench then granted the application.”

County Advertiser 24/12/1887

“Arthur Henry Howlett, signalman, Springfields, Rowley, was charged with stealing a bottle of brandy, value 6s, the property of *Edward Mason*, landlord of the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, on the 17th inst. Mr. Jackson defended.

After hearing the evidence Mr. Bassano said there was a doubt in the case, and the defendant would receive the benefit of it, and he would be discharged.”

Edward Mason issued tokens from here.

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.....

Edward Mason, landlord of HANDEL HOTEL. Adjourned for a month.”

County Advertiser 29/9/1888

“The adjourned licensing sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Rowley were held at the Police Court.....

A number of licensed victuallers were called before the magistrates and cautioned, and their licenses were renewed.”

Dudley Mercury 12/10/1889

“Aaron Siviter, Blackheath, was fined 5s and costs for disorderly conduct on the licensed premises of *Edward Mason*, the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, on the 6th inst.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/10/1890 - Advert

“General Servant Wanted, about 19 or 20.

Apply, *Edward Mason*, HANDEL HOTEL, Black Heath, near Dudley.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/11/1890 - Advert

“Blacksmith Wanted, used to shoeing and wheelwright work. Regular job.

Apply, *E. Mason*, HANDEL HOTEL, Black Heath.”

1891 Census

19, Oldbury Road

[1] *Edward Mason* (50), licensed victualler, born Dudley Port;

[2] Sarah Mason (48), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Joseph Mason (21), son, cabman, groom, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Thomas Beel (59), brother in law, boot maker, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Beatrice A. Sidaway (8), granddaughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Sarah Bateman (21), general domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 4/7/1891

“*Edward Mason*, landlord of the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 27th of May. Mr. W. Waldron prosecuted, and Mr. Jackson (West Bromwich) defended.

Mr. Waldron stated that Police-sergeant Salt and Police-constable Jewson visited the defendant’s house on the night in question.

At 9.30 the sergeant went into one of the rooms and saw a man named Danks drunk. Danks went to a counter and asked, ‘Where’s my cup?’ picked up a cup, drank out of it, and asked the police to drink. On the landlord’s attention being called to the man’s condition he said the man came there at 7 o’clock, and he had ordered him out, but had not supplied him with anything. He submitted that if the landlord had the man on the premises from 7 till 9.30 that would not be such a control as was contemplated by the Act. Police-sergeant Salt and Police-constable Jewson were called to support the case for the prosecution.

Mr. Jackson, in defence, said the man Danks came late into the house twice, once at 10 minutes to 7 o’clock in the evening when there were only Mr. and Mrs. *Mason* in the house, and asked to be supplied ‘on the strap.’ *Mason* remarked that he reckoned that was the Missus’s business, and they did not strap anybody. Danks went away and came again, and had only been in a few minutes when the officers came in. A man named Wilson asked him to drink out of his cup and he did so. They refused positively to supply the man.

Defendant was called and swore that the man Danks was not supplied with anything. Danks said he had no money in his clothes, and wanted to borrow money off the customers.

Cross-examined: The man was not on the premises an hour after he came the second time. They ordered the man out because he had no money. The man was not drunk.

The case ended in a dismissal, the Bench remarking that the serving of the beer was not clearly proved.

Danks was fined 2s 6d and costs for being drunk on the premises.”

County Express 22/8/1891

“Joseph Moore, High Street, Blackheath, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of *Edward Mason*, the HANDEL

HOTEL, Blackheath, on the 10th inst.

Police-constable Archer said he saw the defendant go into the Hotel at 7.20 in the morning in a very drunken state.

Defendant was also charged with being drunk and disorderly on the 8th inst.

Fined 5s and costs in each case.”

County Express 12/9/1891

“Joseph Mason, of the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, was charged with furious driving on the 26th ult.

Defendant stated that the horse he was driving was a very restive one, and he could not manage it.

The Bench advised the defendant not to drive a horse he could not manage in future. No fine was imposed.”

County Advertiser 19/3/1892

“On Thursday evening Mr. E. Hooper (Coroner) held an inquiry at the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, relative to the death of Elizabeth Hipkiss (56), Oldbury Road, Blackheath, who only four days prior to her decease was married to a man named Eli Hipkiss (69), labourer, of Blackheath. Mr. A. Tanfield (Solicitor) represented the deceased’s husband.

William Richards, draper, of Oldbury, brother of the deceased, said he had not seen his sister for twelve months, and when he was informed of her death on Monday morning, he was not aware of her marriage with Hipkiss, previous to which she was a widow and bore the name of Sharpe. At his request the registrar (Mr. William Whitehouse) communicated with the Coroner on the matter. Deceased had been a great sufferer from bronchitis, had an affection of the heart, and three months ago had her arm broken. Her father left her a sum of money, which she banked.

John Richards (18), who had lodged with deceased during the last seven years, and a neighbour named Eliza Willetts gave evidence as to deceased having suffered from bronchitis for a long period; and both stated that since the marriage they never saw anything to indicate that man and wife were not living happily and comfortably together.

Eli Hipkiss, husband of the deceased, said he had known deceased for fifteen or sixteen years. He married her that day week, and she died on Sunday evening last. He was sitting in his wife’s bedroom before the fire. On waking up from a short sleep, at about eleven o’clock, he found that deceased had a strange appearance, and called up the witness Willetts, and they found that she was dead. On the Friday night previous he went to Dr. Lyddon’s, Oldbury, for a bottle of medicine for his wife, but when he returned she told him that she had bought some from a man at the door, and she continued to take this latter medicine up to Sunday afternoon. When he married deceased he did not know that she had any money. He had no suspicion on the Sunday that his wife was dangerously ill.

Edwin Richards, another brother of the deceased, admitted he that when he heard of his sister’s death he had suspicions, but these had been entirely dissipated since hearing the evidence. He did not now have desire that a post mortem examination should be held.

The jury returned a verdict of Found Dead in Bed from Natural Causes.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/7/1892 - Advert

“Blacksmith Wanted; married. Good wages. Regular work.

Apply, *Edward Mason*, Blackheath, HANDEL HOTEL, near Dudley.”

County Advertiser 27/8/1892

“Richard Parkes, labourer, Blackheath, was charged with assaulting Henry Parsons, on the 15th inst. Complainant stated that on the date in question he went into the HANDEL HOTEL, and defendant, who had been with a brake to Oxley Moor, came in and said, ‘Here’s a — Liberal —. Get out of the place, all such men as you.’ He began pushing complainant about, collared him by the coat and beard, shook him like a dog, and struck him on the side of the face. This made the second attack defendant had made. He never spoke to the defendant.

The defendant now stated that complainant made some remark about there being enough vagabonds and spongers and hypocrites at Oxley. One word begot another, and complainant struck him with a pint cup.

Two witnesses were called for the complainant. One called for the defence said both complainant and defendant were as bad as one another.

William Parsons, cousin to Henry Parsons, was charged with threatening Richard Parkes. Complainant said he and the complainant in the last case were ‘arguing over politics’ when defendant threatened him. He did not take out the summons until after he himself had been served with the other summons; his business would not allow him to come, but he knew he could get one out time enough.

Mr. Bassano: It’s a great pity you people cannot do without squabbling over politics. Both cases will be dismissed and perhaps you’ll be better friends.”

Edward Brine = Edward Bryant = Edward Bryan

County Advertiser 30/9/1893

“*Edward Bryant*, landlord of the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises, and also with selling ale to a drunken person, David Latham, on the 11th inst. Mr. Waldron defended.

The evidence for the prosecution showed that about eight o’clock on the Monday evening named, Police-constable Poultney in company with Police-constable Wood, went to the HANDEL HOTEL VAULTS, where they saw Latham leaning against the bar in a drunken condition. Wood called the landlord’s attention to him, telling him the man was drunk, and asking him to account for his being there. Defendant denied that the man was drunk, and said he had had no drink there, and he had asked Latham to leave

half-an-hour ago. There were a great many people in the house, and among them a person named Cox, who saw Latham supplied with two pints of fourpenny, and Mrs. Latham, his wife, stated that her husband was tipsy. After an hour and three quarters had elapsed Police-sergeant Salt, accompanied by one the officers mentioned, visited defendant's house, and the former saw Latham coming along the passage leading into the street. Salt also called defendant's attention to the man Latham, and defendant said he had been served with a summons, and it had upset him. Defendant denied having supplied him with any drink, but when an officer served him with the summons on the next day defendant admitted supplying him with two pints.

In cross-examination, Police-sergeant Salt said he had no fault to find with the house, which was quiet on the night in question. Latham reeled when going out of the house.

Mr. Waldron, for the defence, said the true explanation of the whole case was that Latham had received a summons that evening, which had put him about and upset him. There was nothing unusual in his appearance, and nothing to indicate that he was drunk when he was supplied with liquor, or when he came in. He would call evidence in support of this, and, under the circumstances he asked for the Bench to dismiss the case, or if they were satisfied that the case was made out, to inflict a light penalty.

Defendant deposed to having kept the house for thirteen months, and to having kept a house at Staleybridge for eight years.

Joseph Slimm, James Allcock (pianist at the house), and Williams (a comedian in the employ of defendant), gave evidence as to Latham being sober, Allcock stating that he was 'rationally sober.'

The Bench said they considered the case proved, and fined defendant 40s and costs in the first case and dismissed the other charge. Latham was fined 15s for being drunk on the premises."

County Express 16/12/1893

"Alfred Thomas Newman, of Blackheath, was charged with assaulting Sarah Cole, on the 9th inst, by striking her in the eye, in the HANDEL HOTEL. Complainant said she did not wish to press the case against defendant, who was courting her, and they had made it up. Defendant was ordered to pay costs."

County Advertiser 12/5/1894

"Joseph Fletcher, of Blackheath, was charged with being drunk and disorderly on the licensed premises of the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath. It was alleged that on the 4th inst defendant visited the house, and after being served with refreshments, became very violent, used bad language, and refused to leave when requested by the landlord. Defendant said he was not drunk, and the disturbance was caused by a navvy who was there, and who had had seven pints while defendant was there, making, he said, seventeen pints during the day, while defendant only had half a pint.

There was a further charge against defendant of being drunk and disorderly in the Halesowen Road, Old Hill, at 10-45, on the same date. Defendant had been twenty-one times convicted previously. He was fined 5s and costs, in each case."

Birmingham Daily Post 23/8/1894

"The annual licensing sessions for Old Hill were held yesterday.....

Inspector Green stated that the licensed persons who had been convicted were.....

Edward Brine, of the HANDEL HOTEL Blackheath.....

Mr. Bassano said the magistrates had decided to renew the licenses of the three publicans who had been convicted."

County Advertiser 29/9/1894 - Advert

"Blackheath, Rowley Regis.

Sale of Valuable Freehold Full-Licensed House and Premises, known as the HANDEL HOTEL, Maltings, &c; Capital Family Residence and Grounds, known as The Hayes, and other Freehold Properties.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Samuel Jones, at the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, on Tuesday, October 2nd, 1894, at 6pm, for 6-30 prompt, subject to conditions which will incorporate the Common Form Conditions of the Birmingham Law Society.

Lot 1. All that Substantially-built and Commandingly Situated Full-Licensed House and Premises, known as the HANDEL HOTEL, with the Brewery, Stabling and Premises thereto belonging; also that Substantially-erected Ten-Quarter Malthouse and Large Assembly Room over, the whole forming the corner of Halesowen Street and Birmingham Road, in the Centre of Blackheath.

The Hotel and Premises are held on a lease for term of which five years are unexpired at Christmas next. The Malthouse is let to Messrs. J. A. and A. Thompson at an annual rent of £20. The Assembly Room is let to the Salvation Army at a rental of £15 per annum....."

Smethwick Telephone 6/10/1894

"Mr. Samuel Jones, auctioneer, surveyor, and valuer, of Oldbury and Smethwick, submitted for sale by auction, on Tuesday evening, at the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, several valuable and important freehold properties, with the following satisfactory result. Lot 1 comprised the full-licensed house and premises known as the HANDEL HOTEL, with the brewery, stabling, and premises thereto belonging, also the ten-quarter malthouse and large assembly room over, forming the corner of Halesowen Street and Birmingham Road. The hotel and premises are held on lease for a term, of which five years are unexpired at Christmas next. The biddings commenced at £1,000 and rose rapidly to £2,100, at which price it was sold."

County Advertiser 19/10/1895

"Thomas Bateman, a miner, of Blackheath, was charged with being drunk and disorderly on the 5th inst. Defendant created a disturbance in the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, and had to be ejected. When in the street he behaved very badly. Defendant, who had been previously convicted, was fined 20s and costs, or one month's imprisonment."

Indenture 28/10/1896

“All that messuage or dwelling-house situate at Blackheath in the Parish of Rowley Regis in the County of Stafford used as a public house and called the HANDEL HOTEL with the assembly room warehouse stabling piggeries and other buildings thereto belonging thereto.....”

County Express 15/5/1897

“*Edward Bryan*, landlord of the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, was charged with supplying beer in an unstamped measure. Samuel Edward Toy said he asked defendant for a pint of ale, which was served in an unstamped measure, and was four drams deficient. There were some stamped measures in the bar. The Bench reminded defendant that the penalty was a heavy one. He would be fined 10s and costs.”

Alphonse Smets = Alphonse Smetts

County Advertiser 23/7/1898

“Mr. J. W. Clulow applied for the sanction of the Bench to plans for alteration of the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, of which the tenant was *Alphonse Smets*. The application was granted.”

1901 Census

Birmingham Road

[1] *Alphonse Smets* (42), publican, born Ramsgate;

[2] Jane Smets (42), wife, born Kent;

[3] Beatrice Potter (16), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 18/5/1901

“The following persons were summoned for allowing their dogs in the highway without a collar stamped with the owner’s name and address, or a muzzle.....

Alphonse Smetts, publican, Blackheath.....

A fine of 8s 6d, including costs was imposed on each of the defendants.”

County Advertiser 7/9/1901 - Advert

“Unreserved Sales of Dutch Flowering Bulbs, including Hyacinths, Tulips, Crocuses, Narcissus, &c.

Messrs. Cooper and Hill will hold their Annual Sales as follows:

ANCHOR HOTEL, Cradley Heath. Tuesday, 17th September, 1901.

STAR HOTEL, Halesowen. Wednesday, 18th September, 1901.

HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath. Friday, 20th September, 1901.

Sale to commence at Seven o’clock in the Evening.

Catalogues may be obtained from the Offices of the Auctioneers, Halesowen, Cradley Heath, and Blackheath.”

County Express 6/9/1902

“On Thursday evening a miscellaneous concert for a charitable purpose was given at Mr. *Smets*’s, the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath. The Blackheath Prize Band (conductor, Mr. German) gave a selection; piano, cornet, and violin trios and a musical sketch were given by Messrs. Wittall, Broughton, and Hackerson, songs by Mr. German, Mr. J. Shirley, and Mr. B. Whitman, and recitations by Mr. T. Lord.”

County Advertiser 1/11/1902 - Advert

“Monday, November 3rd, 1902. HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath.

E. H. Boilstone has received instructions from Mr. *Smets* (owing to alterations at the above hotel) to Sell by Auction, on Monday, November 3rd, 1902.

17 Strong Store Pigs, 4 Open Gilts, Sow (in pig), Pony 13 hands; 2 Cart Horses, 16 hands, in hard condition, working up to the day of Sale; Rubber-tyred Cart, suit 14 hands Horse; Pony Cart, Warner Wheels; 2 Strong Tip Carts, Sets of Single and Double Harness, Dog Cart, Traps, Four-wheel Van, with Pole and Shafts complete; Chaff Engine, Dog Kennel, Step Ladder, Corn Bins and Boxes, and numerous other Effects.

Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock.

Auctioneer’s Offices – Old Hill, and Blackheath.”

County Advertiser 13/6/1903

“On Saturday night the members of the Rowley Regis Fire Brigade were entertained to the first annual dinner by the members of the District Council, at the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath. The gathering took place in the large assembly room adjoining the premises, and a capital repast was placed on the tables by the host, Mr. *Alphonse Smetts*.....”

Tipton Herald 5/9/1903

“On Tuesday night a smoking concert promoted by the Blackheath Village Prize Brass Band was held at the Assembly Room at the HANDEL HOTEL. The vocalists were Messrs. F. Willetts, W. Davies, and W. Stansbie, whilst selections of music were rendered by the Blackheath Band. The proceeds were in aid of the Crystal Palace Band Contest fund.”

County Advertiser 24/10/1903

“A young man, named Alexander Haden, of Mott Street, Blackheath, was charged with doing wilful damage to a plate glass window at the HANDEL HOTEL, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, to the extent of £4 10s, belonging to the North Worcestershire Breweries Company Limited on the 18th inst.

Alphonse Smets, the landlord of the house, stated that shortly after he had retired to rest on the morning in question he heard a crash in the lower part of the premises which was followed by another one immediately afterwards. Upon going down the stairs he discovered that the plate glass window had been broken in two places.

A man named William Howard deposed to seeing prisoner hurl a couple of stones through the window.

Prisoner admitted the offence, and expressed regret at his conduct.

He was sent to gaol for two months, with hard labour.”

County Advertiser 26/12/1903

“A dinner of the members of the Blackheath and Rowley Regis Conservative and Unionist Association took place on Friday last at the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath. Mr. W. H. Taylor, presided.....”

County Advertiser 13/8/1904

“On Tuesday night a complimentary dinner to Mr. George Hadley (vice-chairman of the Halesowen District Council) upon the occasion of his safe return from America, was given at the HANDEL HOTEL. Dinner was served up in good style by the host, Mr. A. Smets.....”

County Advertiser 20/8/1904

“On Wednesday morning an inquest was held at the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, by A. A. Betham (Deputy Coroner), touching the death of Edward Williams (52), labourer, of Mott Street, Blackheath which occurred suddenly on the 14th inst. It appeared from the evidence that on Sunday deceased was in his usual state of health, but suddenly he complained of violent pains in his stomach. He appeared to recover, but was taken ill again the same evening, and died an hour and a half later. Dr. Beasley, who had made a post mortem examination, attributed death to syncope, brought about by the fatty state of deceased’s heart. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

County Advertiser 18/3/1905

“The benefit concert held at the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, on Thursday last week, has resulted in obtaining £22 for the beneficiary, Mr. Sam Jones. Flags and plants lent by Mesdames Freer, Beasley, Pittaway, Patrick and Hill, gave a bright appearance to the assembly room.”

County Advertiser 16/8/1905 - Advert

“A Dahlia Show will be held in the Assembly Hall, Blackheath, on the Rowley Wake Tuesday & Wednesday, September 19th and 20th.

For Schedules and Particulars apply, the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath.”

County Advertiser 23/9/1905

“On Tuesday afternoon an exhibition of dahlias, fruit, flowers, and vegetables, under the auspices of the Blackheath and District Floral Society, was opened in the Assembly Rooms, Blackheath.....

Mr. A. Smets very artistically draped the room of the HANDEL HOTEL and decorated it with laurel and ivy and fifty flags, and also made a beautiful memorial cross with white and green moss, red berries, lilies of the valley, red chrysanthemums, red geraniums, etc.....”

County Advertiser 31/3/1906

“James Jones, a driver, of Illey, Halesowen, was charged, under the Highways Act, with being an improper distance from his vehicle on the 8th inst. Police-constable Munslow stated that he saw the defendant’s horse and vehicle standing outside the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, for twenty minutes. A fine of 10s was imposed.”

County Advertiser 4/8/1906

“On Monday afternoon the second annual show of the Blackheath and District Floral Society was held at the Hayes, Long Lane Amongst the exhibits which were not for competition, Mr. *Alfonse Smets*, the secretary of the society, showed a cross dressed with sweet peas which had been dyed. He also had a good exhibition of mushrooms and carnations The arrangements for the show were carried out in admirable style by a committee, Mr. *Alfonse Smets* performing the duties of secretary very creditably.”

County Advertiser 16/3/1907

“The Floral Society held their third annual meeting at the HANDEL HOTEL last Friday evening. Mr. J. D. Pittaway presided, and the balance sheet for last year’s exhibition was presented. This showed a surplus of over £11.....”

County Advertiser 30/3/1907 - Correspondence

“.....On turning to leave the building the retiring audience is confronted with a wide open door leading into the tap room of the HANDEL HOTEL. The exit into the street down a narrow staircase soon becomes congested, so that the people are almost forced

through the door, which is immediately near the top of the steps.

This is such an objectionable feature of the building as no licensing authority ought to allow. It is enough – yes, too much – that the vendors of the greatest enemy of the moral and spiritual life of men should be allowed the privilege by law to keep open their establishments on the Sunday, without being given the liberty to offer any other allurements. This desecration of the Lord's Day is a scandal and an offence to Godfearing people, and, if allowed to continue, will have a most demoralising effect on the younger generation.

Thanking you in anticipation, I am, yours sincerely, S. H. G. Bates, Holt Road, Blackheath.”

County Advertiser 1/6/1907

“Rowley Regis Urban Council.

The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from the Blackheath and District Free Church Council, calling attention to the fact that in a room known as the Hippodrome at Blackheath, where performances were held, there existed a door leading directly into the tap room of the HANDEL HOTEL. This door was thrown wide open during the performances, thus creating a great temptation to the persons visiting it, the majority of whom were boys and girls. The stairway leading into the street was very narrow, and consequently easily overcrowded. The temptation to go immediately from the Hippodrome room to the public house had therefore increased. They regarded this as a serious menace, not only to the young people but to the churches. They were therefore strongly opposed to increased inducements of the character referred to, and they requested the District Council to bring pressure to bear upon the licensing justices with a view of refusing the renewal of the license. The letter was signed by the Rev. J. S. Jones and Mr. E. E. Whitehouse on behalf of the Free Church Council.

The Chairman said this was a matter of great importance, and one which he thought should be referred to the licensing justices.

There was no doubt that some promise was made with regard to the doorway when the license was granted.

Mr. Tibbetts said all the publicans would desire a similar privilege.

Mr. Harris said he was one who inspected the Hippodrome premises, and he was under the impression that there was to be no communication between that place and the public house. He was staggered when he found that it was open for public amusement. He did not know whether the place should have a license.

Mr. Hadley said he was another of the committee who inspected the place, and they came to the conclusion that if a crowd assembled on the room floor it would swamp it.

The Chairman remarked that the Hippodrome had had a very bad effect upon Blackheath. It was disgraceful that they should be able to carry on a place of amusement so close to a public house, and allure people, or practically push them, into the public house.

Mr. Hadley proposed that the letter be forwarded to the licensing justices.”

Tipton Herald 14/8/1909

“At the Halesowen Police Court on Tuesday, Mr. *Alphonso Smets*, of the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, was granted a license to sell intoxicants in the grounds on the occasion of the Halesowen Swimming Club Sports on August 21st.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/12/1910

“Through the generosity of the leading tradesmen of Blackheath two hundred of the aged poor of Blackheath and district were entertained last evening to a dinner or roast beef and plum pudding in the Assembly Room at the HANDEL HOTEL. They were waited upon by the tradesmen, and a splendid evening's entertainment was provided. Many of the guests expressed their warm appreciation for the kindness shown towards them during the festive season in Blackheath and district.”

1911 Census

Oldbury Road – HANDEL HOTEL

[1] *Alphonse Smets* (52), publican, born Ramsgate, Kent;

[2] Jane Smets (52), wife, married 33 years, born Herefordshire;

[3] Ethel Hollinshead (18), general domestic servant, born Langley:

County Express 30/9/1911

“On Monday a meeting of carpenters and joiners in Blackheath district was held at the HANDEL HOTEL under the auspices of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners for the purpose of establishing a branch.”

County Express 13/7/1912 - Advert

“HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, Staffs.

Alfred Hill has been instructed by Mr. *Alphonse Smets* (who is leaving the district), to Sell By Public Auction, on the Premises as above, on Monday, the 22nd day of July, 1912.

A Quantity of Surplus Household Furniture and Effects.

Sale to commence at 2 o'clock sharp.

Auctioneer's Offices: Old Hill and Halesowen.”

Alphonse Smets – see also RAILWAY, Church Street, Stourbridge.

County Express 20/7/1912

“Auction Summary.

Furniture. Monday, July 22nd. HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, by Mr. Alfred Hill.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 4/1/1913

“The annual dinner given to the old people in the Blackheath district took place on Tuesday night at the assembly rooms at the HANDEL HOTEL. About 300 persons were provided with an excellent dinner, consisting of beef, mutton, and vegetables. Afterwards the men were the recipients of pipes and tobacco, and a concert was given. The total cost, amounting to about £13, was raised in a voluntary manner by the tradesmen.”

Smethwick Telephone 14/6/1913 - Advert

“The Birmingham & Midland Motor Omnibus Company Ltd.

Oldbury & Blackheath Motor Omnibus Service.

Commencing Saturday, May 24th, 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.”

Evening Despatch 3/1/1914

“On New Year’s Eve 250 old folks of Blackheath were entertained to dinner at the HANDEL HOTEL. The affair is annually arranged by a committee, of which Mr. George Ward is chairman. The oldest person present was Mr. Whittall, who will shortly attain his 90th year, and beside whom some of those of 60 and 65 were mere boys and girls. Donations were received from the Right Hon. J. W. Wilson and Sir George Hingley, and others”

Birmingham Mail 27/3/1916 - Advert

“Cart Horses (several), 2 Mares in foal, 16 to 16-3 hands; good workers.

HANDEL HOTEL, Black Heath.”

Birmingham Daily Mail 17/5/1928

“An important decision concerning the presence of children on licensed premises during opening hours was made by Old Hill magistrates yesterday.

Summonses against *Albert Rose*, manager of the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, licensee, for allowing children under 14 years of age to be in the bar, were dismissed on the grounds that they were in a room adjoining the bar, and that while there was consumption of intoxicating liquor there was not actual sale there.

Police-sergeant Perkins said he found in a room adjoining the bar about 40 women who were either drinking or had beer in front of them. Three women each had a child in her arms.

The manager said the room was not licensed, and no money was taken in the room, the customers fetching their own beer from the bar.

In cross-examination the witness said he saw notices to the effect that it was a children’s room.

Alice Young, aged 33, of 41, MacMillan Road, Blackheath, summoned for giving beer to her 14-months-old child, was warned and ordered to pay costs, 7s 6d.”

The HANDEL HOTEL gets a mention in a murder trial in 1933 – see under CALIFORNIA.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/11/1934

“A protest against the granting of a public house license to a man already engaged in other work was made by an outgoing tenant at Old Hill yesterday. Application was made by *John Jones* for the temporary transfer to him of the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, from *Walter Edmunds*.

When asked if he had any objection to the transfer, *Edmunds* said, ‘I think there should be an objection. This man is at work, he is also a pensioner, and now he wants another job as well. I don’t think it’s fair for one man to have two situations while another has to go on ‘the labour.’ This house does plenty of trade – quite sufficient to pay a wage to allow a man to stop away from other work.’

After Supt. Elliott had said that *Jones*’s character was quite satisfactory, and he could not offer any objection, the magistrates granted an interim license.”

1939 Register

1, Oldbury Road

[1] *John James*, date of birth 13/7/1898, manager licensed house, married;

[2] Alice James, dob 4/2/1902, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] Doris I. (James) Grady, dob 14/2/1923, station winder, single;

[4] Lilian A. (James) Pullen, dob 4(5)/2/1925, station winder, single;

[5] Alice Taylor, dob 5/12/1875, paid, domestic, widowed:

Tipton Herald 19/5/1956

“Over 250 birds from various parts of England and Ireland were on display at the annual open singing contest of Blackheath and District Roller Canary Society, at the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, on Saturday.

Most successful competitors were Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Shenton, of Oldbury, whose birds won cups for the best novices and the best team of three canaries.

Cups for the best amateur young bird and best bird of any age went to Mr. and Mrs. R. Arnold, of Acocks Green, Birmingham.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Gwilliam, of Walsall, were awarded a trophy for the champion young bird.

Judges were Messrs. G. H. Perks (Stourbridge), L. J. Hardwick (Brierley Hill), J. Tighe (Dudley), A. J. Freeth (Birmingham), and D. Gwilliam (Walsall).

Prizes were distributed by Mr. G. H. Perks, President of the National Roller Canary Society.”

[1967]

Closed

It was demolished in 1969.

A shop was built on the site in the 1970s (occupied by Kwik Save and later Wilko).

HANDLE BAR

95, High Street, CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

Fixed Wheel Brewery [2021]

LICENSEES

Penny Birks (2021 – [] manager

NOTES

It was originally a shop.

It opened in November 2015 as the BLACKCOUNTRYMAN.

It was renamed PRESLEY’S BAR. [2016]

It had its licensing hours extended by the council in March 2016.

[2018]

It was renamed 95 BAR & LOUNGE.

It closed in 2019.

It opened on 27th August 2021 as HANDLE BAR.

Halesowen News 25/8/2021

“Fixed Wheel Brewery is just days away from opening its new micro bar in Cradley Heath. The HANDLE BAR, on Cradley Heath High Street, will be the award-winning brewery’s second micro-bar. Based on Long Lane in Blackheath, the brewery also runs the WHEELIE THIRSTY micropub on Halesowen Road, Old Hill. It has spent tens of thousands of pounds completely

gutting and transforming the former PRESLEY'S BAR in Cradley Heath. The bar, which will be a live music venue hosting local bands on Saturday nights, is all set to open to eager punters at noon on Friday (August 27). It has a capacity of 120 inside as well as an outdoor beer garden and is creating five new jobs.

Penny Birks, manager, said, 'It looks fantastic. We've been doing the work for a couple of months now and the transformation is amazing. I'm really excited about it. The way things have been going with the WHEELIE THIRSTY micropub being busier than ever is great. As soon as we reopened everyone came back in floods. We will see how the live music goes at the HANDLE BAR on a Saturday and if there's demand we may do other nights with live music as well.'

The brewery is owned by semi-professional cyclist Scott Povey. The record-breaking time trialist successfully combined his two greatest passions to create Fixed Wheel Brewery. The brewery has gone from strength-to-strength winning multiple awards. It sells beers from its website at fixedwheelbrewery.co.uk and its tap room is open to the public every Friday from 4pm – 10pm and on Saturdays from 11am till 10pm. A micro-bar which it opened on Lye High Street, unfortunately closed before lockdown. The HANDLE BAR will open from Thursdays to Sundays from noon till 11pm. It has ABK lagers, ales, ciders and gins as well as other spirits. Fixed Wheel beers are on offer along with a selection of guest ales."

Halesowen News 1/9/2021

"The opening of a Cradley Heath micro bar has been hailed a success after punters flocked to the new venue. Fixed Wheel Brewery has opened the HANDLE BAR, on Cradley Heath High Street. Manager *Penny Birks* said the opening night on Friday (August 27) was a huge success. She said, 'It's been fantastic. We had a really good turnout on the opening night – it was a great atmosphere, really busy all evening. We were busy all weekend. We have had lots of new faces which has been lovely as well as customers from our other bar. We have had really good feedback from our customers so fingers crossed for the future!'"

[2021]

HAND OF PROVIDENCE

55, (48), Holly Bush Street, (Meredith Street), (48, Spinners End), CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

Benjamin Price
Julia Hanson and Sons Ltd.

LICENSEES

Thomas Price [1881] – [1901]
Benjamin 'Ben' Price [1903] – [1909]
Mrs. Annie Price [1911]
Thomas Price [1912]
Benjamin Price [1916] – 1930);
Walter Ernest Lloyd (1930 – 1937);
Albert Cyril Broadhurst (1937 – 1964);
Walter Stanley Corbett (1964 – 1965);
Kenneth John Collins (1965 – []

NOTES

48, Spinners End [1881]
48, Holly Bush Street [1891]
Meredith Street
55, Holly Bush Street [1901], [1939], [1940]

A date stone near the top of the building said 'Park Street. 1851'.

It was known locally as "Posh's".

It had an ante '69 beerhouse license.

Thomas Price married Sarah Ann Tromans.

Arthur Tromans, Sarah's brother, worked for *Thomas Price* as a chainmaker and brewer.

County Advertiser 22/1/1881

“A gale of unusual violence passed over Cradley Heath district on Tuesday, and continued during the night until noon on Wednesday. The unseen element in its unbridled passion was simply merciless, and carried everything before it A roof was blown off a chain warehouse at Spinners End, belonging to Mr. *Thomas Price*, of the HAND OF PROVIDENCE INN. Considerable damage was done to the building and stock. On Wednesday there was a heavy downfall of snow, accompanied by a strong wind, which drifted the snow into high piles at various points, rendering traffic – both vehicular and foot – a very difficult matter. The weather continues intensely cold.”

1881 Census

48, Spinners End

- [1] *Thomas Price* (34), beer seller, born Cradley Heath;
- [2] Sarah A. Price (31), wife, born Cradley Heath;
- [3] *Benjamin Price* (11), son, born Cradley Heath;
- [4] Thomas Price (10), son, born Cradley Heath;
- [5] Caroline Price (7), daughter, born Cradley Heath;
- [6] Elizabeth Price (3), daughter, born Cradley Heath;
- [7] William Price (10 months), son, born Cradley Heath;
- [8] William Tromans (15), brother in law, chain maker, born Cradley Heath;
- [9] Arthur Tromans (14), brother in law, chain maker, born Cradley Heath:

County Advertiser 8/10/1881 - Advert

“Reddal Hill, Cradley Heath.

Highly Important and Valuable Freehold Property, situate at Reddal Hill, Cradley Heath, consisting of Noted Old-established Full-licensed Inn, capital Beerhouse, &c, &c, both transacting good Businesses.

In Liquidation. Re Benjamin Price.

Mr. Herbert Humphries (in conjunction with Mr. William Edwards) has been favoured with instructions from the Trustees, Messrs. Felix Coley and Samuel Edwards, of Cradley Heath, to Offer by Auction, at the house of Mr. Charles Yardley, the CHAINMAKERS ARMS INN, Four Ways, Cradley Heath, on Tuesday, October 11th, at Six for Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions to be then read. . . .

Lot 3. All that Old-established and well-situated Inn, known as the HAND OF PROVIDENCE, together with the Building Land adjoining, having a frontage to Park Street of 34yds 2ft, and containing in the whole 824 square yards or thereabouts, in the occupation of *Thomas Price*, at the low yearly rental of £20, comprising Bed Chambers, Club Room, Smoke and Tap Rooms, Bar Parlour, capital Cellaring, Brewhouse, and Chain Shops, 25yds by 5yds 2ft. . . .”

Dudley and District News 29/7/1882

“*Thomas Price*, HAND OF PROVIDENCE INN, Park Street, Cradley Heath, was summoned that he being a licensed victualler did unlawfully permit drunkenness upon his licensed premises. Mr. Warmington, Dudley, defended.

PC Rowlands said about 7pm on the 10th inst he and Titherley visited the defendant's house, and saw a man named Levi Stevens drunk in the taproom. They called the landlord's attention to him, and he was eventually led out.

For the defence Benjamin Tromans, chainmaker, said he remembered the police officer coming in on Monday the 10th inst, and saw Levi Stevens there. He was not supplied with drink by the landlord, but witness and his friends gave him three or four glasses. The landlord's wife ordered Stevens out, and in about five minutes after he came in again, and about ten minutes after the police came. Stevens was neither drunk nor sober, but he had had a 'drop.'

Cross-examined by Superintendent Wollaston: The landlady ordered Stevens out before the police came. She said, 'Now Stevens go out; you have had enough.'

The Bench said there was not the least doubt that the man was drunk, and they would find defendant 2s 6d and costs, or in default seven days.”

Dudley and District News 12/8/1882

“Levi Stephens, ironworker, was charged with being drunk on licensed premises on the 10th of July.

PC Rollins, in company with another officer, visited the HAND OF PROVIDENCE beerhouse, at Cradley Heath, and found defendant in the taproom, very drunk.

Defendant admitted the charge. Fined 5s and costs or 14 days.”

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. . . .

Thomas Price, HAND OF PROVIDENCE, Park Street, Cradley Heath, permitting drunkenness, fined 2s 6d 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."

County Advertiser 2/7/1887

"*Thomas Price*, landlord of the PROVIDENCE INN, Holly Bush Street, Reddal Hill, was charged with having on the 22nd ult sold ale in a garden, he not being authorised to do so by his license. Mr. E. M. Warmington (Messrs. Warmington and Thompson, Dudley) appeared for the defence.

Police-sergeant Hayward stated that he went into the garden, which adjoins defendant's house, and found the defendant and a number of other men there, sitting round a table. On the table was a number of glasses and two quart jugs, and underneath was a large stone jar. Defendant admitted supplying the beer, but said he was not paid for it there. The men were all drunk.

In cross-examination Hayward said he did not know that the men who were with the defendant worked for him. Did not know who the land belonged to.

Police-constable Cartwright was called in, and gave corroborative evidence, and added that his attention was called to men in the garden by some neighbours, who complained of the conduct of the men. He cautioned defendant previous to the visit of Sergeant Hayward.

Mr. Warmington, in defence, said he thought the Police had been made use of by some neighbours close by who wished to persecute defendant, and another unfortunate thing was that it occurred on the day after jubilee day. Not until the day mentioned in the charge had benches been placed in that garden, although the men had gone into the garden on previous occasions to drink their ale. His client, however, was prepared to promise that no one should go into the garden any more, as it was really no advantage to him.

The Bench said the least fine they could inflict was 10s and costs.

Mr. Bassano said that such questions as these in the licensing laws ought not to be played with."

County Express 8/12/1888

"Benjamin Darby, anchor smith, Holly Bush Street, Cradley Heath, was remanded for a week on a charge of doing bodily injury to Daniel Woodhall, shackle maker, on the 24th ult.

Inspector Walters stated that on the date named complainant and defendant were drinking together in the HAND OF PROVIDENCE INN, Holly Bush Street, when they began a quarrel. They went outside and defendant struck, bit, and kicked complainant, breaking two ribs, discolouring one eye, and bruising other parts of his body.

Bail was allowed, defendant in his own recognisance of £50, and two other sureties of £20 each."

Dudley Mercury 12/1/1889

"At the Rowley Police Court, on Wednesday, before W. Bassano, H. T. Hickman, and H. A. Wiggins, Esqs, Benjamin Darby, anchor smith, Holly Bush Street, Cradley Heath, was charged with inflicting grievous bodily harm upon Daniel Woodall, shackle smith, Cradley Heath. Mr. W. Waldron defended.

Complainant said he met the defendant in the HAND OF PROVIDENCE INN, Holly Bush Street, Cradley Heath, between five and six o'clock at night. Defendant asked witness to drink with him, but witness refused. The defendant began to grumble because witness would not drink with him, and said, 'That's the — way is it?' Witness was sober when he went into the house. His wife came in and had share of beer, and some words took place between him and the defendant. When he got up to leave defendant said, 'Go Dan, and God bless thee.' He went round the partition, and the defendant struck him. Witness went into the yard, and finding the door locked he had to climb over the gate into the street, and remained there until his wife came out through the house. Defendant then came up to him, struck him on the eye, knocked him down, and got on him and punched him on the head and face. Witness was taken into the house, and the defendant went away. Shortly afterwards he went to Preston's, and finding that his money was lost, went back to look for it in the street where he had been down. While he was looking for his money, he heard a woman say, 'Here he is, Ben; come out and give it him again.' The defendant then came out and struck him on the side of the head and mouth as he was stooping for his money, he was knocked down, then kicked by some one, but he could not tell by whom, because he could not see. The defendant had something on his hands when he struck him. He was kicked under the mouth, on the ear, and in the ribs, and was rendered unconscious. When he came to his senses he was held by his wife, and was taken home and put to bed. The doctor came to see him on the 3rd. He was in great pain, and there were twelve cuts on his face. Dr. Standish attended him for a month, and he was in bed for a fortnight.

In cross-examination witness said he did not strike the defendant back over the partition. When he went to look for his money he did not go to the defendant's entry and fall down on his ribs.

Mr. Waldron: Did you not say in Stanley's what you would do to the defendant on the following Monday?

Witness: I said I should not work until I had satisfied myself. I wanted to know what he did it for. He has been sneering me for some time in the works.

Sarah Ann Woodall corroborated.

A boy named Preston, residing in Holly Bush Street, Cradley Heath, said he saw the defendant kick the complainant in the ribs whilst he was on the ground in Holly Bush Street.

Joseph Danks, groom, Cradley Heath, said he saw defendant strike the complainant in the eye, knock him down, and then kick him in the ribs twice and fall upon him. The defendant punched the complainant about the head and face with some iron rings.

Witness asked the defendant on his doorstep what he had done it for, and he said, 'I'll give it the — up the ribs; I've given him what he asked for.' Defendant then showed witness the iron couplings on his hands.

James Smart, signalman, corroborated.

Dr. Standish, Cradley Heath, said that he was called to see the prosecutor on the 4th, and on examining him found several marks about the face. He had two black eyes, and the under lip was cut nearly through, and one of his teeth was knocked out. He also had two fractured ribs on the right side of the body, and several bruises. The ribs might have been fractured by a kick or a fall on a step.

Police-constable Hinsley said that when charged defendant said, 'All right, I will go with you quiet if you will not put the hand-cuffs on me; I am very sorry this has happened. I heard this morning that he was dead, but I think he is acting it a bit. If his ribs are broken I am very sorry. He walked home afterwards. He must have broke his ribs going home. I never kicked him. I only struck him once in the face, and I was obliged to do that to keep him away from me.' When at the station defendant said, 'I did not kick him; he must have fell against the step.'

The Bench said they would deal with the case themselves.

Mr. Waldron said that that would relieve him of a great amount of difficulty, and the question was whether his client kicked the prosecutor in the manner alleged. He would satisfy the Bench that it was a public house brawl.

The Bench said that it came to this, that if it had not been for the ribs being fractured it would have been a public house brawl and fight, but the excessive injury made the case one of aggravated assault.

Mr. Waldron said the defendant had been seriously injured either by a kick or by a fall on to some steps. He had told the defendant that he ought to make some compensation to the prosecutor for the injuries he had received, as he had no doubt suffered a lot of pain, and would also lose a month's wages. The defendant had a good character. On the day in question there was a quarrel in the public house, and the complainant was locked in the yard by the publican on account of his conduct. The complainant got over the wall or gate, and he and the defendant had a fair stand-up fight. About an hour after this the complainant went to the defendant's entry and challenged him to fight, and said he would knock the defendant's neck in. A fight took place and the complainant was knocked on to a stone step by the defendant.

William Billingham said he was in the HAND OF PROVIDENCE with the defendant on the night in question. Woodall came in, and after a time got to high words with Darby, and the landlord put Woodall and his wife into the back yard. No blow was struck in the house.

Arthur Tromans, chainmaker, said that he saw the complainant near the defendant's entry cursing and swearing and using threats towards the defendant, saying that he would break his — neck. The defendant came down the entry, and Woodall struck him. They began to fight, and Woodall was knocked on to a step by a blow given by the defendant. Darby did not kick the complainant.

Kate Male, Springfield, James Homer, and Ann Homer, Spinners End, corroborated.

The Bench said that it was a very serious case, and they had some doubt as to whether they should deal with it or not. They would give the defendant the benefit of any possible doubt as to the falling on the step, but a most serious assault had been committed upon Woodall. Defendant would be fined 20s and costs, or one month's imprisonment. They would have fined him 40s and costs had it not been for the costs being so exceptionally high, the costs amounting to £4 13s 6d. The case lasted nearly four hours."

1891 Census

48, Holly Bush Street

[1] *Thomas Price* (44), publican, chain maker, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Sarah A. Price (40), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] William Price (10), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Carry Price (17), daughter, barmaid, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Elizabeth Price (13), daughter, born Rowley Regis:

Thomas Price beer retailer and chain manufacturer, Holly Bush Street. [1896]

1901 Census

55, Holly Bush Street – HAND OF PROVIDENCE INN

[1] *Thomas Price* (54), innkeeper and chain maker, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Sarah A. Price (51), wife, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 29/8/1903

"*Benjamin Price*, landlord of the HAND OF PROVIDENCE INN, Holly Bush Street, Cradley Heath, was summoned under the Child Messenger Act for supplying a child under fourteen years of age in a bottle which was not properly sealed. Mr. G. Williams defended.

PC Lawson deposed that on the 11th inst he saw a girl named Phoebe Ann Whittle, aged eleven years, coming out of defendant's house with a bottle in her hand containing half-a-pint of ale. The bottle was neither corked nor sealed. Witness took the child back to the house, and asked the landlord how he accounted for supplying the child. Defendant replied, 'I have got no labels; we are out of them. I am very sorry, and if you will overlook it I will see that it does not occur again.'

Mr. Williams pointed out that the girl was served by defendant's son, a lad of twelve years of age, and the girl appeared to be over fourteen years of age. He asked the Bench not to inflict a fine.

The Bench said the defendant had left the house in charge of the lad, and he must suffer the consequences. A fine of 20s and costs (13s 1d) was imposed.

For sending the child for beer, Sarah Ann Bennett, of St. Luke's Street, Cradley Heath, was fined 5s and costs."

Tipton Herald 19/12/1903

"Ambrose Hower, Dudley Wood, was charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of the HAND OF PROVIDENCE INN, Holly Bush Street, Cradley Heath, and also with being drunk and disorderly in the highway. *Benjamin Price*, landlord, stated that defendant was in his house, and was using bad language. He requested him to leave. He refused to do so, and the police were sent for. PC Donillan went to the house, and the defendant left. In answer to Inspector Hodgkinson, witness said defendant was not drunk, it was his bad language. He had been in his house six or seven hours. PC Donillan stated that he saw defendant in *Price's* tap room in a drunken condition. He staggered out into the street, and attempted to obtain drink in another house lower down. Defendant, who denied being drunk, called several witnesses, who corroborated his statement. For refusing to quit he was fined 10s and costs, and for being drunk 15s including costs."

County Advertiser 9/1/1904

"*Benjamin Price*, landlord of the HAND OF PROVIDENCE INN, Holly Bush Street, Cradley Heath, was summoned for permitting drunkenness in his house on the 8th ult. Mr. J. W. Clulow prosecuted, and Mr. S. Ward defended. Police-constable Donellan stated that on the night in question, between nine and ten o'clock, he visited defendant's house in company with Police-constable Foulkes. They saw a man named Ambrose Homer, of Dudley Wood, sitting by the fire in a drunken condition. They saw the landlord, who said he had requested the man to leave several times, but he had refused to go. He had also sent to the Police Station, but no one was there, and he was just going again for an officer. The man was very disorderly, and used bad language. He was ejected, and he then went to the HOLLY BUSH INN, where he was refused drink. Police-constable Foulkes corroborated this statement, and the landlord of the HOLLY BUSH INN also gave evidence of the drunken condition of the man. For the defence Mr. Ward said it was a most extraordinary case. Homer was quarrelling with some other men in the house, and creating a disturbance. Defendant ordered him to leave the house on several occasions, but he refused to go. He also sent to the Police Station, but no assistance was received from them. Immediately after the police called Homer went to see Drs. Mitchell and McKay, who both tested him, and considered he was perfectly sober, and bore no signs of recent intoxication. Evidence was given in support of this statement. After a lengthy hearing the Bench considered defendant had taken all reasonable steps to prevent drunkenness, and dismissed the case."

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 renewal of the license of the HAND IN PROVIDENCE INN, Holly Bush Street, Cradley Heath, was also deferred until the adjourned sessions."

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 renewal of the HAND IN PROVIDENCE INN, Holly Bush Street, Cradley Heath, was objected to on the ground that the landlord had been convicted under the Child Messenger Act. Mr. G. Williams appeared for the landlord. The justices renewed the license."

County Express 12/9/1908

"Friendly Societies' Parade. On Wednesday evening the committee of the above met at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Mr. W. Coley presiding over a large attendance. The following was a complete list of those boxes which contained amounts of 1s and upwards. Mr. *B. Price*, HAND OF PROVIDENCE, 12s."

Tipton Herald 7/8/1909

"When returning from a drive on Wednesday night, Mr. *Ben Price*, of the HAND OF PROVIDENCE, Providence Street, met with an accident. As he was nearing home the horse stumbled on a piece of Rowley rag and came down, the result being that Mr. *Price* was thrown heavily to the ground. He sustained slight injuries to the forehead. He was attended by Dr. Kelley, and is progressing favourably."

County Express 16/7/1910

"A meeting of the Parade Committee was held on Wednesday night, at the HAND OF PROVIDENCE, Hollybush Street, when the final arrangements were entered upon. Mr. D. M. Chapman (chairman) presided over a good attendance, and announced that, despite rumours to the contrary, the Rechabites intended joining the parade. It was stated that Miss Anna Bunn had consented to sing at the service. The Chairman said, with regard to lady collectors, the ladies of Christ Church had been approached, and they seemed favourable. The ladies of Graingers Lane church, who rendered such good service last year, had also been approached, and the Rev. J. Pearce had agreed to use his influence. There was no doubt they would get plenty of ladies to help them on the Saturday. It was decided that on the Saturday before the parade there should be variety stalls in the streets adorned with cut flowers, eggs,

fowls, etc.

The final meeting of the committee before the parade will be held next Wednesday, at the ANCHOR HOTEL. An air-gun meeting in aid of funds is to be held at the QUEENS HEAD on Thursday.”

1911 Census

55, Holly Bush Street

- [1] Benjamin Price (41), chainmaker, born Cradley Heath;
- [2] *Annie Price* (42), wife, married 20 years, publican, born Old Hill;
- [3] Frances Price (17), daughter, born Cradley Heath;
- [4] Thomas Price (14), nephew, born Cradley Heath;
- [5] Rebecca Cartwright (64), widow, cook, born Old Hill:

Thomas Price, chain manufacturer and beer retailer, 55, Holly Bush Street. [1912]

Benjamin Price was also a brewer. [1916]

County Express 1/1/1921

“On Wednesday, at Old Hill Police Court, Polly Boswell, a married woman of Holly Bush Street, Cradley Heath, was summoned for taking beer from a public house during prohibited hours, and *Benjamin Price*, licensee of the HAND OF PROVIDENCE INN, Holly Bush Street, was summoned for permitting the beer to be taken away. Mr. Riley Pearson defended *Price*.

PC Hall said at 10.40pm on the night of the 12th ult he saw the woman Boswell leave the public house with a jug of beer under her shawl. He asked her who had supplied her, and she replied, ‘Nobody,’ subsequently admitting that it was beer which she had tipped into her jug from the quantities supplied to her. Mr. Riley Pearson admitted the facts, but said the landlord nor his wife did not know anything of the occurrences, the woman having tricked the management. She went into the house and tipped the beer into a jug whilst no one was looking. The woman kept the jug behind her, and if they had a detective in every room they could not prevent that kind of thing. He urged that whilst a proper case to bring before the Court, a conviction ought not to be recorded, because defendant had no knowledge of the occurrence. The Bench agreed with Mr. Riley Pearson and allowed the case to be withdrawn on payment of costs.

Boswell was fined 40s, the Chairman (Mr. C. W. Bassano) characterizing it as a mean action.

Price was summoned for not exhibiting a copy of the Central Control Board’s Order, to which he pleaded guilty, and was fined 20s.”

Dudley Chronicle 12/2/1921

“The annual Licensing Sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday.....

Mr. Chappell applied for the renewal of the licence of the HAND OF PROVIDENCE INN, Cradley Heath, kept by *Benjamin Price*, to which the police had given notice of objection. The clerk said the license had been in the hands of the applicant for a long period, and since the conviction the house had been well managed. The Bench granted a renewal of the license.”

Ben Price, beer retailer, 55, Holly Bush Street. [1924]

It was sold at auction for £3,300 in October 1929.

Walter Ernest Lloyd was known as Ernie.

He was married to Vi.

1939 Register

55, Holly Bush Street

- [1] *Albert C. (Cyril) Broadhurst*, date of birth 15/11/1898, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] Ivy Florence Broadhurst, dob 9/7/1903, unpaid domestic duties, married;

A Publican’s license was granted on 2nd February 1949, and confirmed on 27th April 1949.

A team from here won the Banks’s and Hanson’s Cradley Heath Crib League in 1962/3.

[1985]

Closed

Demolished

HAWTHORNS

162, (1), Ross, (Ross Street), (Shepherds Fold), (Yew Tree Lane), Hill, BLACKHEATH

OWNERS

Titus Newton
John Hadley [1897]
Messrs. Chesshire Brewery Company Ltd. [1904]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.
Enterprise Inns
Steven Hayer (acquired in 2017)

LICENSEES

John Titus Newton* [1850] – [1854]
John Newton* [1861]
Henry Johnson [1861] – [1873]
Joseph Johnson [1876] – [1877]
Thomas Johnson [] – **1877**);
John Hadley (**1877** – [1882]
Isaac Mullett [1885] – **1890**);
John Hadley (**1890** – **1903**);
Frank Woodall (**1903** – **1907**);
William Taylor (**1907** – [1912]
Edward Evans [1916] – **1926**);
Ernest Alfred Evans (**1926** – **1927**);
Ernest George Burden (**1927** – **1953**);
Benjamin John Lloyd (**1953** – **1963**);
John Albert Yates (**1963** – [1965]
Barbara Lloyd [2002]
Barbara Freeman [2007]
Eryl Flynn-Priest [2010] – [2013] lessee
Kerry Poole [2017]
Harpeet Kaur Hayer [2019]

NOTES

Shepherds Fold [1851], [1861]
1, Ross [1881], [1891], [1901], [1908]
162, Ross [1932], [1940]

HAWTHORN TAVERN [1865], [1867], [1870], [1877], [1880], [1890], [1891], [1904]
HAWTHORNS HOTEL [1935]

* possibly the same person

John Titus Newton, beer retailer, Bleak Heath. [1850]

1851 Census

Shepherds Fold, New Ross

- [1] Phebe Newton (62) widow, proprietor of houses, born Rowley;
- [2] Kezia Newton (32), daughter, born Rowley;
- [3] *John Titus Newton* (29), unmarried, son, victualler, born Rowley;
- [4] Zeruah Newton (25), daughter, born Rowley;
- [5] Mary Elizabeth Newton (24) daughter, born Rowley;
- [6] Sarah Ann Newton (22), daughter. born Rowley;
- [7] Helah Newton (20), daughter, born Rowley;

1861 Census

Shepherds Fold

- [1] *Henry Johnson* (63), victualler, born Rowley;
- [2] Henrietta Johnson (61), wife, born Halesowen;
- [3] Jason Johnson (22), son, nail manufacturer, born Rowley;

[4] Henrietta Johnson (13), granddaughter, born Rowley:

Henry Johnson was also a nail and rivet manufacturer. [1864], [1865]

County Advertiser 7/10/1865

“On Monday last Mr. *Henry Johnson*, of the HAWTHORN TAVERN, Blackheath, gave an excellent dinner of roast beef and plum pudding to twenty of the oldest men in the neighbourhood. The combined ages of the twenty amounted to 1,592 years. The oldest was ninety four years. Two conveyances were employed in gathering the party. After dinner they went into a field close by, and enjoyed their pipe and ale till sunset, when, having drunk the health of their kind host, they parted.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/3/1867

“At Dudley Police Court on Wednesday, before Mr. S. D. Fereday, Thomas Round, alias Hingley, 31, labourer, Cross Street; Elijah Danks, 37, miner, Dudley Wood; and Mary Ann Price, 44, widow, Cross Street, were charged, the male prisoners with burglariously entering the dwelling house of William Piper, miner, Cinder Bank, and the female prisoner with receiving a quantity of the stolen property. The peculiar circumstances attending the apprehension of the prisoners were stated last week. Round and Price lived together at the house in Cross Street. There were eight charges against the prisoners, but three only were gone into. Mr. Addison prosecuted. The charges proceeded with were those of breaking into the dwelling houses of Mr. Joseph Clarke, furniture and boot and shoe dealer, Sedgley; Mr. *Henry Johnson*, HAWTHORN TAVERN, Blackheath; and Mr. George Cook, victualler, Amblecote. The property stolen from these places was found in the prisoners’ houses and identified by the owners. Upon being charged by the Bench, both male prisoners emphatically denied any knowledge of the robberies. Round endeavoured to exculpate Mrs. Price. The whole of the prisoners were committed to the Stafford Assizes upon each charge. The hearing of the case occupied four hours.”

[At Stafford Assizes, Thomas Round and Elijah Danks were tried on various charges of burglary, and found guilty; as both men had previous convictions, each were sentenced to ten years penal servitude. Mary Ann Price was found not guilty.]

Stourbridge Observer 21/12/1867

“An inquest was held on Tuesday last, at the HAWTHORN TAVERN, Blackheath, before E. Hooper, Esq, Coroner, touching the death of Joseph Henry Dingley, aged two years. From the evidence it appears that the deceased followed his mother into a nail shop. A woman named Sophia Johnson threw a ‘caked’ cinder out of the fire across the shop, which struck the child on the neck, and it was so injured that it died on Thursday.
Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/7/1870

“Staffordshire Summer Assizes.....

James Powell, 26, miner, was indicted for burglariously entering the dwelling house of David Bennett, at Ross, in the parish of Rowley Regis. Mr. Underhill was for the prosecution.

The prosecutor was a labourer, and lived at Ross, Rowley Regis. Late on the night of the 9th of July he went to bed and the house was left all safe. His sons subsequently came in and they left the house safe. Soon afterwards they were awakened by a noise, and on looking out at the window they saw the prisoner standing below with a quantity of clothing near him. They immediately got up and followed the prisoner, and found him at the HAWTHORN TAVERN. Bennett, the parish constable, and Taylor, an officer of the county police, were there and the prisoner was given into custody. On a search being made, several articles of wearing apparel belonging to the prosecutor were found. The prisoner was very violent and struck the parish constable violently with the handcuffs.

The prisoner was found guilty and sentenced to 15 months’ imprisonment.”

1871 Census

Ross

[1] *Henry Johnson* (72), widower, licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Eliza Readon (40), house keeper, born Queens County, Ireland;

[3] Phebe Johnson (12), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 13/5/1876 - Advert

“Found on Sunday last, a Black Retriever Dog, white on breast.
Apply to *Joseph Johnson*, HAWTHORN TAVERN, Rowley Regis.”

County Express 4/11/1876 - Advert

“Preliminary Notice. *Titus Newton*, Deceased.

Mr. Insull is instructed by the Trustees for sale of the property of the late Mr. *Titus Newton*, shortly to Offer by Public Auction, the following Properties, in suitable Lots.....

3. The HAWTHORN TAVERN (Freehold), situate at Blackheath, now in the occupation of Mr. *Joseph Johnson*, with an addition of a Plot of Land, having a frontage of 15 yards to the Street.....”

County Express 18/11/1876 - Advert

“Freehold Inn, Cottages, and Building Sites, Blackheath; and Building Sites, Netherton.

Mr. Insull will Sell by Auction, at the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, on Tuesday, the 19th December, 1876, at Six o'clock precisely.....

Lot 2. A Freehold Inn, with Old-License, called the HAWTHORN TAVERN, occupied by Mr. *Joseph Johnson*, situate in Ross Street, Blackheath, with the Outbuildings and Enclosed Land, also an additional Piece of Land, adjoining the same on the South side, having a total frontage of 25 yards to Ross Street, and containing an area of 759 square yards.

Lot 3. Six Freehold Cottages, situate at the back of the HAWTHORN TAVERN, with Nailshops, and Outbuildings and Land now added thereto, containing an area of 1395 square yards. These Cottages are now occupied by Messrs Nock, Hadley, and others.....”

County Advertiser 17/3/1877

“Edwin Payne and Solomon Adams, miners, were charged with being disorderly, and refusing to quit the HAWTHORN TAVERN, Rowley.

Joseph Johnson, proprietor of the house, said defendants quarrelled while in it on the 8th inst, and eventually commenced to fight. He ordered them to leave, but they refused to comply. Defendants pleaded guilty, and were each fined 10s and costs; in default, fourteen days' imprisonment.”

County Express 11/8/1877

“Solomon Adams, John Adams, William Adams, and James Hingley, nailmakers, were charged with having, on the 10th inst, unlawfully and maliciously wounded William Parsons, with intent to do him grievous bodily harm. Mr. Hayes prosecuted, and Mr. Addison defended.

Complainant said that he resided at Halesowen Road, Blackheath, and on the morning of the above date went to the HAWTHORN TAVERN, at Blackheath. On entering he had ‘something to drink’ with John Hadley, and seeing a companion named Bolton in the adjoining room went to him, and found defendants there also. There was a slight dispute as to whether he (complainant) should drink with them, and at last Solomon Adams struck him. He was knocked down, and the other defendants commenced to kick him; and he was also wounded upon the head by a blow from a poker. A medical man (Dr. Beasley) was subsequently called in, and he sewed up the wound.

Cross-examined: There was not a free fight in the house. He did not break any person's nose.

Thomas Bolton corroborated the evidence of the complainant, and in cross-examination said he did not see the complainant strike Solomon Adams.

Mr. Addison, in addressing the Bench for the defence, argued that the occurrence was no more than a public house scrimmage in which complainant had undoubtedly got the worst of it. He submitted that on the evidence adduced it was impossible the Bench could convict his clients of unlawfully wounding.

Joseph Harris said he was in the HAWTHORN INN on the day in question. He saw a scuffle, and also witnessed an assault committed by the complainant upon William and Solomon Adams. He did not, however, see any poker used during the time he was in the house.

A witness named Hipkiss said that after complainant had challenged to ‘fight any b—— in the house,’ he struck William Adams and knocked him down; and afterwards ‘pitched into’ Solomon Adams by striking him upon the nose.

Cross-examined: He (witness) and complainant were rivet makers and had been on strike, but there was no ill feeling shown towards complainant because he had resumed work.

Other witnesses having been called, Mr. Smith said the Bench considered the case proved, and each defendant would be fined 20s and costs for a common assault. They should also order Solomon Adams and William Adams to find two sureties in £10 each, and be bound over themselves in £20 each to keep the peace for twelve months.

A charge against Edwin Payne, John Hadley, and William Parsons for having refused to quit the HAWTHORN INN when requested so to do, was withdrawn.”

County Advertiser 29/9/1877

“*John Hadley*, landlord of the HAWTHORN TAVERN, Blackheath, was charged with keeping his house open at an illegal time, on the night of the 22nd ult. Mr. Addison prosecuted and Mr. Hayes defended.

In support of the summons it was stated by Police-constable McGourty that he was on duty near the defendant's house at thirty-five minutes past eleven o'clock. While there he heard a door, which he believed to be that of the defendant's house, opened and closed, and then saw a woman named Mary Siviter coming along the yard from the direction of the public house. He accosted her, asking what brought her there, on which she started to run away. The officer took hold of her, and found she had got a can containing beer, which appeared to have recently been filled, froth being on the top. When he caught hold of the woman she tried to upset the can, and spilt some over his clothes. He took her to the defendant's house, and defendant attempted to say that he had been in bed and knew nothing about it. In conversation he admitted, however, that the can belonged to him.

Cross-examined: Was sure it was the door of the defendant's house that he heard open and shut, and was sure that the woman came from it.

Mr. Hayes asserted that the policeman had committed wilful and corrupt perjury, and that he had ample evidence to establish this. He submitted that the woman Siviter had the ale supplied to her at ten minutes past ten o'clock, and that she left and went to an adjoining house to see the occupier, a Mrs. Ann Webster, who was ill. She left this house after eleven o'clock, and had to pass along the yard where the officer met her in order to get to the street.

Mr. Hayes called the defendant, who swore he shut up his premises at eleven o'clock, and went to bed then. His wife and family had gone before. He was in bed when the policeman came to his house, and came downstairs to admit him without having on his

boots, and the policeman waited while he put on his boots.

The defendant's wife, who was afterwards called, gave evidence to the effect that she went to bed at the same time as her husband, and that no one was admitted into the house after eleven o'clock, and before McGourty came.

Sarah Siviter and Ann Webster also gave evidence for the defence.

The magistrates thought they were bound to believe the evidence of the policeman, and fined defendant 20s and costs.

Mr. Hayes asked that the fine should be increased to 40s to give him opportunity to appeal, but the magistrates declined to do so.

The woman Siviter was then charged with having been upon the licensed premises of *Hadley* during prohibited hours. Mr. Hayes was concerned with the defence in this case also.

Police-constable McGourty repeated the evidence he had given in the former case.

When asked whether he had any question to ask the witness, Mr. Hayes said he had not; he should indict him for perjury.

Mr. Superintendent Woollaston protested against this.

Mr. Hayes: I shall certainly indict him.

Mr. Woollaston: Well, indict him then, and we shall be prepared to meet it.

Mr. Price (inspector of police): It is becoming a perfect nuisance in this court threatening a policeman in this way. It's an abominable nuisance; no policeman gets into the box now but you say you will indict him for perjury.

Mr. Hingley: Silence, silence; these remarks are best not made.

The case ended in the defendant being fined 2s 6d and costs."

Birmingham Daily Post 11/9/1878 - Advert

"Dog. Found on the 6th inst, a large brown Retriever Dog.

Owner can have same by applying to *John Hadley*, HAWTHORN Public, Black Heath, Rowley, and paying expenses."

Birmingham Daily Post 13/9/1878

"Old Hill Licensing Sessions.....

The report of Superintendent Woollaston showed that one licensed victualler and two beerhouse keepers had been convicted during the year for offences against their licenses.....

John Hadley, HAWTHORN INN, for keeping open during prohibited hours.....

The whole of the applications for renewals were granted, with the exception of the three persons mentioned in the 'black list.' The consideration of these cases was postponed until the adjourned licensing day."

County Advertiser 28/9/1878

"The publicans whose names were on the 'black list' at the Licensing Sessions, came before the Bench, and after cautioning them, the magistrates renewed their licenses."

County Advertiser 24/11/880 - Advert

"To Let, HAWTHORN TAVERN, Ross, Rowley Regis. Rare opportunity. Old-licensed House. Incoming moderate. Apply, *John Hadley*, on the Premises."

Dudley and District News 2/4/1881

"*John Hadley*, landlord of the HAWTHORN INN, Blackheath, was charged with stealing a dog, the property of Walter Cox. Mr. Cooksey defended.

Prosecutor said that in January he lost a dog, and about the 18th of February, being told by a friend the dog was at Blackheath, he went there to make enquiries, and was told that Mr. *Hadley* had it. He went to Mr. *Hadley's*, but he was out. Mrs. *Hadley*, however, showed him the dog, which he recognised at once. She told him it went there one Sunday. When witness left, the dog, which recognised him, followed him to Mr. Cocking's stables.

The next day he was told that defendant had been to the stables, and taken the dog away.

Charles Cocking deposed to seeing defendant take the dog out of his father's stables.

Mr. Cooksey stated, in defence, that the dog, which belonged to defendant two years ago, went to the house one Sunday, and not knowing whose it was he advertised it. No one owning it, he took a license out to prevent himself being summoned. On the day when prosecutor went to his house, defendant was out, but prosecutor was told by Mrs. *Hadley* that he could have the dog if he would pay the expenses. He, however, took it away without any offer to do so. Defendant, thinking he had a legal right to the dog, unless the expenses he had incurred were paid, went next day and took it away.

The Bench dismissed the case."

1881 Census

1, Ross – HAWTHORN INN

[1] *John Hadley* (35), publican, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Elizabeth Hadley (41), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Edward Hadley (4), son, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Samuel Hadley (3), son, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Elizabeth Hadley (1 month), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Nancy Nock (16), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

John Hadley was also a puddler. [1882]

Evening Star 18/1/1882

“*John Hadley*, publican and puddler, residing at Blackheath, was summoned for neglecting to support his wife. Mr. Taylor, relieving officer, said the defendant had been chargeable to the Dudley Union for one week, and his wife’s maintenance had cost 7s 6d. The defendant said he turned his wife out of the house in consequence of her drunken habits. Owing to his wife resorting to drunken habits he had lost nearly all his property.

The Bench ordered defendant to pay 5s a week towards his wife’s maintenance and to pay costs.”

AND

County Express 21/1/1882

“*John Hadley*, landlord of the HAWTHORN INN, Ross, was summoned for neglecting to support his wife, whereby she became chargeable to the common fund of the Dudley Union.

The defendant turned his wife out of doors on the 7th inst, and she received 7s 6d from the parish.

Defendant said he turned his wife out because of her drunken habits. She had drunk away five houses that once belonged to him, and was bringing him to poverty.

He was ordered to pay 7s 6d and costs, and to allow 5s a week towards her maintenance.”

County Express 2/5/1885

“Joseph Evans was charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the licensed premises of *Isaac Mullett* on the 21st inst, and was fined 1s and costs, or seven days.”

Cradley Heath & Stourbridge Observer 6/6/1885

“William Windsor was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of *Isaac Mullett* on the 25th ult. Mr. Cooksey defended.

Two police officers swore that the defendant was drunk.

Two witnesses were called for the defence and swore defendant was not drunk.

Defendant was fined 1s and costs.”

County Advertiser 21/8/1886

“*Isaac Mullett*, landlord of the HAWTHORN INN, Ross, Rowley, was charged with assaulting his wife, *Elizabeth Mullett*, on the 2nd inst. Mr. Waldron defended. Complainant said that on the day in question the defendant threw several buckets of water over her, and dragged her into the yard. Defendant said his wife had taken to drink, and neglected the business, and he was obliged to turn her out, but he denied the assault. Defendant was fined 1s and costs, or seven days.”

County Express 28/8/1886

“John Brown, tobacconist, Smethwick, was charged with, on the 3rd June, unlawfully selling, or offering for sale, a certain quantity of tobacco. Mr. Barradale appeared to prosecute on behalf of the Inland Revenue Authorities, and Mr. Shakespeare appeared for the defence.

Mr. Barradale stated that the defendant was found at Blackheath, calling on publicans and tobacconists with tobacco, which had not been previously ordered. He would in this case ask for a penalty to be inflicted as a deterrent to others, as he was led to believe this practice was extensively carried on in the district.

Mr. J. B. Davies, supervisor of Inland Revenue, stated that upon receipt of certain information, he visited Blackheath on the 3rd June, and found the defendant with a pony and trap, in which he had a black box. Witness watched defendant’s movements, and saw him go into several houses, returning immediately afterwards to fetch a small parcel from the black box. He went to the house of Mr. *Isaac Mullett*, and after his departure witness had a conversation with *Mullett*. Following in pursuit of defendant, he finally overtook him, and asked him what he was doing. Defendant said, ‘I am simply delivering orders.’ They returned to *Mullett*, who identified defendant as the person who supplied him with tobacco. Witness searched the box and found therein twenty-four packets. They had no addresses upon them, and were of various weights. Defendant could not show him an order for any of the parcels, which in all weighed about nineteen pounds. There were also a few cigars, but defendant said these were put in by mistake, as they had not been ordered.

Isaac Mullett stated that the defendant called upon him and supplied him with tobacco. He paid him each time he called, but never gave him an order. In reply to Mr. Shakespeare, witness said that there existed between them an understanding that the defendant was to call, but there was no agreement as to the amount of tobacco to be purchased.

Mr. Hackett, another person upon whom the defendant called, gave corroborative evidence. Witness said the defendant called every week, but the quantity purchased varied according to the business transacted.

Mr. Shakespeare then addressed the Bench for the defence, and said that if the evidence given showed that defendant had been hawking the tobacco, he had committed an offence. Defendant was a respectable man, and had no idea that he was committing a breach of the law. The man had arranged to call every week and supply them with the amount required, and did not go with the intention of bargaining and selling it there. He was a man who thought he was not infringing the law.

The Bench intimated their intention to impose a fine of 40s and costs.

A discussion took place between Mr. Barradale and Mr. Shakespeare, and ultimately, with the approbation of the Bench, it was decided that the amount should be £4, including costs.”

County Advertiser 11/9/1886

“*Isaac Mullett*, HAWTHORN INN, Blackheath, was summoned by the Dudley Guardians to show cause why he had not contributed towards the support of his wife. Mr. Waldron, for the defence, said there was in connection with the case a question that

would have to be considered at some future time as to whether the marriage of the parties was legal, inasmuch as it was alleged that Mrs. *Mullett* had a husband when she married the defendant. Unless he could prove this he was liable, but as the question would have to be fought out in the future he offered 5s a week. The offer was accepted, and the case was withdrawn on payment of the costs."

County Advertiser 18/9/1886

"*Isaac Mullett*, landlord of the HAWTHORN INN, Blackheath, was charged with permitting drunkenness on the licensed premises on the 7th inst.

At half-past seven o'clock on the night in question Police-sergeant Salt visited the defendant's house, and in the tap room found four men sitting at the tap room table. One of the men, David Bennett, was very drunk, and on getting up fell sideways. The landlord was not at home, and the officer called the attention of the landlord's daughter to the condition of Bennett, who, she said, had been supplied with two pints of fourpenny, though there were four of them to drink it. She added that she did not think he was drunk as he had been so quiet, and was always noisy when drunk.

Mr. Forrest, for the defence, said Bennett was sober, and he called Miss *Mullett*, who said the man was perfectly sober, and reiterated the statement made to the officer as to the amount of drink supplied. The man, she added, was excited when he left the house, but walked straight. She was pressed in cross-examination as to whether she remarked to the police-officer that if he would look over the matter she would never fill the man any more drink, and after some hesitation admitted that she did say this, but explained that her reason for saying so was because she did not want any bother.

Several of the men who were in the house with Bennett were called to speak to the sobriety of the latter at the time in question. One of them named Evans said he knew Bennett intimately, and could tell when he was drunk by his talk without looking at his legs. (Laughter.)

Cross-examined: Would not say that Bennett was quite sober.

Mr. Forrest: No man is quite sober when he has had a pint.

The Bench said they entirely believed the evidence of the police-officer, and had no doubt that Bennett was drunk. They entirely disbelieved the evidence of the witnesses. The case was another melancholy instance of untruthfulness which prevailed in that district. A fine of 10s and costs was imposed."

County Advertiser 1/1/1887

"The members of Ross Rovers Football Club had their annual dinner at the club house, the HAWTHORN INN, Ross, Rowley Regis, on Tuesday last. Previous to the dinner a most enjoyable game was played on the football field. Dinner was served at three o'clock prompt. Songs, recitations, and readings, rendered by the members, added to the harmony of the evening. The club have played twenty-one matches up to the present date this season, and of this number have won 9, lost 4, and 8 were draws."

Birmingham Daily Post 21/7/1887

"At Old Hill Police Court yesterday, James Southwick, landlord of the YEW TREE INN, Blackheath; *Isaac Mullett*, landlord of the HAWTHORN INN; Joseph Tromans, landlord of the BOAT INN, Gosty Hill; James Lovatt of the PORTWAY TAVERN, Perris Lake, Rowley; Henry Cooper of the THREE FURNACES, Old Hill; and Joseph Tibbetts, Spring Fields, Rowley, were summoned by the Excise officials for adding sugar to beer after the duty had been taken, between the dates of April 18 and 27.

Mr. Davis stated that the defendants added a quantity of sugar to the beer after the Excise officers had been round and taken the duty. Books were supplied by the Inland Revenue, in which the quantity of sugar and other ingredients used was entered. Upon visiting the defendants' premises it was found that sugar had been added which was capable of raising the standard of ale from what was termed twopenny up to sixpenny.

Mr. Shakespeare, who defended, pleaded guilty to the charges, but pointed out that the defendants were ignorant of the law, and were not aware they were doing wrong. Their object in adding the sugar was to give the beer a 'head,' make it clear and palatable. There was no intention of defrauding the Inland Revenue Office.

Mr. Davis stated that in one case the gravity of the ale was increased from 66 to 77 degrees.

Mr. Shakespeare asked that a nominal penalty be inflicted.

Defendants were fined £20 each, including costs, the aggregated amount of the penalties being £120."

Dudley Mercury 6/8/1887

"Moses Phipps, Wagon Street, Old Hill, was charged with assaulting James Payne, bailiff, Blackheath, on the 15th ult. Prosecutor said that on the day in question he was in the HAWTHORN public house, Ross, Blackheath, when the defendant and two others came into the house. One of the number said, 'There's one of the — bums,' and another said, 'Let's go and kill the —.' Thinking there was going to be a row witness got up to go out, and when he got into the passage the defendant struck him several times, and afterwards ran him outside.

Two witnesses named Isaac Cashmore and Isaac Hall gave corroborative evidence. Both witnesses said the defendant and his companions were drunk, and the landlord's daughter refused to supply them with beer.

Defendant denied the charge, and called a witness who said the man who assaulted the prosecutor was named Thomas Bryan. Defendant was fined 2s 6d and 14s 6d costs."

County Advertiser 17/9/1887 - Advert

"To be Seen Alive, at the HAWTHORN INN, Ross, Rowley, the Largest Pig In The Midlands."

County Express 11/1/1890

“At the Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, before Messrs. W. Bassano and H. A. Wiggin, *Isaac Mullett*, licensed victualler, HAWTHORN INN, Ross, Blackheath, was charged with making an untrue entry in his brewing book as to the quantity of malt he was going to brew on the 26th August, 1889. Mr. Blake Davis, supervisor, appeared on behalf of the Inland Revenue authorities, and Mr. W. Waldron defended.

Mr. Davis, in opening the case, said the defendant was liable to a fine of £100. On the 25th August he made an entry in the prescribed book that he intended to mash one quarter of malt and fifty pounds of sugar. On the officer visiting the premises and gauging the grains, it was found that there were more than was consistent with the quantity of malt entered.

Thomas Cruickshank, an officer of the Inland Revenue, said the defendant was licensed as a brewer in the parish of Rowley. On the 25th of August he found in the brewing book an entry to brew on the following day one quarter of malt and 50lbs of sugar. No further quantity of materials was entered. On visiting the premises on the 26th, about 1.45 he saw a man named Hadley there, who said, ‘The malt is badly crushed today, and is not gone down.’ He found the grains crushed and level. He gauged them, taking several dips, the average being 13in. From this he was able to tell that there was a much larger quantity of grains present than he had found at any brewery for the quantity of malt. He sent for Mr. *Mullett* and told him what the brewer had said, and also that he found the grains higher than he had before, and that he should have to report the circumstances to the supervisor. He requested Mr. *Mullett* to dip the grains in his presence. Mr. *Mullett* did so, and then asked witness to tell him what it was, as he could not see the figures upon the rod. The dip was 13in 3-10ths. His (witness’s) second dip averaged 13in, and from that he was able to swear the malt used was 1 quarter, 2 bushels, and 4 gallons. He took samples of the grains and sent them to Somerset House. The percentage was 30-6 over. The grains were well compressed. Mr. *Mullett* then said, ‘You must go and fetch the supervisor to gauge the grains.’ He said he could not do that, but he would remain while they fetched him, and Mr. *Mullett* then said it was not his duty to fetch him, and started to remove the grains from the mash tub. After this witness took the dimensions of the vessel, and weighed some of the malt, and found it 42lbs to the bushel. Mr. *Mullett* said the malt had been in his store for six months. He said he had not himself taken the quantity of malt, as that had been done by a man named Siviter. Hadley also said the same. He saw the man Siviter in the evening, and he remarked that he had weighed out the proper quantity, and he prepared to swear it. The total produce was 148 standard gallons. Fifty pounds of sugar would produce 92 gallons. Mr. *Mullett* asked him to attend a brewing, when he would see that the quantities used on the 25th August were correct. He attended a brewing on the 2nd September, and the entry was to brew the same quantities. He remained on the premises till the mashing up was finished, and till after the grains were drained. Just before the running-off the brewer took an oar and thoroughly stirred up the grains. He gauged the grains, and the average was 12-3. This represented one-quarter one bushel, six gallons. There were twelve gallons less in this brewing as compared with the previous brew. He had been in the revenue employment sixteen years, and for the last nine years had surveyed breweries. The grains on the 26th August could not have been produced from one-quarter of malt.

Cross-examined: He had twenty-one breweries under his supervision at present. The 18th August, 1888, was the first time he ever saw the mash-tub in the brewhouse. He had found nine bushels of grains when there had only been eight bushels of malt. In all instances where a brewer brewed eight bushels of malt and more than eight bushels of grains were found an offence was not necessarily committed. He could give no answer as to the following question in the form it was put, ‘How high can a brewer go with increased grains over malt without committing an offence?’ He had never found ten bushels of grains when Mr. *Mullett* had brewed eight bushels of malt, but he had found nine, and a gallon over that. He had known a prosecution where there was a percentage of 25. The highest percentage he had ever had was in the present instance, 30-6. The brewing was carried on in a perfectly open way, and there was no attempt in any shape of form to conceal the grains. Practically the grains drained level. They were comparatively dry, and all possible wort had been got out.

Mr. George Sewin, analyst, Somerset House, said the quantity of grains was inconsistent with the quantity of malt. The grains of the 25th of August were mashed with fresh malt extract, and he found thirty-one per cent upon the dry grains. The moisture was eleven per cent. The grains were not fully exhausted such as in a scientific brew. By weighing the malt in a miniature bushel, he found it was forty-two pounds.

Mr. H. W. Davis, analyst, Somerset House, gave similar evidence as to September 2nd.

Mr. Waldron, for the defence, contended that if an offence had been committed it was committed unwittingly. Supposing there was more malt than there ought to have been, there was no knowledge whatever on the part of his client that he was committing an offence. The circumstances tended to show he had no knowledge. There was the entry in the book of the time of the brew, when the grains would be drained and the worts run; and further, his client knew the officer would be coming to the premises. Knowing this, would a man be such a fool, such an idiot, as to put in more malt than entered in the book. He asked the Bench to say a mistake had been made by the officer, and if they said that he would be entitled to a dismissal of the case.

Thomas Hadley, Silas Siviter, and Mr. Garratt gave evidence.

Mr. C. King, brewer, Oldbury, who gave his evidence voluntarily, said he was a practical brewer, and the highest percentage he had known was 25. It was possible, but not probable, to get 30.

The Bench said this was not the first time defendant had been before the Bench, and that influenced them in the amount of the penalty. They had no doubt whatever, after very carefully considering the case, there was an infraction of the revenue laws, and of course intentionally, and they thought it their duty to inflict a fine of £25 and costs.”

County Advertiser 8/2/1890 - Advert

“Blackheath and Churchbridge, Rowley. To Brewers, Maltsters and Others.

Sale of the HAWTHORN TAVERN, and Old-established Freehold Double-Fronted Inn and Premises at Blackheath, and a well-known Retail Out-Door Beerhouse at Churchbridge.

Mr. Herbert Humphries, having received instructions from the Mortgagees, will Sell by Auction, at the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, on Monday, February 24th, 1890, at Six for Seven o’clock in the Evening, subject to conditions to be then read.

Lot 1. All that well-situated Double-fronted Freehold Out-Door Beerhouse, known as the HOLLY BUSH INN, on the main road

at Churchbridge leading from Blackheath to Oldbury, in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Morris, at the yearly rental of £17. The Premises comprise Shop, Front Parlour, Kitchen, Three Bed Chambers, Cellar with rolling way, Wash-house with store room over, large Yard and Garden, with Gateway Entrance, Stabling, Piggeries, and other Appurtenances. Total area, 918 square yards or thereabouts.

Lot 2. All that Well-known Old-Licensed Double-fronted Inn and Premises, known as the HAWTHORN TAVERN, splendidly situated, and having a frontage of 25 yards 1 foot to Ross Road, leading from Halesowen to Dudley, in the occupation of Mr. *Mullett*, on lease, which expires in July next. The House comprises Bar, Parlour, Tap Room, Smoke Room, Three Bed Chambers, Brew-house, Malt Room, Cellar, with rolling way; Large and Productive Garden, with Gateway Entrance, Stabling, Shedding, Piggeries, and other Appurtenances. Total area, 759 square yards or thereabouts.

This house has for many years transacted a good, regular, and lucrative trade, and is one of the most noted Inns in the district. It affords a capital opportunity to Brewers or Maltsters, as early possession may be had, or the tenant will be glad to continue the tenancy. Present rental, £31 per annum.

For further particulars apply to Messrs. Homfray and Holberton, Solicitors; or the Auctioneer, all of Brierley Hill.”

County Advertiser 15/2/1890 - Advert

“Notice. The Sale by Auction of the HAWTHORN TAVERN, Blackheath, and the HOLLY BUSH INN, Churchbridge, advertised for Sale at the ROYAL OAK, Is Withdrawn.

Herbert Humphries, Auctioneer, Brierly Hill.”

County Express 28/6/1890

“*Isaac Mullett*, landlord of the HAWTHORN INN, Ross, Blackheath, was charged by William Burton, a cooper, of Langley, with being a fraudulent bailee. Mr. W. Waldon prosecuted, and Mr. Deeley, of Dudley, defended.

The case for the prosecution was that Burton purchased from the defendant brewing utensils, value £4 6s, and an agreement was entered into that the goods should remain on the premises for a week. Before the end of the week the defendant gave the prosecutor notice to remove the goods, as a sale was about to take place, but he did not act upon the notice, and upon going to the defendant’s house on the day specified in the agreement he was told that the goods had been sold and removed.

Mr. Deeley submitted that the charge could not be sustained. The prosecutor was served with a notice to remove the goods, and he did not comply with it.

Mr. Waldron said he was not aware a notice to remove the goods had been given.

The Magistrates dismissed the case, saying that the matter was one for the County Court.”

County Express 16/8/1890

“Mr. *Hadley* applied on behalf of the owner for the transfer of the license of the OLD HAWTHORN INN, at Ross.

In reply to Mr. Bassano (magistrate), the owner of the licensed premises said he had ejected the late tenant (Mr. *Isaac Mullett*), who refused to give his consent to the transfer of the license.

Mr. *Mullett* said he refused to give up his license as the applicant refused to compensate him, although he had paid for the license until next October.

The Magistrates’ Clerk: But you are not the occupier of the licensed premises, consequently the license is of no use to you.

Mr. *Mullett*: I shall refuse to give up the license until he compensates me.

The magistrates granted the transfer.”

1891 Census

1, Ross – HAWTHORN TAVERN

[1] *John Hadley* (43), puddler and publican, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Elizabeth Hadley (51), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] Edward Hadley (14), son, scholar, born Oldbury;

[4] Samuel Hadley (13), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Elizabeth Hadley (10), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 16/5/1891

“On Tuesday morning, Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the NEPTUNE INN, Old Hill, on the body of Charles Scambler (24), labourer, who committed suicide by drowning on Saturday night.

Hannah Hill, with whom deceased lodged, said he had a very weak intellect. On the 9th inst he came home drunk at 7.30 in the evening, and shortly afterwards a neighbour named Daniel Westwood came in and said deceased owed him 11s. Deceased denied it, and they had a fight. He met his sister outside, and said, ‘Mary, thee come and go with me, the cuts thy doom.’ They heard no more of him till Sunday morning, when he was found in the canal.

Mary Scambler, sister of the deceased, a girl of weak intellect, said at seven o’clock she saw her brother standing at the door of the HAWTHORNE INN with a pint cup in his hand. He asked her to drink, and she did so. He was then drunk and could not stand. He asked her to fetch him some groceries, which she did, and took them to his lodgings.

Daniel Westwood said after he came from work on Saturday at three o’clock, he went to a Mr. Taylor’s public house at Rowley, and had five pints of ale, but did not drink it all himself. He then went home and had some beer and porter, and afterwards went to the HAWTHORNE INN, and had two pints of ale. That was all the beer he had there. He recollected seeing Scambler. He admitted he had rather too much, and was not sober. They did not refuse to supply him with what he asked for. He went to Scambler’s lodgings, and they had a bit of a ‘tussle’ over some money. He heard Scambler say he would destroy himself in the canal.

Phoebe Faulkner said she saw deceased at the door of the HAWTHORNE INN, in a drunken condition.

George Gome deposed to finding the body in the canal, and some of the deceased's clothes on the towing path.

The Coroner said from the evidence, it appeared that deceased was not sober when he was seen at 7.30, and from the fact that his clothes were by the side of the canal he must have committed suicide. His impression was that the drink which had been supplied to him illegally that afternoon was the cause of his death. From the evidence there was no doubt that he had been supplied with drink when he was intoxicated.

The jury returned a verdict of Suicide whilst of Unsound Mind.

The case was watched by Superintendent Woollaston and Inspector Bishop, Mr. Woollaston remarking that the facts would be laid before the Chief-constable."

Birmingham Mail 20/5/1891

"Today at Old Hill Police Court, *John Hadley*, landlord of the HAWTHORN INN, Ross, Rowley, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises, and also with supplying beer to a drunken person on the 9th inst. Mr. Waldron prosecuted and Mr. W. Shakespeare defended.

Mr. Waldron explained that a young man named Scambler, aged 24 years, committed suicide on 9th May as, it was alleged, the result of excessive drinking at the defendant's house. On the day named Scambler left his lodgings at Ross, Rowley, in the afternoon, and at four o'clock went into the HAWTHORN INN. Shortly afterwards he invited his landlady to drink with him, and it was then noticed that the deceased was under the influence of drink. At six o'clock the same day he was seen by another person in defendant's house in a drunken condition.

Hannah Hill, with whom the deceased Scambler lodged, corroborated, and added that the deceased was a man of rather weak intellect.

Mary Scambler, sister of the deceased, also gave evidence of a similar character, and also Daniel Westwood and others.

For the defence, Mr. Shakespeare submitted that if Scambler had not committed suicide there would have been nothing heard of the matter. The man only had one pint of ale whilst he was in the defendant's house.

After some evidence the defendant was fined 40s and costs."

County Express 29/8/1891

"The annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis division of Staffordshire were held at the Police Court, Old Hill, on Wednesday.....

John Hadley of the HAWTHORN INN made an application for the renewal of the license to him, through Mr. Waldron. Inspector Bishop said Mr. *Hadley* was fined in September, 1877, 20s and costs, and 40s and costs in May of the present year. The license was renewed."

Birmingham Daily Post 2/7/1892 - Advert

"Found, a black-and-white Sheep Bitch, four white feet, tip on tail. Not owned in three days will be sold.

Apply, HAWTHORN INN, Ross, Rowley Regis."

County Express 8/5/1897

"*John Hadley*, landlord of the HAWTHORNE INN, Ross, Rowley, was summoned by Mr. W. Cooper, a relieving officer to Dudley Union, to show cause why he should not contribute towards the maintenance of his aged father and mother, who were in receipt of 3s per week out-door relief.

The Relieving Officer said the man was 76, and the woman 73, and they had been chargeable to the parish since April 9th. Defendant was the occupier and owner of the HAWTHORNE INN. He saw the defendant on the 3rd, and defendant said his father and his grandfather had paid rates, and he did not see why the old man should not have something out of them now.

The Defendant: I am quite willing to pay what the Guardians pay to him. He has brought me here to show me up, and he is showing himself up instead.

Mr. Bassano: It's perfectly clear you can't complain of paying, and the only question is what you should pay.

The Bench said they would make an order for the payment of 10s per week.

The Defendant: It's too much.

Mr. Bassano: I don't think they will find it too much."

1901 Census

1, Ross

[1] *John Hadley* (54), publican, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Elizabeth Hadley (62), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] Timmon Hadley (76), mother, widow, born Old Hill;

[4] Edward Hadley (24), son, brewer, born Oldbury;

[5] Samuel Hadley (23), son, wheelwright, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Elizabeth Hadley (20), daughter, barmaid, born Rowley Regis;

[7] Frank Hadley (4), grandson, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 5/9/1903

"Early on Tuesday morning a young man named Samuel *Hadley*, son of the landlord of the HAWTHORN INN, Blackheath, had a narrow escape of being drowned in the Pig Lane Pool at Old Hill. Shortly after midnight Mr. Fred Light, professional of the Old

Hill Cricket Club, heard a splash in the direction of the pool, and upon proceeding to the spot he found *Hadley* struggling in the water, and clinging to a portion of the bank. Mr. Light quickly procured a piece of rope, and succeeded in rescuing *Hadley* from his perilous position, and he was removed to his home very little the worse for his immersion. *Hadley* stated that whilst returning home he missed his way and fell into the pool.”

County Advertiser 10/10/1903 - Advert

“Monday, October, 19th, 1903. HAWTHORN TAVERN, Ross Road, Blackheath, Rowley Regis.

To Publicans, Brokers, and Others.

Mr. W. Hackett has received instructions from Mr. *J. Hadley* (who is leaving the above premises) to Sell by Auction, on Monday, October 19th, 1903, the whole of the excellent Clean and Sweet Brewing Plant, useful Brown Horse, Dog Traps, Tow Dennett Gigs, Sets of Harness, Wood Shedding, and numerous other Effects, comprising: 160-gallon Steel Boiler, Door, Bars, Setting, Two Wood Vats, Copper-bottom Sieve, Mash Rules and Ladles, Oval Mash Tubs, Collecting Square, Attemporator, Oval and Round Tubs, Four 120-gallon Casks, Nine 60-gallon Casks, Nine 36-gallon Casks, Five 18-gallon Casks, Malt Crusher, Pig Trough, Quantity of Wood Shedding, Quantity of Odd Iron.

Useful Brown Horse, 16 hands high, 8 years old, well-known good worker.

Nearly-new Float, capital Spring Trap, Two Dennett Gigs, Dog Trap, with rubber tyres, in fist-class condition; Narrow-wheel Cart, Set of Thripples, Set of Harness, Set of Cart Tackle, and numerous other Effects.

The whole on View the Day of Sale.

Sale to commence at Two o'clock.

Auctioneer's Offices: 13, Church Street, Oldbury, and Clent, near Stourbridge.

Telephone 63 Oldbury.”

Frank Woodall became a member of the Dudley and District Licensed Victuallers' Association in November 1903.

County Advertiser 9/7/1904

“*Frank Woodall*, landlord of the HAWTHORN TAVERN, Blackheath, applied for an occasional license to sell intoxicating liquors at the George and Dragon grounds, on the 16th inst, on the occasion of the annual brass band contest. Applicant explained that it was an annual affair, and during the last two years had been held in Worcestershire, where a similar license was granted. Eventually the magistrates refused to grant the application, but directed Mr. *Woodall* to make the application next week, and to produce a bill of the contest.”

County Advertiser 16/7/1904

“*Frank Woodall*, licensee of the HAWTHORN TAVERN, Blackheath, made an application for an occasional licence to sell intoxicants at the George and Dragon ground, on the 16th inst, upon the occasion of the Brass Band contest and sports. The application was granted and the hours fixed from one till nine o'clock.”

County Advertiser 20/8/1904

“Mr. J. W. Clulow made an application for sanction to make alterations at the HAWTHORN INN, Ross, Blackheath, belonging to Messrs. Chesshire Brewery Company Ltd, and kept by *Frank Woodall*. He explained that the alterations were very necessary. The premises were very ancient in construction, and the room in which the licensee and his family lived was known as the smoke room. There was no private room in the house which the landlord could exclude his customers from. That was very objectionable, and what they proposed to do was to close the smoke room and convert it into a private living room for the accommodation of the landlord and his family. They also proposed to convert a brewhouse into a smoke room. It was also intended to make improvements to the front entrance of the house so as to enable the police and landlord to have better supervision of the house. Superintendent Johnson said he approved of the plans. He considered it would be a great improvement, and would enable them to exercise better supervision over the house.

The application was granted.”

Birmingham Mail 29/11/1905

“At Old Hill Police Court, today, *Frank Woodall*, landlord of the HAWTHORN INN, Black Heath, was charged with permitting drunkenness upon his licensed premises, and also with supplying a drunken person on the 15th inst.

Mr. J. W. Clulow, who prosecuted, stated that Police-sergeant Bentley called at defendant's house and found George Smith, a hawker, in a drunken condition, with a jug of beer by his side. The officer spoke to the landlady, who said she knew Smith was drunk. Subsequently defendant called upon Police-sergeant Bentley and told him that he was very sorry for what had occurred whilst he was from the house.

Mr. W. Waldron, who defended, pleaded guilty, and urged that the landlady was unable to detect the condition of the man in the ill-lighted rooms.

The Bench fined defendant £3 19s 6d including costs.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/2/1906

“The annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held yesterday.....

The Superintendent objected to the renewal of the licenses of.....

HAWTHORNE INN, Blackheath.”

County Advertiser 10/3/1906

“The adjourned annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday.....

Mr. Bassano said the bench had under consideration the nine houses, five of which were objected to on the ground of convictions and four others on the ground of redundancy. It had raised a very large question, and the magistrates had had before them the consideration of the parish as a whole. He threw out a 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.....

HAWTHORN INN, Ross, Blackheath.”

County Advertiser 28/7/1906

“The magistrates granted an occasional license to *Frank Woodall*, landlord of the HAWTHORN INN, Blackheath, to sell intoxicating drinks at the Old Hill Cricket Club Sports and Fêtes on August 7th.”

1911 Census

Ross – HAWTHORN INN

- [1] *William Taylor* (46), publican, born Blackheath;
- [2] *Elizabeth Taylor* (39), wife, married 19 years, born Gorsty Hill;
- [3] *Eliza Dingley* (23), general domestic servant, born Gorsty Hill;
- [4] *Harry Taylor* (15), son, barman, born Gorsty Hill;
- [5] *Ethel Taylor* (11), daughter, born Gorsty Hill;
- [6] *Cyril Taylor* (8), son, born Gorsty Hill;
- [7] *Arthur Taylor* (2), son, born Ross, Staffordshire;
- [8] *Frank Taylor* (9 months), son, born Ross, Staffordshire:

Dudley Chronicle 26/8/1911

“The members of the Sick and Draw which meets at the HAWTHORNE INN, Ross, Blackheath, partook of a dinner in the club room last Saturday. Afterwards a convivial evening was spent, in the course of which a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. and Mrs. *Will Taylor* and staff for their excellent catering.”

County Express 5/10/1912 - Advert

“Turn-Out for Sale, comprising 13.2 hands Pony, business Trap, and Harness complete. Apply, *W. Taylor*, HAWTHORNS INN, Ross, Blackheath.”

Dudley Herald 9/5/1925

Application to rebuild HAWTHORN INN granted.

Hawthorns Lodge (No.4309) of Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes was held here. [1935]

1939 Register

Ross – HAWTHORNS

- [1] *Ernest G. Burden*, date of birth 16/10/1878, manager of public house, married;
- [2] *Ellen Elizabeth Burden*, dob 5/7/1878, unpaid domestic duties, married:

Evening Despatch 5/4/1939

“Army Reservist *Thomas Henry Batty*, aged 32, of Imperial Road, Blackheath, drew his pension on 1 April and set out to celebrate. At the HAWTHORN INN, Ross Road, Blackheath, he saw his father with a friend, ordered a round of beer and followed it up with a round of double whiskies. *Thomas Henry* drank his whiskey quickly. His father and friend refused any more, but *Thomas Henry* called for another ‘double,’ and drank that as quickly as the first. When the landlord, *Ernest George Burden*, told him that he could have no more intoxicants *Thomas Henry* became quarrelsome, refused to leave the premises and had to be put out. A few minutes later he rushed back into the bar and the police had to be called.

PS Wright and PC Alexander had to requisition a lorry owing to *Batty*’s violent behaviour. He was lifted on to it, kicking the sergeant on the cheek during his struggles. The side-board of the lorry was put up but *Batty* fell head-first into the road, sustaining a deep head wound which knocked him unconscious.

This story was told at Old Hill Police Court today, when *Batty* pleaded guilty to being drunk and disorderly on licensed premises and refusing to quit, and also with being drunk and disorderly in Ross Road. ‘I did not know what I was doing,’ said *Batty* to the magistrates.

Sergeant Wright said he did not charge the man with assault because he realised that he did not know what he was doing and he had since apologised.

The Chairman (Ald. J. E. Shaw) imposing a fine of £1 in each of the two cases and ordering a payment of £1 1s special costs, said the magistrates took into consideration the man’s previous good character.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/9/1955

“The Blackheath Benevolent Society’s annual horticultural show was held in a marquee at the HAWTHORNS INN, Blackheath,

on Saturday, to raise funds to entertain 500 old-age pensioners at Christmas.....”

Sports Argus 18/11/1961

“Anglers’ Corner.....

Rowley & District AS, whose honorary president is Lord Forester, held their annual dinner and presentation of trophies at the BLUE GATES, Smethwick, last week, and about 100 members and friends were present. The club have been affiliated to the BAA for 33 years – in fact ever since their formation – and their HQ is the HAWTHORNS INN, Blackheath. With 95 members, the club has a long waiting list and fish seven contests a year, so there is no lack of competition. One of the attractions of this club is the fine stretch of the Severn owned by them at Linley; and Mr. Kyte, who acts as water bailiff, has had a lot of exciting experiences as bailiff. The fishing rights (excluding salmon) extend from one meadow above Coalport Bridge, continuing on the right bank downstream to Wren’s Nest, Linley, a distance of about three miles.....”

Dudley News 16/4/2010

“A brave Blackheath pub patron is set to get his hair shaved off for charity tomorrow. Kevin Jew, who owns his own nuts and bolts company, will be having his mane shaved off at the HAWTHORNS Pub in Blackheath. Kevin has been getting sponsors from people, pubs and even the police across Blackheath and Rowley Regis to help him raise cash for the cancer unit at Russells Hall Hospital. *Eryl Flynn-Priest*, landlady of the HAWTHORNS, said, ‘The place will be packed at 3.30pm when he gets his hair shaved, he’s got a lot of it, and who knows we might get his moustache off as well. We are also holding a raffle to raise more cash for such a great cause.’”

Express & Star 10/2/2017

“Popular sports pub the HAWTHORNS, regularly filled with Baggies fans on match days, has been put on the market. The pub, in Blackheath, was popular with fans on their way to watch home matches. It is going up for auction with SDL Bigwood at the end of the month. The pub has also played host to regular appearances from some of the biggest local names in sport including darts player Jamie Hughes who is appearing at the pub tonight.

Landlady *Kerry Poole* said, ‘It’s with a sad heart that we’re leaving the pub as it’s being sold off. We absolutely love it here and don’t want it to go but we don’t have much choice. We’ve really enjoyed the time spent here and all the new people we meet but it’s time for us to move on.’ The 36-year-old added, ‘All of our customers want it to stay as a pub if it is sold on because we do have quite a lot of regulars.’

Ward councillor Danny Millard said it would be sad to see his local pub go. He said, ‘The pub is quite popular but unfortunately trade seems to have slowed down. Obviously the building does need to be used as it’s in a nice location but it depends on who buys it and what they want to do with it. I’d like it to stay as a pub.’

The pub is owned by Enterprise Inns. The auction is on February 23 at Aston Villa FC.”

Kerry Poole’s partner was Chris Hughes.

Express & Star 7/3/2017

“The HAWTHORNS, in Blackheath, was described as ‘suitable for a variety of alternative uses subject to obtaining any appropriate planning permission’ when it went up for auction with SDL Bigwood on February 23, suggesting that the site could be redeveloped. But new owner Steven Hayer has pledged it will remain a pub so long as it can turn a profit and is supported by the community.

Mr. Hayer, who bought the pub prior to the auction for an undisclosed sum, said he had acquired it as an investment. He said, ‘The plan is to keep it as a local pub with the community’s help. If it can be successful, then that is how it will remain. But obviously, it has to make money to sustain itself. If not, then we will have to look at alternatives.’

Mr. Hayer urged West Bromwich fans to keep using the pub though he does not intend to run it himself.”

[2019]

HEARTY GOOD FELLOW

28, King Street, OLD HILL

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Samuel Johnson [1871] – [1882]

Mrs. Martha Johnson [1890] – [1891]

John Perks [1891]

William Woodhall [1901] – [1902]

Frederick Joseph Foley [] – 1903);
Frank Woodhall (1903);
George Hall (1903 – 1905);
James Shaw (1905 – [1910]

NOTES

It had a ante 1869 beerhouse license.

1871 Census

King Street

- [1] *Samuel Johnson* (45), beerhouse manager, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Martha Johnson* (40), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Mary Johnson* (20), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Benjamin Johnson* (16), son, gas tube maker, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Harry Johnson* (9), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Thomas Johnson* (7), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *Emma Johnson* (2), daughter, born Rowley Regis:

St. Giles Marriage Register

23rd February 1873 - *Benjamin Johnson* (18), bachelor, tube maker, Old Hill. Father - *Samuel Johnson*, publican.
Married - *Mary Ann Parkes* (18), spinster, Old Hill.

Dudley Guardian 4/7/1874

“Important Meeting of Colliers at Dudley.

On Monday morning a district meeting, representing forty-five lodges belonging to the Dudley district, was held at the Central Lodge House, SHAKESPEARE INN, New Mill Street, Dudley.

Mr. Joseph Lee occupied the chair, and in opening the proceedings, he said he should have been glad to have met the delegates under more gratifying circumstances, but it appeared that they could not turn back. How long the struggle would last it was not for him to say; in fact, he did not know. It rested with the delegates who represented the men to say what was the feeling of their constituents – whether they were disposed to play on, or go to work at the reduction – (cries of ‘No’). The masters, by their conduct, did not seem disposed to give way, or offer any conciliatory terms; but the men, on the other hand, wanted to have the dispute amicably and honourably settled They had carried on the fight for thirteen weeks.....

The reports from each delegate were then verbally given.....

No.42 Lodge, HEARTY GOOD FELLOWS INN, Old Hill; 123 members. We have passed a resolution to remain out if the strike lasts until 1875. That was our decision without the interference or advice of any of our agents.”

[The consensus was overwhelmingly to remain on strike.]

1881 Census

28, King Street

- [1] *Samuel Johnson* (55), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Martha Johnson* (50), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Mary Johnson* (29), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Harry Johnson* (19), son, tailor, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Tom Johnson* (16), son, gas tube fitter, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Emma Johnson* (12), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *Frederic Johnson* (8), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] *Rebecca Allport* (17), niece, general servant, born Rowley Regis:

Dudley and District News 13/5/1882

“At the Old Hill Police Court on Wednesday, before Messrs. W. Bassano and C. Holcroft, William Ball, alias George Keel, Poplar Place, Bridge Street, West Hockley, Birmingham, pearl and stud turner, and John Johnson, 12, Eaton Street, Hockley, pearl turner, were charged with uttering and putting off counterfeit coins representing half-crowns, and one florin, at Old Hill and Cradley Heath, on the 8th inst. On the prisoner Ball was found 8s 9d and five coins, and on Johnson 29s 7½d and two coins.

Joseph Manning, QUEENS HEAD, Corngreaves Road, said on Monday evening last the prisoners came to his house while he was sitting at tea. Ball called for two drinks, and was served by his wife, who called him to look at the half-crown they had tendered for the drink. He looked at the coin and broke it in two. It was bad, and he sent for a police officer, and detained Ball, but Johnson would not stay, and went out because he said he had nothing to do with Ball.

Aquilla Parkes, landlord of the BIRD IN HAND, Spinners End, said Ball came to his house on Monday afternoon about 4.30 and called for a glass of ale, tendering the base half-crown produced, he filled the glass of ale and gave him 2s 4½d back. It rang well on the counter. Ball drank the ale and went out. The next morning a police officer came and asked if he had taken any bad money, and his wife examined the money they took on Monday and picked the half-crown out, it being the only one they took that day. He identified Ball next day.

Susan Harris, wife of Thomas Harris, licensed victualler, CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Providence Street, New Town, said on Monday Ball came to her house and asked for a bottle of soda water, she had none and gave him a bottle of ginger beer, he tendered her half-a-crown, she gave him 2s 4½d in change and he went out. Next day she found that the coin was bad.

Louisa Nicklin said she was servant to Priscilla Foley, who kept the BRITISH OAK, High Street. On Monday afternoon both the prisoners came to the house and Ball called for a pint of ale. She filled it and Ball gave her half-a-crown which she took to her mistress who gave her change. She was quite sure that Johnson was with Ball. Priscilla Foley said when her servant brought the half-crown and she had given her the change she went into the shop and saw the prisoners standing by the counter. Two more men were with them. When she went into the bar Ball asked for the cup to be filled, and gave her a two shilling piece, she gave him 1s 9½d in change, they did not wait to empty their cup but said they must go so as not to be caught in the rain. Ball and Johnson then left the other men and went out. The two coins she received were bad, and she gave them to the police.

Emma Johnson (14), daughter of Samuel Johnson, the HEARTY GOOD FELLOW, King Street, Old Hill, said she saw the prisoners come into the house on Monday afternoon. Ball called for a quart of ale, she supplied it and Ball gave her half-a-crown in payment. She gave the change, Ball threw the drink down and both went out. Her father wanted some change and she took it to Chances for sixpences.

Hanna Webb, barmaid at Mr. John Foley's, the SWAN INN, Old Hill, said the prisoner came into the house and Ball asked for some ale and tendered her half-a-crown, she took the coin to Mrs. Foley and gave Ball the change. Hannah Foley said Hannah Webb brought her a half-crown which she put in her pocket with the other money. The same night she gave it to a police officer. PC Litherly said he was sent for to the QUEENS HEAD, Corngreaves Road, on Monday and received the half-crown produced, from Mr. Manning, who said in the presence of Ball, that he had received it from him. He took Ball into custody, and he at first gave the name of George Keel, Hart Yard, Hatton Garden, London, and said it was not half-a-crown but a two shilling piece which he gave. PCs Litherly and Lawrence proved receiving the base coins produced from the witnesses.

Inspector Walters said on Monday the prisoner Ball was brought to the station and gave the name of George Keel, Hart Yard, Hatton Garden, London. He declined to give any reference, and said witness might enquire about it. He took him to Birmingham to the detective department, where he saw detective Baker, who called Keel by his right name, and said, 'How do William Ball.' He then went to Ball's address in Bridge Street, West Hockley, and on going into the house he found the prisoner Johnson lying on a screen, he then gave the name of George William Hobson, No.13, Eaton Street, Abbey Fields, Hockley. He told him he would be charged with being in company with Ball the previous day at Old Hill, and passing counterfeit coins. He replied, 'I know nothing at all about it.' He searched him and found £1 9s 7½d all in small coins. He told him he would have to go with him to Old Hill, when he became very violent, and rushed to the table to get a knife, but he put the handcuffs on him and brought him to Old Hill. He was present in the office when Ball was identified, and he might add that he went to Eaton Street, Hockley, but no such person as the prisoner Johnson was known there.

Honor Chance, wife of John Chance, 2, King Street, underground manager for Messrs. Hingley, said she changed half-a-crown for Emma Johnson on Monday afternoon. Emma came and told her that it was a bad half-crown, and took it back.

Eliza Johnson, wife of George Johnson, publican, KINGS HEAD, Elbow Street, said four men came to her house on Monday, and Ball asked for half-an-ounce of tobacco and a pipe, and gave her half-a-crown which she changed. PC Rowlands came at night, and she found the coin was a bad one.

Mr. Henn, Cradley Heath, said PC Litherly showed him three half-crowns which he examined and found to be bad. They were made principally of lead. PC Rowlands also showed him four half-crowns, and one two shilling piece which were counterfeit. The half-crowns were all from the same mould, dated 1875, and plated.

Prisoners were remanded to Stafford to appear on Wednesday."

[At the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions, William Ball (32) and John Johnson (27), both button makers, were each sentenced to twelve months, Ball pleading guilty.]

Birmingham Daily Post 10/4/1890

"At the Old Hill Police Court, yesterday, Henry York, miner, of Elbow Street, Old Hill, was charged with unlawfully wounding William Harper on Monday last. Mr. Waldron defended.

Evidence was given by Police-inspector Bishop and Police-constable Insley to the effect that on Monday night some men, who were under the influence of drink, were at the HEARTY GOOD FELLOW INN, when they became disorderly, and were requested to leave. As they refused they were ejected, and when outside York struck the prosecutor on the forehead with a broken portion of a jug, inflicting terrible injuries, and causing prosecutor to lose a large quantity of blood.

For the defence evidence was called showing that a scuffle took place on the premises, in the course of which the jug came in contact with prosecutor's face. The charge was reduced to one of common assault. Defendant was fined £3 and costs."

AND

County Express 12/4/1890

"Henry York, miner, Elbow Street, Old Hill, was charged with assaulting William Harper, on the 7th inst. Mr. W. Waldron defended.

Complainant said that on the day in question he went into the HEARTY GOOD FELLOW, and went into the kitchen. After remaining there some time he went into the bar room, and he heard a noise in the kitchen. He went into the kitchen, and the son of the landlady asked him to assist him in getting the defendant out. In doing so defendant struck him with a broken cup on the forehead, inflicting two wounds, which bled very much. Witness was unconscious, and had to be taken to a doctor.

Cross-examined: He did not know how long the defendant had been there. There was a band in the kitchen, and a man named Patrick made a collection for them. He did know that Patrick spent the money in drink, and witness did not say he was the 'chucker out.' It was not during the struggle that he got the blow. Defendant was drunk.

Thomas Johnson, son of the landlady, said the defendant wanted to fight, and he asked the defendant to leave, which he refused to

do. Witness asked Harper to assist him, and whilst he was doing so the defendant struck him with a cup. Mr. Waldron said it was one of those unfortunate quarrels through drink. The defendant had been in the house some hours, and a collection was made for the band, but instead of the money being given to the band it was spent in drink. This commenced the row, and in the struggle the complainant was struck. The Bench inflicted a fine of £3 and costs, and the doctor's bill, or twenty-eight days."

County Advertiser 26/4/1890

"*Martha Johnson*, landlady of the HEARTY GOOD FELLOW INN, King Street, Old Hill, was charged with permitting drunkenness on her licensed premises, on the 7th inst. Mr. W. Waldron appeared for the police, and Mr. Tanfield defended.

Mr. Waldron said that the case was one in which the licensee had shown great want of carefulness. The facts of the case were that a man named Henry Yorke went into the tap room of defendant's house. A gallon and a half of beer was on the table. Yorke saw a man named [David] Harper there, who asked him to pay for a quart, which he did. He afterwards went away, and on returning found Harper there still. An altercation took place some time after over some money collected for a band, and an assault took place. Harper went to the police station, and he was then very drunk. He (Mr. Waldron) need not point out to their Worships the increase of drunkenness of late, probably due to good trade, but beyond all doubt the publicans were parties to it, winking at men getting drunk in their houses. He asked the Bench to inflict a substantial penalty.

Henry Yorke, miner, Elbow Street, Old Hill, was called and gave evidence bearing out Mr. Waldron's statement. Inspector Bishop said that Harper came to the station about 6.30, and he was in a drunken condition. Witness then visited the HEARTY GOOD FELLOW in search of Yorke. He went into the tap room and found Harper drinking from a pint cup. He left the house and visited it again at eight o'clock in company with Police-constable Insley. They found Harper, who was drunk, still on the premises. He called the attention of Mrs. *Johnson* to the fact, and she said she was very sorry.

Police constable Insley corroborated.

Mr. Tanfield said they admitted that the police found a drunken man in the house, but claimed that no drink was supplied to him in the house, and urged that the house had always been well conducted.

The Bench considered the case proved, and after remarking on the increase of drunkenness fined defendant £5 and £2 0s 6d costs."

Birmingham Daily Post 28/8/1890

"Old Hill. The Licensing Session for the division was held yesterday.....

Police-inspector Bishop reported that there were 163 license-holders in the division. Thirty-eight transfers had taken place since last licensing meeting. Five licensed victuallers and four beerhouse keepers had been fined, and 403 persons had been charged with drunkenness, three of whom were discharged. Mr. Bassano (presiding magistrate) said The report for the year was not at all satisfactory, as it reflected discreditably upon the licensed victuallers. He pointed out that it was becoming a very serious matter to have an increase of 138 cases of drunkenness in one year. All the licenses would be renewed with the exception of..... *Martha Johnson*, of the HEARTY GOOD FELLOW INN, Old Hill."

County Express 27/9/1890

"Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. Waldron applied for the renewal of the license of the HEARTY GOOD FELLOW INN, Old Hill, to *Martha Johnson*, who had been fined £5 and costs. He stated that the applicant had kept the house for twenty-five years, and during that long period only one complaint had been made against the house. The police would admit that since the conviction the house had been well conducted. The renewal was granted."

AND

County Advertiser 27/9/1890

"Adjourned Licensing Session at Old Hill.....

Martha Johnson, of the HEARTY GOOD FELLOW, Old Hill, came up, and Mr. Waldron appeared for her. He said that she was an old lady, and had kept the house for five years, and during the whole of those years there had been no complaints against her or her house. On the 25th of April last she was summoned for permitting drunkenness, and was fined in a good sum, but the license was not endorsed. That showed that the magistrates who tried the case did not consider there had been a great fault committed. She promised through him to conduct the house in the future in a way that would meet with the approval of the police. Since that conviction the house had been visited several times, and no complaints had been made, so that he now asked for the license to be renewed. Inspector Bishop corroborated Mr. Waldron's statement as to the way the house had been conducted, and the application was granted."

1891 Census

28, King Street

- [1] *Martha Johnson* (59), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Dudley;
- [2] Mary Johnson (40), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Thomas Johnson (25), son, brewer (journeyman), born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Fred Johnson (18), son, gas tube maker, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Myra Auden (24), general servant, born Rowley Regis:

Birmingham Daily Post 7/5/1891

"Yesterday, at Old Hill Police Court.....

Martha Johnson, landlady of the HEARTY GOOD FELLOW INN, King Street, Old Hill, was charged with permitting drunk-

ness on her licensed premises on 25th ult, and was fined £10 and costs, and the license endorsed; in all £12 2s 6d. There was a previous conviction.”

AND

County Express 9/5/1891

“*Martha Johnson*, landlady of the HEARTY GOOD FELLOW, Old Hill, was charged with permitting drunkenness on her licensed premises on the 20th ult. Mr. Waldron prosecuted and Mr. Ward defended.

Mr. Waldron said at 10.40 on the night of the charge Police-constables Insley and Lewis saw two men come out of the house drunk, and they then visited the house of the defendant. In the bar there were about a dozen men, half of them drunk, their names being Bridgwater, Hackett, Simeon Johnson, Daniel Johnson, Thomas Willetts, and Thomas Fletcher. The landlord’s son saw the officers come in, and he caught hold of Daniel Johnson, and took him out into the back yard. Simeon Johnson and Willetts were staggering about the bar. Each of them had a cup on the table, and they drank beer in the presence of the officers. Hackett and Bridgwater were sitting down, and had cups containing ale before them out of which they drank. Insley went into the kitchen, and was followed by Fletcher, who asked Insley to have something to drink, and ordered two glasses of beer, saying, ‘Drink up and have some more.’ The officer declined. The landlady was an old lady, and she referred the officers to her son Tom. The officers went and saw the son, and he said, ‘They’ve had a lot to drink, but they’re not drunk. Bridgwater has been in about two hours, and the others have been in about the same time also. It’s nearly eleven o’clock, and they won’t get much worse.’

Police-constable Insley gave evidence in support of this statement, and said that the son of defendant told him that since the last conviction he had tried to conduct the house properly.

Police-constable Lewis corroborated.

Mr. Ward, addressing the Bench for the defence, denied that the evidence for the prosecution was of such a character as to conclusively prove the charge of drunkenness. He reviewed the evidence given by the police with regard to the state of the persons individually, and remarked that it was very contradictory. He was in a position to bring independent testimony to prove emphatically that the men named by the officers were perfectly sober.

The defendant’s son, Thomas *Johnson*, said there was a disturbance in the house, but he denied that it arose out of any drunkenness, and stated that it was in consequence of a dispute about a girl whom one of the men present was courting. All the men were sober. He did not ask the officers to overlook the matter.

Cross-examined: He didn’t take Daniel Johnson out to the back of the premises; and repeated that the men in question were sober. Several other witnesses were called to show that the men were sober.

The Bench said they were of opinion that the men were drunk, and a fine of £10 and costs would be inflicted, amounting in all to £12 12s 6d. All the men were ordered to pay the costs for being drunk.”

County Advertiser 29/8/1891

“The annual licensing sessions for Rowley Petty Sessional Division were held last Wednesday.....

The magistrates said they were pleased to learn that there had been a decrease in the drunken cases. They then proceeded to consider the ‘black list’.....

Mr. Waldron applied for the renewal of the license of *Martha Johnson*, the HEARTY GOOD FELLOW INN, who was fined £5 and costs on the 23rd of April, 1890, for permitting drunkenness, and on the 6th of May this year £10 and costs, and license endorsed for a similar offence. He said it was proposed to apply shortly for a temporary permit on behalf of *John Perks*. There was nothing against the applicant’s character beside the two convictions.....

In the case the of beerhouse of *Martha Johnson*, of the HEARTY GOOD FELLOW, Old Hill, the Bench were informed that there was to be an application for the transference of the license to a man named *Perks*, and this would be adjourned also.”

County Express 3/10/1891

“Old Hill Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. W. Bassano said the only case in which they proposed not to renew the license was in the case of the CROSS INN, Old Hill.....

Mr. Ward asked if all the other licenses were granted without any special application being necessary. Mr. Bassano said this was so. Of course they had, in the exercise of their discretion, thought there were several cases in which they might reasonably withhold the license, and the Bench had had a long discussion that morning before coming into Court as to whether they should do so in the case of a man fined £10 and costs. However, they had decided to grant the whole of the licenses this year, and they gave an intimation that in future the Bench would deal very stringently in cases of conviction under the licensing laws, both as regards the amount of fines and endorsements, and in the cases of endorsements they would deal more stringently. In plain English, this meant that a person with an endorsement against the house would in future have a very small chance indeed of getting his license renewed. They hoped the licensed victuallers and other licensed persons in the district would take a warning from that.”

County Advertiser 6/5/1893

“Benjamin Sixiter, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, was fined 12s including costs for being drunk in the HEARTY GOOD FELLOW INN, Cradley Heath, on the 29th ult.”

County Express 24/11/1900

“A meeting of the horse shoe makers was held at the HEARTY GOOD FELLOW INN, on Monday afternoon. The business of a routine character was transacted.”

County Advertiser 16/3/1901 - Advert

“For Sale, by Private Treaty, HEARTY GOOD FELLOW INN, King Street, Old Hill.
Centrally situated; doing capital trade. Large Premises, suitable for Wholesale Brewery Trade.
Apply, Harry Johnson, Old Hill.”

1901 Census

28, King Street

- [1] *William Woodhall* (44), publican, born Cradley Heath;
- [2] *Margaret P. Woodhall* (40), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] *Harry Woodhall* (16), son, labourer in tube works, born Cradley Heath;
- [4] *Maud G. Woodhall* (12), daughter, born Saltney, Cheshire;
- [5] *Richard Woodhall* (9), son, born Saltney, Cheshire;
- [6] *Dorice Woodhall* (5), daughter, born Old Hill;
- [7] *Laura Woodhall* (1), daughter, born Old Hill:

County Advertiser 21/6/1902 - Advert

“HEARTY GOOD FELLOW INN, King Street, Old Hill.

E. H. Boilstone has been instructed by Mr. *W. Woodhall*, who is leaving the Premises, to Sell by Auction, on Monday, June 23rd, 1902, the Brewing Plant, consisting of a 90-gallon Cast-iron Boiler, new; Ten-bushel Mash Tub, Two Cooling Vats and Uprights, Refrigerator, Wort Trough, Sieve, 60-gallon Casks, Two Fermenting Vessels; also a Capital Dog Cart, as good as new; with Cushions, suit horse 14 to 15 hands; a Strong Spring Trap, in good condition, suit horse 14 to 15 hands, &c, &c.

Sale to commence at Two o'clock in the Afternoon.

Auctioneer's Office: Old Hill, Staffs.”

Tipton Herald 12/9/1903

“A meeting to formulate the Rowley Regis and District Air-Gun League (radius two miles from the Old Hill Cross) was held on Tuesday evening at the HEARTY GOOD FELLOW INN, King Street, Old Hill. There was a good attendance from the various clubs in the district, and it was decided to form a League and name it as above. Mr. *F. Woodhall*, Old Hill, was appointed treasurer, and Mr. E. Westwood, Blackheath, hon. secretary. Various rules were adopted.....”

County Advertiser 10/10/1903

“*Frank Woodall*, late licensee of the HEARTY GOOD FELLOW INN, King Street, Old Hill, made an application for a certified copy of the license of the public house to be granted to him. It was explained that recently the license had been transferred to a man named *Frederick Joseph Foley*, but that license could not be found. The application was granted.”

George Hall, beer retailer, King Street. [1904]

County Express 12/2/1910

“On Wednesday the annual general licensing sessions for the Old Hill petty sessional division were held at the Police Office.....

Supt. Johnson read his annual report, which stated that the number of licenses for renewal in the division was 152.....

The Bench decided to defer the renewal of the licenses of HEARTY GOOD FELLOW, Old Hill, kept by *James Shaw* to the adjourned licensing sessions, in order that notices 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.....

HEARTY GOOD FELLOW, Old Hill, ante-1869 beerhouse.”

Lichfield Mercury 6/1/1911

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

HEARTY GOOD FELLOW, Old Hill, beerhouse, ante 1869. £950.”

HEATH TAVERN

171, High Street / Bank Street, CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

Tobias Hingley
Rowland Moore, 41, Brettell Lane, Amblecote
Thomas Plant and Co. Ltd.
Ansells Ltd. (acquired on 2nd June 1937)

LICENSEES

Tobias Hingley [1850] – **1873**);
Ann Maria Hingley (**1873** – []
Felix Rufus Hingley [1872] – **1888**)
Mrs. Elizabeth Hingley [1888] – [1889]
Hiram Hickman [1891] – **1892**)
Horace Hickman [1892]
Mrs. Eleanor Hickman [1893] – [1896]
Horace Ewart Hickman [1900] – **1906**);
Mrs. Mary Ann Hickman (**1906** – [1908]
Hickman [1908]
Benjamin Homer [1911]
Mrs. Mary Ann Homer [1912] – **1914**);
Elijah Powell (**1914** – **1922**);
Frank Murdoch Tibbetts (**1922** – **1931**);
Edward Dunn (**1931** – **1932**);
Clifford Harris Pearson (**1932** – **1933**);
Joseph Ralph Petford (**1933** – **1946**);
Eric Gordon Lancaster (**1946** – **1948**);
Albert Potter (**1948** – **1951**)
Frank Arthur Raybould (**1951** – **1953**);
William Kenneth Parkes (**1953** – **1954**);
William Dennis Hill (**1954** – **1958**);
Harry Lowe (**1958** – **1959**);
John Paterson Parker (**1959** – **1964**);
Wilfred Leslie Bradley (**1964** – [1965]

NOTES

CRADLEY HEATH TAVERN [1864]

It was known locally as “The Boster”.

Tobias Hingley was born in 1796.
He married Mary Ann Ward.

1841 Census

Five Ways

- [1] *Tobias Hingley* (43) chainmaker, born Staffordshire;
- [2] Mary Hingley (42);
- [3] Mariah Hingley (16);
- [4] Easter Hingley (14), born Staffordshire;
- [5] Timothy Hingley (11), born Staffordshire;
- [6] Henry Hingley (9), born Staffordshire;
- [7] Mary Hingley (7), born Staffordshire;
- [8] Hannah Hingley (4), born Staffordshire:

Tobias Hingley, chain, cable, trace and coil chain manufacturer and beer retailer, Cradley Heath. [1850]

1851 Census

Cradley Heath

- [1] *Tobias Hingley* (55), victualler, born Rowley;
- [2] Mary Ann Hingley (54), wife, born Coals Hill, Warwickshire;
- [3] Esther W. Hingley (22), daughter, milliner, born Rowley;
- [4] Timothy T. Hingley (20), son, chainmaker, born Rowley;
- [5] Henry O. Hingley (18), son, chainmaker, born Rowley;

- [6] Mary Ann Hingley (16), daughter, born Rowley;
[7] Hannah L. Hingley (10), daughter, scholar, born Rowley;
[8] Emma M. Hingley (7), daughter, scholar, born Rowley:

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/7/1851

“On Tuesday morning last another of those deplorable mine accidents, which unfortunately have lately been of such frequent occurrence in this and the adjoining counties, took place at Rowley Regis, by which no less than nine lives have been sacrificed, and many persons severely injured. The scene of the catastrophe was the coal pit of Mr. Dudley, situate in the above parish. It appears that the men descended as usual to their work at six o'clock on the morning of the accident, and having distributed themselves through the mine, commenced operations. Thirteen of them, however, were occupied in one part of the workings, and at about half-past six o'clock two of the number, for some purpose not yet ascertained, went into other side works, one having a lighted candle in his hand, and immediately after a terrible explosion took place. The two unfortunate men who so incautiously proceeded without the safety lamp and six others were killed, and their bodies found dreadfully burned in various parts of the mine. The other five men were much burned and otherwise injured, and one of them, a young man named Edwards, died the following day. As soon as the occurrence became known, Mr. Horton, of Dudley, the field surgeon, and Mr. Atkins, of Rowley Regis, were in immediate attendance, and rendered every possible assistance. This morning, Mr. George Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, of West-bromwich, commenced an inquiry at the HEATH TAVERN, Cradley Heath, on the bodies of Daniel Worrall, aged 31, and Joseph Edwards. After swearing in the jury, the coroner adjourned the inquest, to afford time to communicate with the Secretary of State; and he appointed Friday next for the re-opening of the inquiry. At the same time another inquest was held at Daisy Bank, King-swinford, before Mr. Phillips, coroner for the district, on six of the bodies, but the result cannot be known this evening in time for the express by which this leaves. The most interesting inquiry, however, will be that held next week, as a Government Commissioner will no doubt be in attendance.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/7/1851 - Died

“On the 19th inst, at Cradley Heath, after many years' severe affliction, borne with great resignation, deeply regretted by her family and friends, aged 54, Mary Ann, beloved wife of Mr. *Tobias Hingley*. She was an affectionate and tender mother, a kind neighbour, and a friend to the needy.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/8/1851

“An inquest was held before G. Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, at Mr. *Tobias Hingley's*, the HEATH TAVERN, Cradley Heath, Rowley Regis, on Saturday last, on view of the body of James Henry Hingley, aged two years, the only son of Mr. Henry Hingley, of Cradley Heath. The mother of the deceased had been brewing in a brewhouse which was separated from her house by a yard or fold. She left on the brewhouse floor a tub of scalding wort, and went into her house, and shortly afterwards missing the deceased, made inquiries of her servant where he was, but not receiving a satisfactory answer she went into the yard to look for him, and not seeing him there she looked in the brewhouse, and there saw him in the scalding wort; she instantly pulled him out, but he died in a short time afterwards, being most dreadfully scalded. The jury found a verdict 'that the deceased was found scalded in a tub of wort, which caused his death, but how he got there there was no evidence to show'.”

Tobias Hingley was also a chain manufacturer. [1854], [1861], [1864], [1865], [1872]

Birmingham Journal 13/12/1856

“On Monday evening in the lodge room of Mr. *Tobias Hingley*, HEATH TAVERN, Cradley Heath, Mr. C. F. G. Clarke, of Dudley, delivered to a numerous auditory, and interesting lecture on 'England's Greatest and England's Glory.' The lecture was much applauded. Mr. H. F. Hudson, surgeon, occupied the chair. At the close a vote of thanks was awarded Mr. Clarke.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 5/1/1859

“On Friday evening, the Coroner, Mr. G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, held an adjourned enquiry at the HEATH TAVERN, Cradley Heath, on the body of Mary Ann Hingley. The deceased was twenty-four years of age, and was married in May last. The husband, it appears, has treated his wife in a very barbarous manner, and in consequence of his been seen to ill-use her a short time previous to her death, the relatives of the deceased demanded an inquest, which was held on the 20th of December, when a post mortem examination of the body of the deceased being thought desirable, an adjournment took place till Friday last, when the jury again assembled. The deceased was buried the day following the post mortem examination, and a 'scene' took place at the funeral, which is rarely witnessed when the dead are consigned to the grave. A tumultuous crowd assembled in the churchyard and attempted to push Hingley into the grave where the remains of his wife had just been deposited. At last the police had to protect him, and finally Hingley, to save himself from the effects of Lynch law, took to his heels and ran away. Witnesses at the previous examination stated that they had observed the deceased beaten and ill-used by her husband. On one occasion he bent her over the nail-block in his shop, striking her at the same time a violent blow on the mouth. The medical evidence showed that obstruction of the bowels had been the cause of death. The jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes, and expressed a wish that the deceased's husband should be reprimanded for his inhuman conduct. The fellow having been fetched, the coroner administered a severe reprimand to him.”

Tobias Hingley was also a chain, trace and small coil manufacturer. [1860], [1868], [1870]

Birmingham Daily Post 6/1/1860 - Advert

“To Gas Consumers of Cradley Heath. Notice.

A General Meeting will be held at the house of Mr. *Tobias Hingley*, the HEATH TAVERN, on Wednesday, the 18th instant, at Seven o'clock, to take into consideration the present exorbitant price, bad supply, and impure quality of Gas, when it is respectfully requested that all consumers will attend.

W. H. Nock in the Chair.”

1861 Census

High Street – HEATH TAVERN

[1] *Tobias Hingley* (65), widower, victualler and chain manufacturer, born Rowley;

[2] Henry Obadiah Hingley (28), son, chainmaker, born Rowley;

[3] Hannah Louisa Hingley (20), daughter, born Rowley;

[4] Emma Matilda Hingley (17), daughter, born Rowley;

[5] Jeremiah Skidmore (22), visitor, mine agent, born Amblecote:

Birmingham Daily Post 6/1/1864

“Yesterday evening a public meeting was held at the house of Mr. *Hingley*, the HEATH TAVERN, Cradley Heath, to consider what steps should be taken in order to procure a reduction in the price of gas. Some six weeks ago a meeting was held to consider the same question; and then, after some discussion, and adjournment was agreed upon. At the adjourned meeting a deputation was appointed to wait upon the directors of the Cradley Heath Gas Company, to represent to them the feeling of the meeting, and to ask them to reduce the price of gas. The price at present paid is 4s per 1,000 cubic feet, to consumers of above 25,000 feet per quarter; 5s to consumers of from 10,000 to 20,000; and 5s 6d to consumers of less than 10,000 feet. The deputation was instructed to ask the Gas Company to reduce the price of gas as follows: the minimum price to be 2s 6d per 1,000 feet, and the maximum to be 2s 9d per 1,000 feet. The meeting held yesterday evening was to receive the report of the deputation, and there was a numerous attendance. Mr. Green was called to the chair.

The Chairman briefly explained what had been done at the previous meetings, and urged that it was highly desirable, in order to carry out the objects which the gas consumers had in view, that they should be unanimous in their proceedings. He called upon the deputation to present their report.

The report was as follows: ‘At a meeting of the directors, held on the 29th ult., the deputation waited upon themThe reply of the directors was, ‘We cannot entertain the proposed reduction in price of gas at present; but as soon as the price of coal is settled, in January next, we will consider the question and let the consumer know in the course of next month (January).....’

Mr. Chandler (one of the deputation) being called upon, stated that the directors received the deputation very courteously, and after some considerable discussion, the Chairman (Dr. Moore) said that the directors had ascertained that they could not make gas at less than 3s 4d per 1,000 feet, and that did not include working expenses. The speaker went on to say that it was known that the Gas Company were supplying gas to the British Iron Company for 2s 9d per 1,000 [The price of gas in Walsall was stated to be 2s 6d per 1,000].....

Mr. Chandler suggested that the meeting should not come to a definite decision until the reply of the Gas Company should have been received. He moved a resolution to that effect. Mr. Grainger seconded the motion.

Mr. Homer moved as an amendment, ‘That all the gas consumers be requested to decline payment of their accounts until the decision of the company should be made known.’

The Chairman said that before such a motion was passed, they ought to raise a fund to indemnify any who might be subjected to legal proceedings. Mr. Homer said he was prepared to submit to any results which might take place. (Cheers.)

The amendment having been seconded, was, on a vote being taken, carried by a majority of 26 to 9.

The remaining business had not terminated when our reporter left.”

Stourbridge Observer 23/7/1864

“On Monday morning last, the colliers’ club, to the number of 60, assembled at the old-established and well-conducted house of Mr. *Tobias Hingley*, the CRADLEY HEATH TAVERN. Shortly before ten o’clock in the morning the Spinners End Band, conducted by Mr. W. Bennett, of Cradley Heath, played through the streets to the tavern, where the members were awaiting their arrival. A procession having been formed, headed by the band, paraded the streets to Cradley Forge, Cradley Park, to the Methodist Chapel, where they were met by Mr. Bluck, who preached a most impressive sermon, taking for his text, the 44th verse of the 24th chapter of Matthew. ‘Therefore be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not the son of man cometh.’

After the service the members proceeded to the CRADLEY HEATH TAVERN, where a first-rate repast was sat down to. Ample justice having been done to the good things provided, Mr. Elisha Wood proposed the health of the Queen, observing that England was proud of her. Nobody of persons more respected her than the colliers of Cradley, and may she live long, and God bless her. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. James Dimmock, in a neat speech, proposed the health of The Prince and Princess of Wales.

After dinner the members adjourned to the garden at the rear of the house, and all seemed to have made up their minds to enjoy themselves, which they did. In the afternoon, the members, headed by the band, paraded the streets, and having played some favourite tunes, returned to their club house.

This society, which is a most useful one, has been established six years last January. There is at the present time nearly £100 in hand, and during the year many new members have joined. The whole proceedings passed off most pleasingly, and reflected the greatest credit on Mr. *Hingley*, the respected host.”

County Advertiser 30/9/1865 - Advert

“High Street, Cradley Heath.

Mr. Chandler will Sell by Auction, on Tuesday Next, October 5th, 1865, at Three o'clock in the Afternoon, a few lots of Household Furniture, American Clock, Two Sets of Chainmakers' Tools, Two Pairs of Smiths' Bellows, and Effects, removed to the HEATH TAVERN, Cradley Heath, for Rent.”

Stourbridge Observer 2/6/1866

“On Saturday last, the 26th ult, an inquest was held at the HEATH TAVERN, Cradley Heath, before E. Hooper, Esq, Coroner, on the bodies of John Merriman and James Elcome, who came to their death on the Tuesday night previous by drowning in the New Pool.....

Mr. Enoch Gould: I am a draper by trade, living at Cradley Heath. I knew John Merriman and James Elcome. They were in my employ as assistants. Merriman was 18, and Elcome was 17. The bodies the jury have seen are the bodies of John Merriman and James Elcome. On Tuesday night last from half past eight to nine, I heard that the two deceased were drowned in Cradley Pool. I saw them alive at half past seven the same night. They were in the shop when I saw them. I closed the shop about seven. I knew they were in the habit of going to the pool as I have seen them there. I was at the pool on Tuesday night when Elcome was taken out. He was quite dead and cold.

Jethro Nicholson Lally: I am draper's assistant in Mr. Barker's employ, Cradley Heath. I knew Merriman and Elcome, the deceased. On Tuesday evening last I went on the Cradley Pool in a boat, and had been there an hour when they came. When they came I was just leaving the boat. As neither of them could row they asked me to row them. I repeatedly told Merriman to sit in the centre of the boat. When I told him the last time he said he would not sit there and stepped over my arm and got into the stern of the boat. I requested him to return to his former position. He said, 'I shan't.' The boat was then sinking stern foremost. When I saw the water coming over the boat I threw myself into the water. When I came to the surface I found both the deceased in the water, and the boat capsized. I had hold of the boat and said to them 'save yourselves'. No one came to us for upwards of ten minutes. Oliver's son came first. When I got to the side of the boat Merriman grasped me, and to escape his grasp I dived into the water and came up on the other side of the boat. The boat is capable of holding three. I have often seen three persons in it, and did not think it dangerous.

By the jury: Elcome was in the stern and Merriman next to him. I think we might have had assistance sooner. They shouted twice and I shouted repeatedly. We were in the water full five minutes before assistance came. The boat did not leak. There were no angry words passed between the deceased and me; neither was there any sparring.

Oliver Hindmarch: I am anchor smith by trade. I live at the Pool. There are boats kept there, and I look after them for the gentlemen who own them. I have no boat of my own. I have the liberty of letting out boats for hire. I let a boat on Tuesday evening to the last witness about eight o'clock. I was in the pool house when I saw the boat had been upset, and the last witness holding on. I went to them the moment I saw them. I pulled the last witness into my boat, and took him to the boat house. I then took drags and searched for the other two. They were both dead when they were got up.

By the jury: I make boats. The water was 24ft deep where they went down. The boat the young men had belonged to Noah Hingley. I was not a minute in going across to them. The young man last examined was quite capable of managing the boat. It is a fact that there was a boat with four men in near them when they upset. The boat the four men were in was a light one and they were perhaps afraid either of the deceased would lay hold of it and capsize it. None of the boats belong to me; neither did I ever own one.

After a little consultation the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and wished to append thereto a request that great caution be used in letting out boats.

At two o'clock the same day, the two deceased were buried in one grave in the Four Ways churchyard, and so dense was the number of spectators that a path had to be forcibly cleared for the funeral procession.”

Stourbridge Observer 21/7/1866

“On Monday, some 50 colliers, who form a club held at the HEATH TAVERN, met at one o'clock in the large room and arranged themselves in due order before several legs of mutton, and a very large piece of beef, and a tremendous supply of peas and potatoes to which they did, as may be supposed, the most ample justice, and freely exchanged after dinner jokes. The afternoon and evening were spent in harmonious fellowship, and at the close it was generally observed by those present that they had had a jolly good feast.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/11/1866 - Deaths

“On the 19th ultimo, at her father's, Mr. *Tobias Hingley*, Cradley Heath, after six months' illness, aged 38 years, Esther Ward, the beloved wife of Mr. Edward J. Jarratt, of Hight Street, Brierley Hill.”

Stourbridge Observer 13/3/1869

“On Thursday evening a number of the relatives of Mr. H. Hingley, now of Hingley House, Wollaston, but late of this place, met together at the HEATH TAVERN, and partook of a first rate repast. After the removal of the cloth, Mr. Barzillah Hingley, senior, was voted to the chair, and Mr. Alfred Taylor, HF, to the vice chair. Songs, toasts, &c, were indulged in freely, and the utmost conviviality was manifest. The heath of the guest, Mr. H. Hingley, was drunk with musical honours, and duly responded to; and a most enjoyable evening was afterwards spent.”

Stourbridge Observer 23/7/1870

“An enquiry was held on Friday evening, the 15th instant, at the HEATH TAVERN, touching the death of a boy named William Smith.

From the evidence adduced it appears that on the Thursday previous the boy complained of having a sore mouth. The servant intending to give him a little magnesia, reached out unknowingly a packet containing arsenic, and marked poison. Of this he partook, and she also drank some. Soon after it was discovered that a fearful blunder had been made, and medical aid was called. The poor fellow however died in a few hours; but the servant has recovered from the effects of her poisonous dose. The jury returned a verdict of Accidentally Poisoned.”

Stourbridge Observer 13/8/1870

“*Tobias Hingley*, landlord of the CRADLEY HEATH TAVERN, was charged by Superintendent Mills with having his house open for the sale of beer during prohibited hours, on the 24th ult. Pleaded guilty. Ordered to pay costs.”

County Express 13/8/1870

“*Tobias Hingley*, publican of Cradley Heath, was charged by Police-sergeant Breton, with keeping his house open for the sale of liquors on Sunday the 31st ult, before half-past twelve. He pleaded guilty and consented to pay costs.”

County Express 27/8/1870

“The annual licensing meeting for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division was held yesterday.....
Tobias Hingley, HEATH TAVERN, Cradley Heath were all cautioned in reference to the future conduct of their houses.”

1871 Census

High Street

- [1] *Tobias Hingley* (75), widower, licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Henry Hingley (38), son, labourer in chain shop, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Emma M. Hingley (26), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Flora Hickman (4), granddaughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Alice Hickman (1), granddaughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Tobias J. Jarrett (15), grandson, clerk, born Brierley Hill;
- [7] Ida J. Jarrett (11), granddaughter, scholar, born Brierley Hill:

County Advertiser 24/6/1871

“The Watering of High Street. On Thursday evening, a meeting of tradesmen and others, residing in High Street, was held at the HEATH TAVERN, Cradley Heath, to consider the advisability of making arrangements with the Local Board for watering of the above street during the summer months. Mr. Standish occupied the chair. During the meeting it was explained by Mr. G. Green that the cost of watering would be defrayed only by those who shared the benefit, so that only those residing in High Street would be called upon to share the cost. Ultimately a committee was appointed to wait upon the Local Board to ascertain the probable cost of the undertaking, and to confer with the Board respecting its being carried out.”

County Advertiser 7/10/1871

“On Tuesday morning, the washerwoman employed at the house of Mr. Isaac Attwood, potato merchant, was surprised to find that her mistress did not get up at the usual time. She waited till about ten o’clock in the morning, and then went to her mistress’s bedroom to ascertain the cause. She there found Mrs. Attwood and her son, a boy of four years of age, foaming at the mouth, and to all appearances dead. An alarm was raised, and Mr. Standish, surgeon, was soon in attendance. Despite his endeavours, the boy died in the evening, and the mother continued to lie in an unconscious state all the day. She, however, eventually regained her consciousness, and is now slowly recovering. The inquest on the body of the boy was held at the HEATH TAVERN, yesterday afternoon. After hearing the evidence, the Jury returned a verdict of Accidentally Killed by Gas.”

Stourbridge Observer 28/10/1871

“On Thursday afternoon, the HEATH TAVERN, High Street, received a visit from a cow belonging to Mr. Thomas Attwood, which was being driven down the street. The animal suddenly rushed into the passage, and, as only one of the half-doors was open, her body was jammed in the narrow space and she was unable to extricate herself. After the landlord’s son had given her a blow or two on the head with a poker, a rope was procured and she was pulled into the street. Her visit frightened some of the inmates and she knocked a hole into the large pane of glass.”

Felix R. Hingley, beer retailer, Cradley Heath. [1872]

County Advertiser 5/4/1873 - Deaths

“On the 22nd ult, in the 78th year of his age, Mr. *Tobias Hingley*, of High Street, Cradley Heath, deeply lamented.”

County Advertiser 24/5/1873

“Important Clearing-Out Sale, at the HEATH TAVERN, High Street, Cradley Heath.
To be Sold by Auction, by S. Insull, on Tuesday, May 27th, the whole of the very excellent Household Furniture, comprising Mahogany, Centre and other Tables, Eight-day Clock in mahogany case; Half-tester and other Bedsteads, Feather Beds, Bed Linen, together with the very excellent Brewing Plant and Public House Fixtures, Five-pull Ale Machine, excellent Twelve-bushel Oval Mash Tub, Pocket of Hops, Hogshead and Half-hogshead Casks, also a quantity of Chainmakers’ Tools, with about One Ton of

Chain, various sorts; Bright and other Traces, Lashing Chains, &c, Narrow-wheel Cart, Two Spring Traps, Cart Tackle, Brass Mounted Harness, quantity of Scrap Iron, and a miscellaneous assortment of useful Effects (particularised in catalogue) which will be Sold without any reserve, by order of the executor of the late Mr. *Tobias Hingley*.
Sale to commence at 11 o'clock."

County Express 24/10/1874

"William Price, a chainmaker, was charged by Mr. *R. Hingley* with being disorderly and refusing to quit the HEATH TAVERN, on the 13th inst, when requested to do so. The complainant wished to withdraw the case, and defendant was cautioned and ordered to pay costs."

County Express 8/5/1875 - Advert

"Harness Horse Wanted, about 15 hands.
Apply to HEATH TAVERN, Cradley Heath."

County Express 15/5/1875 - Advert

"Brown Horse Pony, good poor man's horse. Low price and sound, at the HEATH TAVERN, Cradley Heath. Must be sold."

County Express 11/5/1878

"Joseph Yardley, miner, of Cradley Heath, was summoned on a charge of having assaulted John Mantle, miner, Quarry Bank, on the 4th inst, at the HEATH TAVERN, Cradley Heath.

The evidence of the complainant was to the effect that when at the HEATH TAVERN in company with some companions on the day named he missed his pocket handkerchief from his pocket, and subsequently spoke to the defendant about it when he (Yardley) seized him by the throat and attempted to throttle him and also otherwise assault him. Fined 20s and costs or twenty-eight days.

Samuel Fletcher was then charged with stealing the handkerchief above referred to from Mantle. It was alleged that the defendant took the handkerchief from Yardley. Ultimately the charge was dismissed.

Benjamin Shaw, Joseph Yardley, Samuel Fletcher, and Thomas Hasbury were severally charged with being drunk and disorderly and refusing to quit the HEATH TAVERN, on the 4th inst, when requested to do so by the landlord.

From the evidence adduced it appeared that a general row took place in the house and that defendants, although repeatedly told to leave, refused to do so, and continued the disturbance.

Shaw and Yardley were fined 10s and costs each, in default twenty-eight days' imprisonment; and Fletcher and Hasbury 2s 6d and costs, with the alternative of fourteen days' imprisonment."

County Advertiser 27/3/1880

"Mr. H. B. Sheridan, the liberal candidate, opened the campaign this week by a visit to Old Hill, on Monday evening.....

The hon. candidate visited the Liberal Committee Rooms in Elbow Street, and the HEATH TAVERN, Cradley Heath, and afterwards drove away to Dudley, amidst the cheers of an immense multitude."

1881 Census

171, High Street – HEATH TAVERN

[1] *Felix Rufus Hingley* (35), licensed victualler, born Cradley Heath;

[2] Elizabeth Hingley (28), wife, born Netherpton;

[3] Bertram Hingley (13), son, scholar, born Cradley Heath;

[4] Sydney Hingley (7), son, scholar, born Cradley Heath;

[5] Mary Jane Hingley (4), daughter, scholar, born Cradley Heath;

[6] Ann Hingley (2), daughter, born Cradley Heath;

[7] Martha Hingley (1), daughter, born Cradley Heath;

[8] Elizabeth Perry (33), domestic servant, born Cradley Heath:

County Advertiser 11/6/1881

"James Mansell Cooper, chainmaker, Cradley Heath, was charged with being drunk and disorderly on the 2nd inst, and he was further charged with assaulting Police-constable Mountford on the 6th inst. The officer saw the defendant drunk at two different times on the first mentioned date. On the 6th inst defendant met him at the HEATH TAVERN, and assaulted him by striking him. Defendant was taken into custody, and on the way to the station was very violent. The Bench fined him 2s 6d and costs for the first offence, and 5s and costs for the assault upon the officer."

Dudley and District News 31/12/1881

"A meeting of the creditors of William Woodhouse, nail and chain manufacturer, High Street, Cradley Heath, was held on Wednesday at the HEATH TAVERN INN, Market Place, Cradley Heath. There was a large attendance of creditors, and Mr. Samuel Cave, boot and shoe manufacturer, was voted to the chair. Mr. J. Wright, of Cradley Heath, appeared on behalf of the debtor.

Mr. Wright read the statement of accounts which showed the liabilities to amount to £901 9s 6d, and the assets on the 2nd of December – the day on which the petition was filed – amounted to £265 17s 6d.

Mr. Wright explained that since the petition had been filed a portion of the debtor's goods had been sold by auction, and the debtor had also received some of the accounts, but as he had not been able to see the debtor in consequence of his having left the district,

he could not say for certain what the accounts really were, but he thought they would be at least £90. Mr. Homer said he should have been glad if the debtor had been present, as he had some very important questions to put to him. He had, however, been informed that he had left the town. He trusted that steps would be taken to prosecute him. The Chairman strongly complained of the debtor's conduct, and considered that he ought to have put in an appearance. Mr. Wright said he was unable to offer a composition, and the meeting decided upon liquidating the estate. Mr. Wright was appointed solicitor to the estate, and Messrs. Cave and Perterhall trustees."

County Advertiser 7/1/1882 - Advert

"No.1 Cradley Heath Loan and Investment Society.

All Persons in want of Money upon easy terms, and those who are desirous to Invest, should join the above society, held at the house of Mr. *Felix R. Hingley*, HEATH TAVERN, High Street, Cradley Heath, where rules may be had and information obtained. Business hours from Half-past Seven to Nine o'clock every Tuesday Evening."

County Advertiser 21/10/1882 - Advert

"Wanted a General Servant.

Apply, Mrs. *Hingley*, HEATH TAVERN, High Street, Cradley Heath."

County Express 16/2/1884

"Mr. Sheridan attended at the HEATH TAVERN, Cradley Heath, for the purpose of receiving deputations from his constituents residing in the Cradley Heath district.

The first deputation was headed by Mr. Barford, who urged Mr. Sheridan to take steps to induce the Postmaster General to order an extra delivery of letters, and also to make Cradley Heath a head office instead of a branch office. It was explained that Cradley Heath was a district in the parish of Rowley Regis, and contained a population of about 15,000 persons, and required attention at the hands of the Postmaster General. Mr. Sheridan promised to carry out the wishes of the deputation.

Mr. Cave and Mr. Thomas Bowser waited upon Mr. Sheridan and asked him to take steps to obtain the ballot in Local Board and Guardians' elections, and also that the parish of Rowley should be divided into wards. Mr. Cave said under the present mode of conducting elections – the distribution of voting papers – many irregularities were allowed to take place, the result being that the Liberals of the district could not have their fair share of the representation. Mr. Sheridan pointed out to Mr. Cave that the returning officer was responsible for the manner in which the elections were conducted. Mr. Cave said Mr. Bassano was the returning officer at the Local Board elections, and the tactics resorted to made it impossible to return Liberals on the Board. Mr. F. Coley urged that something should be done to alter the present mode of voting. Mr. Sheridan said it was intended that the ballot should be extended to Local Board elections. Mr. Cave urged that a stipendiary magistrate should be appointed for the Rowley Petty Session district, and also county magistrates holding Liberal views. Mr. Sheridan said he would bring the matter before the proper authorities."

Dudley and District News 3/1/1885

"On Friday the 26th ult, the host of the HEATH TAVERN gave his customary annual dinner to his numerous friends and customers, when from sixty to seventy sat down to an excellent repast of roast beef, &c, served in his well-known style. After ample justice had been done to the good things provided, and the cloth drawn, Mr. *Hiram Hickman* was voted to the chair and Mr. John Palmer to the vice-chair. The following selections of songs, recitations, and instrumental music were given by some of the company. 'The British Lion,' Mr. Joseph Downing; song, 'Tis but a little faded flower,' Mr. S. Sturman; song, 'The Union Jack of old England,' Mr. George Clarke; songs, 'Tom Bawling' and 'Wait till the clouds roll by, Jenny,' the host; song, 'The Maid of Llangollen,' Mr. James Woodhouse; violin solo, 'The Blue Bells of Scotland' (with variations), Masters S. C. and Bertie *Hingley*; song, 'The Death of Nelson,' Mr. S. Sturman; recitation, 'Colin and his Cow,' Mr. George Clarke; songs, 'Our Sailors on the Sea' and 'The Village Blacksmith,' Mr. J. Downing; comic song, 'Number Three Thousand Six Hundred and Forty-two,' Mr. H. Parsons; recitation, 'The Battle of the Alma,' Mr. John Palmer; song, 'The Holy Friar,' the host. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts were given and duly responded to. A vote of thanks was accorded to the host and hostess for the very able manner they had catered for the company; to the chair and vice-chair for the very able manner they had presided over the meeting; and to the singers and reciters. At eleven pm the meeting was brought to a close, all being well pleased with the afternoon's enjoyment, not a hitch having occurred to mar its harmony."

County Advertiser 30/5/1885

"The Black Diamond Friendly Society had their annual dinner at the HEATH TAVERN, Cradley Heath, on Whit-Monday. Upwards of fifty members sat down to table. The Secretary's statement of accounts showed a balance of over £180 in hand. Songs and toasts by various of the members added to the enjoyment of the evening."

County Express 12/9/1885

"On Monday an inquest was held at the HEATH TAVERN, Cradley Road, respecting the death of Sarah Ellen Darbey, aged eleven weeks, the daughter of Walter and Eliza Darbey, who died suddenly on the 3rd inst.

It was shown that the deceased was seized with a fit, and died before medical aid could be obtained.

The Coroner remarked that there was a possibility that the child's life might have been saved had the people thought to have put it in a warm bath. It was astonishing to him that people were so thoughtless, and he had no hesitation in saying that in the Black County the lives of many children was lost through persons not using that discretion they ought to.

A verdict of Died from Natural Causes was returned."

County Advertiser 4/9/1886 - Advert

“Rowley Wake!!!

A Fete and Gala will be held in the Old Fields, Cradley Heath, on Rowley Wake Monday and Tuesday, September 13th and 14th, 1886.

A Fat Ox Will Be Roasted and Disposed of on the Grounds.

Grand Promenade Open-Air Concert, by the celebrated Dudley Glee Union (Messrs. E. W. Smith, Alex Smith, G. H. Newns, and W. H. Smith).

Important Engagement at a great cost of Miss Kate McCoy, one of the greatest Serio-Comics in the world. Expensive Engagement, and First Appearance in this town, of Mr. C. P. Gill, one of the Finest and Neatest Irish Comedians on the stage. The Renowned Serio-Comic Artistes of the London and Birmingham Concert Halls, will appear in their Side-splitting and Laughable Entertainments.

Old English Sports and Pastimes, Foot Racing, &c, each day for Valuable Prizes, by Amateurs residing within three miles of Cradley Heath. Entries on the Grounds.

The Cradley Heath Brass and Reed Band will perform Selections of Popular and Operatic Airs. Conductor, Mr. Joseph Mansell. Fireworks and Scenic Displays, under the superintendence of Professor Heaton, Adams and Co., Birmingham.

Refreshments of first class quality, and at town prices, will be supplied on the grounds by Mr. Jeremiah Westwood, the BEE HIVE, Cradley Heath.

Admittance 3d each. Tickets may be obtained from Messrs. *F. Hingley*, the HEATH TAVERN, High Street; J. Westwood, the BEE HIVE INN, Graingers Lane; H. Hickton, the QUEENS HEAD INN; John Smith, RAILWAY TAVERN, Corngreaves Road; and H. Heaton, New Town, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 4/6/1887

“Thomas Clee, chainmaker, Corngreaves Road, was charged with being drunk whilst on the licensed premises of *Felix Rufus Hingley*, HEATH TAVERN, on the 27th ult.

Police-constables Wallace and Cartwright visited the house and found the defendant in the house drunk, and upon being ordered to leave he did so.

Defendant was fined 5s and costs.”

Felix Rufus Hingley died in the 1st quarter of 1888.

County Advertiser 2/6/1888 - Advert

“Cradley Heath.

Mr. T. Pateshall will Sell by Auction, on Wednesday Next, June 6th, 1888, a quantity of Household Furniture, Six Sets of Chainmakers’ Tools and Bellows, Vice and Bench, Blacksmith’s Anvil, and other Effects, removed to the HEATH TAVERN, Cradley Heath, for convenience of Sale.

Sale at One o’clock.”

Dudley Mercury 3/11/1888

“Phillip Willetts, chainmaker, Cradley Heath, and William Woodhouse, chainmaker, Cradley Heath, were charged with being drunk on licensed premises on the 22nd inst.

Police-constable Cartwright stated that he visited the HEATH TAVERN, kept by *Elizabeth Hingley*, High Street, Cradley Heath, and saw the defendants there very drunk, with a pint of ale.

A fine of 5s and costs was inflicted on Willetts, and 2s 6d and costs on Woodhouse.”

Dudley Mercury 11/5/1889 - Advert

“Wanted, good General Servant, not under 20; used to a Public House. Also steady Man, who understands brewing. Apply, Mrs. *Hingley*, HEATH TAVERN, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 7/9/1889

“Naaman Cole, fruiterer, High Street, Cradley Heath, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises known as the HEATH TAVERN, High Street, Cradley Heath, on the 27th ult. Police-constable Wynne deposed that he saw defendant standing against the counter of the public house named. The landlady said she had not filled defendant any beer, and that she had several times requested him to leave, but he had refused. Witness had great difficulty in getting defendant away. Fined 2s 6d and costs.”

Hiram Hickman = Hiram Hickman

1891 Census

171, High Street – HEATH TAVERN

[1] *Hiram Hickman* (53), publican, licensed, born Cradley;

[2] *Eleanor Hickman* (51), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Ernest Hickman (19), son, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Horace Hickman* (17), son, journeyman saddler, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Winifred Hickman (8), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 27/6/1891

“Samuel Perry, Foxoak Street, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of *Hiram Hickman*, on the 16th inst. Police-sergeant Hayward proved the case. Fined 5s and costs.”

Hiram Hickman died in the 1st quarter of 1892.

County Advertiser 17/6/1893

“James Simpkins, ironworker, Cradley Heath, was fined 16s for being drunk on the premises of the HEATH TAVERN, High Street, Cradley Heath, kept by *Eleanor Hickman*.”

County Advertiser 6/1/1894

“Eli Baker, New Town, Cradley Heath, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of *Eleanor Hickman*. On the 23rd ult the defendant was found drunk at HEATH TAVERN, Cradley Heath, by Police-constable Brindley. Defendant said he had been a total abstainer for some time, and on the day in question he had some drink. Defendant was fined 15s.”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/10/1894

“At Bow Street Police Court, London, on Saturday, William James Ring, Arthur Shaw, and Thomas D’Aubeny were charged on remand, before Mr. Vaughan, with being concerned together in keeping a common betting house at 18, Grays Inn Chambers, Holborn. Mr. Blanchard Wontner prosecuted on behalf of the Commissioner of Police. Mr. Besley appeared for Ring, and Mr. Travers Humphreys and Mr. Temple Martin defended the other men. D’Aubeny was not placed in the dock, it being understood that he would be called as a witness for the prosecution.

Evidence was given to show that Shaw was the tenant of the chambers in which the betting was carried on, and that Ring was his principal reference.

A clerk from the Chancery Lane Branch of the London Joint Stock Bank stated that in January of this year Ring opened an account there in the name of Bradbury and Co. The account was now closed, the manager not being satisfied with the working of it. John Templeton, now an omnibus conductor, stated that two years ago he acted as clerk to Ring, who was then carrying on business in Chancery Lane as a betting agent. Shaw acted as clerk. The business was carried on in the name of Hanson and Co. When the business was transferred to Grays Inn Chambers in the name of Bradbury and Co. witness went there, and addressed circulars relating to betting. The books were kept by Shaw, who also opened the letters when he was the first to arrive at the office. In reply to Mr. Besley, witness stated that the initials of Ring’s father were ‘J. C.’ it being contended that he and not the prisoner Ring gave Shaw the reference which enabled him to take the premises in Holborn.

Mr. Wontner read a very lengthy letter from Ring to Shaw when the latter was staying at Hastings. The writer referred to large number of persons with whom he was doing business, and advised Shaw as to how he should deal with the various accounts. He described a man named Walden as a ‘pounder’ because he had only paid £1. He advised Shaw not to let him have another bet if he paid nothing more, as it would be useless to let him get into their debt. Referring to his own pecuniary position, he said he must consider what ruse to adopt. He said he had better write to a certain lady at Enfield, asking her not to present for a few days a cheque they had sent her, as there would be no money to meet it. There was also a reference to another cheque which he was afraid could not be met. He implored Shaw to get some money for him, as his funds were only four-pence ‘strong,’ and he added that that would very soon be spent in two glasses of beer. He had nothing to pawn, but had, he said, paid a visit to ‘Uncle Gush.’ He advised Shaw to visit the house of a man who had gone away, saying, ‘We ought to get something, if only from his missus.’ Mr. Vaughan: What a revelation of fraud that letter is.

Mr. Wontner: There are other letters of the same sort. You see, they are taking money for bets, and yet have not sufficient money to pay for the postage of this letter. Shall I read the other letters?

Mr. Vaughan: No, that is quite sufficient at present.

The housekeeper at Grays Inn Chambers proved that Shaw and Ring did business there, and Detective-sergeant Nicholls gave similar evidence.

Detective-inspector Hare, of Scotland Yard, produced receipts showing that Shaw paid the rent of the office at Grays Inn Chambers.

Horace Hewatt Hickman, HEATH TAVERN, Cradley Heath, spoke to having, in conjunction with a man named Hingley, sent money to Bradbury and Co. for betting purposes.

Detective-inspector Hare proved finding on the premises when the raid was made a letter from Mr. A. Ingram, of Bow Wood, Wilts, stating that he enclosed 5s to put on Why Not for the Grand National.

Prisoners were remanded until Wednesday.”

[Ring was fined £100 or three months in default, plus £30 or one month with respect to the circulars, plus £10 10s costs; Shaw was fined £50 or two months.]

Horace Ewart Hickman = Horace Hewitt Hickman = Horace Hewatt Hickman

County Advertiser 26/10/1895

“Samuel Perry, Cradley Heath, was charged with being drunk and disorderly on the highway, on the 12th inst. Mr. A. E. G. Pritchard defended.

Police-constable Wynn said that about 5-30 in the afternoon of the 12th inst, he saw defendant in Bank Street, Cradley Heath, very

drunk, and making use of bad language. Defendant's wife, who was with him, was trying to get defendant home. Defendant afterwards went into Foxoak Street, and began to behave indecently. Witness spoke to him about his conduct, and defendant then went home. At five minutes to five previously witness saw defendant in High Street, Cradley Heath, and he was then drunk, but was not making use of bad language.

Cross-examined: Witness did not speak to defendant at five o'clock because he was not disorderly. He did not interfere with drunkards when quiet.

Police-constable Hughes corroborated, and said that defendant was staggering drunk at five minutes to five.

Harry Neville said he was in the HEATH TAVERN, Cradley Heath, and defendant, who was there, asked him to treat him, remarking that the landlady would not serve him.

Eleanor Hickman and Ernest Hickman corroborated.

Mr. Pritchard said the defence was a total denial of the drunkenness. The defendant left his work at 2-30, and upon visiting the HEATH TAVERN got to high words with a man of the name of Yardley. Both men were put out on account of their disorderly conduct. He should call witnesses, who would say that defendant was sober, and he asked the Bench to give defendant the benefit of the doubt.

Defendant was called, and denied he was drunk.

Mary Ann Hadley and Mrs. Perry gave corroborative evidence.

Defendant was fined 5s and costs."

1901 Census

171, High Street

[1] *Horace E. Hickman* (27), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Mary A. Hickman* (26), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Pearl Hickman (1), daughter, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 13/7/1901

"The half-yearly meeting of the sick and draw club, held at the HEATH TAVERN, took place last week. After the transaction of business, the half-yearly dinner of the club was held, Mr. J. Poole presiding over a good attendance. Mr. *Horace Hickman*, the host, catered well. The evening passed away pleasantly, and songs and recitations were given by Messrs. J. Tromans, M. Downing, C. Wallace, J. Simpson, F. Homer, J. Foley, and W. Adams. The principal feature of the entertainment was given by Mr. D. Poole, who is at home previous to a series of London and provincial engagements. 'Success to the club' was proposed by Mr. Walter Coley."

County Advertiser 11/1/1902

"A supper was held at HEATH TAVERN in connection with the sick and draw club. Mr and Mrs. *H. Hickman* provided an excellent repast, and a hearty vote of thanks was passed to them."

County Express 15/2/1902

"*Horace Hickman*, landlord of the HEATH TAVERN, High Street, Cradley Heath, was summoned for selling whiskey which contained 14 per cent of water beyond the statutory limit. In reply to Mr. Waldron, who defended, Mr. Toy (sub-inspector) said he did not see a notice in the room to the effect 'All spirits sold at this establishment are diluted with water according to price and quality.'

Mr. Waldron: Will you swear the notice was not exhibited in the licensed room?

Witness: I say it was not exhibited in clear view of the customer.

Mr. Waldron submitted that the whiskey had not been sold to the prejudice of the customer, because of the notice. After a long legal argument, defendant said the notice was over the jar from which whiskey was taken. His wife broke the whiskey down during his absence. In reply to the Bench, Mrs. *Hickman* said she had never previously broken whiskey down. The Bench decided to convict, and fined defendant £5 and costs."

County Advertiser 28/11/1903

"Rowland Tromans, of Yardleys Yard, Cradley Heath, was summoned for being drunk and disorderly and refusing to quit the HEATH TAVERN, High Street, Cradley Heath, on the 21st inst. *Horace Hickman*, landlord of the house, stated that on the date named defendant was supplied with ale, but witness, noticing his drunken condition, took it off him, and ordered him to leave the premises. Defendant refused, and witness had to eject him. Defendant then threatened him in a violent manner, but eventually left when Police-constable Donellan came upon the scene. He was fined 10s and costs for refusing to quit, and 2s 6d and costs for the drunkenness."

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 HEATH TAVERN, High Street, Cradley Heath, kept by *Horace Hewitt Hickman*, in order to secure the proper conduct of the business upon the premises.

The magistrates adjourned the renewal of the licenses of the HEATH TAVERN, Cradley Heath, 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 the renewal of the HEATH TAVERN, High Street, Cradley Heath, was adjourned until that day for the applicant to make structural alterations to the premises. These were well in hand, and would be completed shortly. The licenses were accordingly renewed.”

County Advertiser 17/12/1904

“An application was made by *Horace Ewart Hickman*, landlord of the HEATH TAVERN, High Street, Cradley Heath, for sanction to make structural alterations at the premises. Mr. L. Harris (architect) explained the proposed alterations and in reply to superintendent Johnson, said they would make the premises entire self-contained. Superintendent Johnson said there was no opposition to the proposal, as he considered it was a very good improvement. The application was granted.”

County Advertiser 21/7/1906

“A painful sensation was created at the beginning of this week by the sudden illness and death of Mr. *Horace Ewart Hickman*, of HEATH TAVERN, High Street, Cradley Heath. After midnight on Saturday night Mr. *Hickman*, who was only 32 years of age, was out in the street, looking quite well. At four o'clock on Sunday morning he roused his wife and said, ‘Fetch me a drop of brandy; I am ill.’ She hurried to do so, but before he could drink it he burst a blood-vessel, and vomited a tremendous quantity of blood. Drs. Tibbetts and Weaver were at once summoned, and all that could be done for the poor fellow was done; but from the first his condition was hopeless, and he passed quietly away at eleven o'clock on Sunday night. He widow is left with two young children, and the greatest sympathy is extended to her in her sudden bereavement. Deceased was a quiet, pleasant man, a native of Cradley Heath, and had held the license of HEATH TAVERN for eight years, having lived there for seventeen years in all. The funeral took place on Thursday afternoon.”

AND

County Advertiser 21/7/1906 - Deaths

“In loving memory of *Horace Ewart Hickman*, of Cradley Heath, who fell asleep July 15th, 1906, aged 32 years. Interred at St. Luke’s Church, Cradley Heath. ‘Watch, therefore, for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.’ Matthew xxiv, 42.

’Tis hard to part with those we love,

Tho’ parting days will come;

Yet let us hope to meet above,

For this is not our home.

His end was peace.”

County Advertiser 18/8/1906

“The following licenses were transferred.

HEATH TAVERN, Cradley Heath, from *Horace Ewart Hickman* (deceased) to *Mary Ann Hickman*.”

County Advertiser 27/7/1907

“The annual Friendly Societies’ service at Cradley Heath took place on Sunday last in St. Luke’s Church, Four Ways. Prior to the service, a grand procession was formed in a field in King Street (kindly lent by Mrs. Burley) and paraded the principal streets. The order of the procession was as follows: Patrons, Committee, Salvation Army Band, HEATH TAVERN Good Samaritan, CROWN AND ANCHOR Pride of Cradley Heath, HOPE AND ANCHOR Pride of the Garden, Quarry Bank Silver Band, Pride of the Heath, Foresters’ Home, Robin Hood’s Merry Rangers, Church Benefit Society, Rechabites, Cable and Anchor, Cradley Heath town prize band, Police, Fire Brigade.

The proceeds will be distributed between the Dispensary, Guest, and Eye Hospitals, Dudley; Eye, Ear and Throat, and General Hospitals, Birmingham; and the Local Sick Room and Nursing Fund.”

County Express 12/9/1908

“Friendly Societies’ Parade. On Wednesday evening the committee of the above met at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Mr. W. Coley presiding over a large attendance. The following was a complete list of those boxes which contained amounts of 1s and upwards.

Mrs. *Hickman*, HEATH TAVERN, £1 3s 8½d.”

Mary Ann Hickman married *Benjamin Homer* in the 1st quarter of 1910.

1911 Census

171, High Street – HEATH TAVERN

[1] *Benjamin Homer* (33), butcher and licensed victualler, born Netherton;

[2] *Mary Ann Homer* (36), wife, married 1 year, manageress for public house, born Cradley Heath;

[3] Pearl Hickman (11), stepdaughter, born Cradley Heath;

[4] Dora Hickman (7), stepdaughter, born Cradley Heath;

[5] Winifred Hickman (28), general servant, born Cradley Heath:

Dudley Chronicle 8/11/1913

“William Berry, Cradley Road, Newtown, for leaving a float unattended at Cradley Heath on October 29th, outside the HEATH TAVERN, was ordered to pay costs. Defendant said he was over 70 years of age, and had never been in a court before. He had left his grand-daughter in charge. PC Plummer proved the case.”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/2/1914

“The licensing sessions for the Old Hill Petty Sessional Division were held yesterday.....

Mr. W. H. Thompson referred to the improvements at the HEATH TAVERN, Cradley Heath, and pointed out that these had not been completed because his clients were negotiating for an extended lease of the premises. They did not wish to carry out the alterations until the lease was extended.

Superintendent Johnson said the accommodation at the house was bad, and it was desirable the improvements should be carried out.

The Bench decided to refer the matter to the adjourned sessions.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/7/1929

“The enthusiasm engendered by the festivities at Cradley Heath in aid of the hospital funds continues to increase as the week nears its end. Thousands of flags have been used in street decorations and even the most fastidious pleasure seeker is admirably catered for. Last night a mile of pennies in charge of local Boy Scouts was started by Mr. W. Willetts, JP, CC, the chairman of Rowley Regis Council, and Mr. J. H. Griffiths, JP. During the day an ox was roasted outside HEATH TAVERN, High Street, and scores of people purchased sandwiches. At night several jazz bands paraded the streets and merriment continued until a late hour.”

Frank Murdoch Tibbetts – see also GEORGE, Old Hill.

Clifford Harris Pearson – see also CHERRY ORCHARD, Old Hill.

1939 Register

171, High Street – HEATH TAVERN

[1] *Joseph R. Petford*, date of birth 17/10/1888, licensed victualler, married;

[2] Lily Petford, dob 8/12/1885, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] Edwin Griffiths, dob 18/6/1907, fitter, motor works, married;

[4] Edith (Griffiths) Bloomer, dob 4/5/1910, unpaid domestic duties, married:

Eric Gordon Lancaster – see also GRANGE, Rowley Regis.

Harry Lowe – see also CHERRY ORCHARD, Old Hill.

John Paterson Parker – see also WIZARD AND GLASS.

Black Country Bugle 2/3/2006

“.....Mick Verracha used to stand outside ‘The Boster’ with his tater cart, selling jacket potatoes, four for a penny, wrapped up in a square of newspaper.....”

Black Country Bugle 16/3/2016 - Memories from Nick Bate

“..... It was a cosy little two roomed pub, and it had a traditional stove in one of the rooms.....”

[1976]

Closed

It was demolished in 2000.

HOLLY BUSH

190, High Street, Four Ways, (Five Ways), CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

Atkinsons Ltd. [1906], [1929]

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

Enterprise Inns [1993]

David Jones (acquired in 1996)

LICENSEES

Richard Homer [1827] – [1841]
Nehemiah Homer [1842] – 1877);
Mrs. Jane Homer (1877 – [1885]
Nehemiah Homer [1891] – 1904);
Abraham Matthews (1904 – 1905);
Arthur Harvey (1905 – 1907);
John Waring (1907 – 1909);
Samuel Lester (1909 – [1911]
Fred W Boilstone [1912]
Sydney Edward Lucock [1919] – 1920);
Bert Adrian Slim (1920 – 1924);
Joseph Frederick Homer (1924 – 1927);
William Hill (1927 – 1930);
John Chalmers Johnstone (1930 – 1931);
Thomas Edward Evans (1931 – 1940);
Kate Evans (1940 – 1953);
Richard Albert Williams (1953 – 1957);
Reginald Mole (1957 – 1958);
John Birch (1958 – 1961);
Joseph Henry Griffiths (1961);
George Norman Hancox (1961 – 1962);
William Joseph Edmunds (1962 – [1965]
Joseph Mullett [1980s]
David Jones (1995 – [1996]

NOTES

BUSH [1847], [1862]
OLD BUSH [1874], [1877]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 21/5/1827

“Freehold House, at Cradley Heath.

To be Sold by Auction, without reserve, by Griffiths and Marsh, on Monday next, May 26, at the house of *Richard Homer*, Victualler, Cradley Heath, precisely at five o'clock in the afternoon, under such conditions as will be then and there produced.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/11/1833 - Advert

“Freehold Premises at Cradley Heath.

To be Sold by Auction, Without Reserve, by Jesse Wright, on Friday, the 15th day of November, 1833, at precisely five o'clock in the afternoon, at the house of Mr. *Richard Homer*, known by the sign of the HOLLY BUSH, at Cradley Heath, subject to conditions then to be produced.....”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/6/1841 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold House and Building Land, at Five Ways, Cradley Heath.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Jesse Wright, on Friday the 9th day of July next, at the house of Mr. *Richard Homer*, near the Four Ways, Cradley, subject to conditions then to be produced.....”

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

8th May 1842 - Constance Elenor Smith, daughter of *Nehemiah* and *Jane Homer*, licensed victualler, Cradley Heath.

30th April 1843 - John Richard Smith, son of *Nehemiah* and *Jane Homer*, victualler, Cradley Heath.

11th August 1844 - Myra Sophie Smith, daughter of *Nehemiah* and *Jane Homer*, victualler, Cradley Heath.

Worcestershire Chronicle 18/8/1847 - Advert

“Highly valuable Freehold Property, at the Four Ways, Cradley Heath, in the County of Stafford.

Messrs. Newbold & Smith respectfully announce their instructions from the Proprietor, to Sell by Public Auction, on Wednesday, the 1st day of September, 1847, at the house of Mr. *N. Homer*, the BUSH INN, Four Ways, Cradley Heath, at 6 o'clock in the evening, and subject to conditions then to be produced.

All those elibigible and substantially-built Freehold Business Premises, desirably situated at the Four Ways, Cradley Heath, in the parish of Rowley Regis, consisting of Brass Foundry, Steam-Engine Manufactory, Workshops, Warehouse, Extensive Yard, approached by a pair of folding doors, capital Two-Stall Stable, with Loft over; Gig-House, Cart Shed, an abundant supply of Soft and Hard Water, well-arranged Brewhouse; also a comfortable and convenient Dwelling House and Grocer's Shop adjoining, and fronting the Road leading from Dudley to Halesowen.....”

Birmingham Journal 2/11/1850 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Building Land, at Cradley Heath in the Parish of Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Bateman, at the House of Mr. *Nehemiah Homer*, the HOLLY BUSH INN, Four Ways, Cradley, on Monday, the 11th day of November, 1850, at Six o'clock in the evening.....”

1851 Census

Cradley Heath

- [1] *Nehemiah Homer* (45), victualler, born Rowley;
- [2] *Jane Homer* (37), wife, born Bath;
- [3] Constance E. Homer (9), daughter, scholar, born Rowley;
- [4] John Richard Homer (8), son, scholar, born Rowley;
- [5] Myrah S. Homer (6), daughter, scholar, born Rowley;
- [6] *Nehemiah S. Homer* (5), son, scholar, born Rowley;
- [7] Jane Maria Homer (3), daughter, scholar, born Rowley;
- [8] Major S. Homer (1), son, born Rowley;
- [9] Jane May (14), house servant, born Didson, Devonshire;
- [10] Maria Bennett (58), house servant, born Rowley;
- [11] Henry Roberts (30), blacksmith, born Rowley;

Worcestershire Chronicle 20/9/1854

“Unjust Weights and Measures. No less than 52 delinquents of this description were today fined as follows.....

Rowley Regis..... *Nehemiah Homer*, one quart and two pints, 5s.”

Brierley Hill Advertiser 17/7/1858

“On Monday, July 13th, the members of the True Albion Lodge of Odd Fellows, MG, held their annual meeting at Mr. *N. Homer*'s, HOLLY BUSH INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath; the members with full regalia headed by the well known Spinners End brass band, proceeded to Rowley Old Church, where an eloquent address was delivered.....”

Birmingham Journal 21/8/1858

“On Wednesday morning an accident of a serious nature took place at the British Iron Company's Works, Corngreaves. Some men have lately been employed pulling down an old stack, and on Wednesday morning, soon after six o'clock, while John Forester and a fellow workman were on a temporary scaffolding, which was erected to facilitate the operations, from some cause or other it gave way, and both were hurled from a great height to the ground. Forester's mangled body was taken up, and life found to be extinct; his companion, though living, still lies in great jeopardy. Forester leaves a wife and numerous family to deplore his sudden death.”

Brierley Hill Advertiser 28/8/1858

“The Late Accident at Corngreaves. An inquest on the body of Jesse Forrest (not Jeremiah Portock), who met with his death at the above Works on Wednesday the 18th inst, was held on Friday the 20th, at the HOLLY BUSH INN, Cradley Heath, before R. Docker, Esq, (coroner), and a respectable jury, of whom Mr. E. Adams was foreman. Only two witnesses were examined – the two men who were on top of the shaft at the time of the accident, Jeremiah Forrest (brother of the deceased), and William Parkes – and after a patient inquiry a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.

We understand that a subscription has been organised in the works for the purpose of aiding and assisting Forrest's widow.....”

County Advertiser 22/10/1859 - Advert

“Money. To Be Advanced, immediately, upon good security, £100.

Apply to, *Nehemiah Homer*, HOLLY BUSH INN, Four Ways, Cradley Heath.”

Birmingham Journal 2/11/1859 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Building Land, at Cradley Heath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Bateman, at the house o Mr. *Nehemiah Homer*, the HOLLY BUSH INN, Four Ways, Cradley, on Monday, the 11th day of November, 1850, at Six o'clock in the evening.....”

Derby Mercury 4/4/1860

“At the public office, Wordsley, on Monday, *Nehemiah Homer*, John Morgan, and James Woodhouse, stewards of The Friendly Fellowship of Rowley Regis, were summoned by John Woodhouse, a member of the society, on the following grounds. In December Woodhouse was taken ill; but as the stewards considered his illness had been accelerated by drinking and fighting, relief was refused. While the case was pending complainant paid his subscription, but was subsequently expelled by a rule of the society, which provided that when any member became chargeable through drinking or fighting he should be excluded. The present application was that he might be reinstated. It was contended that he had not become chargeable to the club, since relief had not been offered to him, and was not, therefore, liable to the rule. The bench ordered the complainant to be reinstated with costs.”

1861 Census

High Street

- [1] *Nehemiah Homer* (55), publican, born Rowley;
- [2] *Jane Homer* (48), wife, born Rowley;
- [3] Constance Homer (19), daughter, servant in house, born Rowley;
- [4] John Homer (18), son, servant in house, born Rowley;
- [5] *Nehemiah Homer* (15), son, scholar, born Rowley;
- [6] Jane Maria Homer (13), daughter, scholar, born Rowley;
- [7] Major Homer (11), son, scholar, born Rowley;
- [8] Daniel Homer (9), son, scholar, born Rowley;
- [9] Jemima Homer (8), daughter, scholar, born Rowley;
- [10] Thomas Homer (6), son, scholar, born Rowley;
- [11] Myrah Homer (16) daughter, house servant, born Rowley;
- [12] Caleb Homer (3), son, scholar, born Rowley;
- [13] Mary Ann Naylor (18), visitor, born Dudley:

County Express 3/10/1868

“*Nehemiah Homer*, was charged with being drunk and disorderly on the 21st of August. Police-constable Johnson said defendant was in the disturbance referred to in the last case, making a great noise and using bad language. Phoebe Brettle, for the defence, said defendant was going past and did not speak. Mr. Ponton, who defended, said defendant was a respectable man, who would not join in such a disturbance. Case dismissed.”

[See TALBOT INN, High Street, Cradley Heath for the previous case.]

County Express 26/2/1870 - Deaths

“On the 20th inst, Constance, eldest daughter of Mr. *N. Homer*, HOLY [sic] BUSH INN, Four Ways, aged 28; deeply regretted.”

1871 Census

High Street – HOLLY BUSH

- [1] *Nehemiah Homer* (65), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Jane Homer* (58), wife, born Bath;
- [3] *Nehemiah Homer* (24), son, nail warehouse clerk, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Major Homer (21), son, carpenter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Daniel Homer (20), son, carpenter’s apprentice, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Thomas Homer (16), son, carpenter’s apprentice, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Caleb Homer (12), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] Jane M. Homer (21), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [9] Jimima Homer (17), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [10] Eli Burrows (25), boarder, musician, born Willenhall;
- [11] Eli Hawthorn (22), boarder, musician, born Kidderminster;
- [12] Charles Case (16), boarder, musician, born London:

Dudley Guardian 4/7/1874

“Important Meeting of Colliers at Dudley.

On Monday morning a district meeting, representing forty-five lodges belonging to the Dudley district, was held at the Central Lodge House, SHAKESPEARE INN, New Mill Street, Dudley.

Mr. Joseph Lee occupied the chair, and in opening the proceedings, he said he should have been glad to have met the delegates under more gratifying circumstances, but it appeared that they could not turn back. How long the struggle would last it was not for him to say; in fact, he did not know. It rested with the delegates who represented the men to say what was the feeling of their constituents – whether they were disposed to play on, or go to work at the reduction – (cries of ‘No’). The masters, by their conduct, did not seem disposed to give way, or offer any conciliatory terms; but the men, on the other hand, wanted to have the dispute amicably and honourably settled They had carried on the fight for thirteen weeks. . . .

The reports from each delegate were then verbally given. . . .

No.18 Lodge, OLD BUSH INN, Cradley Heath; 200 members. We have from 20 to 30 men at work at the old rate of wages, and the others are determined to stick until they are offered the old wages. The men at work pay the levy regularly.”

[The consensus was overwhelmingly to remain on strike.]

Nehemiah Homer died in the 2nd quarter of 1877.

Nehemiah Homer – see also ROEBUCK.

County Advertiser 7/7/1877

“The magistrates allowed the following transfers of ale-house licenses. . . .

OLD BUSH INN, Cradley Heath, from the executors of *Nehemiah Homer* to *Jane Homer*.”

County Express 23/2/1878

“A meeting of the members of the Conservative Association was held on Tuesday evening at Mrs. *N. Homer*’s, HOLLY BUSH INN, Four Ways. There was a very good attendance.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/7/1878 - Advert

“Horse. For Sale, handsome grey Gelding, 5 years, about 14 hands; self-colour; quiet to ride and drive; suit gentleman or lady’s carriage. Warranted sound. Trial allowed. No dealer need apply.
Nehemiah Homer, 186, High Street, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 13/7/1878

“Meeting of Odd Fellows. On Monday last the members of the True Albion Society held their anniversary at the HOLLY BUSH INN, Cradley Heath, when about forty-six sat down to an excellent dinner. After the removal of the cloth the chair was occupied by Bro. E. Bennett, and the vice-chair by Bro. J. Tromans. Bro. S. Mason, Secretary, read the annual report which showed a saving of £30. There are sixty members belonging to the Society, and the total worth is upwards of £900. Dr. Standish was re-elected surgeon for the ensuing year. Several members of the Company enlivened the proceedings by singing.”

Dudley and District News 18/12/1880 - Advert

“HOLLY BUSH INN, High Street, Cradley Heath.

Mr. Thomas Cooper has received instructions from Mr. Bladen, who is leaving the town, to remove to the premises for convenience of sale, and to Sell by Auction, on Monday Next, December 20th, 1880, part of his Valuable Household Furniture and Effects, Cooking Stove, Sack Weighing Machine, Chaff Machine, two Sets Harness, nearly new, three Sets Venetian Blinds, Riding Saddle, nearly new, 16 Pictures, and sundry other effects too numerous to mention.
Sale to Commence at Eleven o’clock.”

County Express 29/1/1881

“At the Staffordshire Winter Assizes on Wednesday, before Mr. Commissioner Wills, QC, John Dean, aged 27, horse-dealer, the Thorns, Brierley Hill, and Henry Eveson (on bail), spade-tree maker, the Lye Waste, were charged with uttering counterfeit coin. Mr. Marshall Todd prosecuted on behalf of the Treasury; Mr. Darling (instructed by Mr. Stokes, Dudley) defended Dean, and Mr. Godson (instructed by Mr. Waldron, Brierley Hill) defended Eveson.

There were two indictments, the first against Dean only, and charged him with feloniously uttering and putting off on the 13th January last a certain piece of counterfeit coin, intended to resemble the current coin of the realm.

Mary Jeffcott stated that she lived with her father, a grocer, of Lawrence Lane, Old Hill. Between half-past seven and eight o’clock on the night of the 13th inst the prisoner Dean came into the shop, and asked for a pennyworth of cough lozenges, tendering in payment a 2s piece. She gave him 1s 11d change, and put the florin away in the house, subsequently handing it over to Inspector Walters.

Nehemiah Homer, son of the landlady of the HOLLY BUSH INN, Cradley Heath, stated that Dean came to the house at about half-past eight o’clock on the night of the 13th inst and asked for a pennyworth of rum. He tendered a two-shilling piece in payment, and received the change. After the prisoner had left witness looked at the coin, and having a doubt about its being good rung it. He subsequently handed it over to Police-sergeant Shaw.

Henry Grainger gave supporting evidence.

Police-sergeant Shaw said that on the 13th January he, in company with Police-constable Mountford, arrested the prisoner Dean, and charged him with passing a counterfeit coin at the house of *Nehemiah Homer*. He replied, ‘I know nothing about it.’

Cross-examined: He was in bed at the time he was arrested. Witness searched the house, but found no bad money.

John Wesley Henn said he examined the coins brought to him by Inspector Walters, and found them to be counterfeit.

Inspector Walters, of Old Hill, deposed that he charged Dean with uttering a bad two shilling piece upon Mary Jeffcott. He replied, ‘I never was in the shop.’

Mr. Todd said this was the case for the prosecution.

The Judge said he hardly saw Mr. Todd’s case. It was alleged that on the same day the prisoner passed two pieces of bad coin.

Mr. Todd replied that it was not necessary to prove more than the passing of one; and he pointed out that the prisoner had passed two within a short space of time.

The Judge said it was very necessary to show that he knew it was a bad coin. He would not absolutely withdraw the case from the jury, but before it went further he must ask them what they thought about it, whether it was safe to convict a man upon nothing else than that upon one day within a short time he had in his possession two bad coins.

Mr. Todd then, with permission of his lordship, called another witness.

Thomas Burgess, landlord of the GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill, said the prisoner at the bar came into his house about half-past seven o’clock on the evening of the 13th January. There was another person in company with him, and the prisoner asked his companion what he would take to drink. The other man replied that he would take whiskey. Dean then said, ‘Don’t go for too much, or we shall have to go into the silver. They paid 5d for what they had to drink.

The jury then consulted and brought in a verdict of not guilty.”

[The second case (see under WAGGON AND HORSES, Reddal Hill) was then heard and the jury returned a verdict of guilty and they were each committed to hard labour for a year.]

J. Homer issued tokens from here.

[This was probably Jane Homer.]

1881 Census

190, High Street – HOLLY BUSH INN

- [1] *Jane Homer* (67), wife, public house keeper, born Bath;
- [2] *Nehemiah Homer* (35), son, warehouseman, born Cradley Heath;
- [3] *Daniel Homer* (29), son, coach builder, born Cradley Heath;
- [4] *Thomas Homer* (25), son, cabinet maker, born Cradley Heath;
- [5] *Caleb Homer* (23), son, shoe maker, born Cradley Heath;
- [6] *Kate Turley* (13), general servant, born Cradley Heath:

County Advertiser 4/6/1881 - Advert

“Money! Money! Money!

All Persons in want of Money, and those who are desirous to Invest, should join either of the undermentioned Loan and Investment Societies, held at Mr. Thomas Gaunt’s OLD BUSH INN, Powke Lane, Rowley, every Wednesday Evening; at Henry Tope’s, OLD CROSS INN, Old Hill, every Thursday Evening; and at the HOLLY BUSH INN, Mrs. *Jane Homer*’s, Cradley Heath, every Saturday Evening. No Fines for Non-payment. No Interest to pay.

Business hours from Half-past Seven to Nine o’clock.

Scale of payments.

For a Share of £10 0s 0d. 1s 3d per week.

For a Share of £20 0s 0d. 2s 3d per week.

For a Share of £30 0s 0d. 3s 3d per week.

For a Share of £40 0s 0d. 4s 3d per week.

For a Share of £50 0s 0d. 5s 3d per week.

Registered pursuant to Act of Parliament.

The rules may be seen and every information obtained by applying at either of the above places, or on application to the Secretary, Mr. Isaac Cashmore, Auctioneer and House Agent, Rose Cottages, Rowley Regis.”

Dudley and District News 22/9/1883

“The third anniversary of the Cradley Heath Loan and Investment Society, held at the HOLLY BUSH INN, Four Ways, Cradley Heath, was celebrated on Tuesday evening last. A splendid repast was provided by the host (Mr. *N. Homer*), of which about 150 of the members partook. After dinner was over a meeting of the members was held, Mr. A. Boswell being appointed chairman, and Mr. C. Willetts vice-chairman. The auditors presented their report, showing that the society had 284 members, and the number of shares had reached 540, and represented £5,400. Since the society had commenced it had sold to purchasers £2,100. The society had a reserve fund worth £660, and a sinking fund worth £19.”

County Express 18/7/1885

“On Monday the members of the True Albion Friendly Society met at the house of Mrs. *Homer*, HOLLY BUSH INN, High Street, Cradley Heath, to a good substantial dinner provided by the hostess. The cloth being removed the business of the day was proceeded with, Dr. Standish was re-elected surgeon, also a committee of management for the ensuing year, after which the Secretary was called upon to give the yearly report of the Society. Receipts £128 6s 1d, expenditure £100 13s 11½d, leaving a balance for the year of £27 12s 1½d. The Society numbers 57 full members, with a capital of £1,000, the average capital per member being £17 10s 0d. A vote of thanks to the hostess for the able manner she had catered, and also to the officers of the Society, brought the evening to a close.”

County Advertiser 17/10/1885

“Eli Bloomer, Quarry Bank, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of *Jane Homer*, HOLLY BUSH INN, Cradley Heath, on the 26th ult. Mr. Cooksey defended.

Police-sergeant White and Police-constable Tytherleigh said that on the evening in question they saw the defendant while in a drunken condition go to the HOLLY BUSH INN. The officers went into the house shortly afterwards and found the defendant sitting in one of the rooms with a glass in his hand.

The defendant denied being drunk and called six witnesses who said he was not drunk.

The Bench gave defendant the benefit of the doubt and dismissed the case.”

County Advertiser 18/12/1886

“On Wednesday morning a large meeting of chainmakers was held in the Salvation Army Barracks, Cradley Heath, Mr. T. Homer presiding. It was reported that Mr. T. Darby, of Old Hill, had sent £5 5s towards the relief fund, and also that the members of the True Albion Society, held at the HOLLY BUSH INN, Cradley Heath, had sent £1. A letter was read from Mr. D. Parsons, grocer, High Street, Cradley Heath, stating his willingness to give 200 packets of sugar – (applause) – and 200 packets of tea. (Loud applause.) Mr. Homer referred to a letter which appeared in the *Daily Gazette*, and which stated that female chainmakers earned 1s 6d to 2s 6d per day, and men with skill, who would work could earn 20s to 30s per week, and that they were only half as badly off as represented. He (Mr. Homer) said the man who wrote that latter did not tell the truth, and he wished he had to work as long as the chainmakers had for the amount they had been receiving, and then he would know something about it. Some persons were always grumbling, and he thought that man was one of them. The man also wanted the association to make out a balance-sheet to see where the money went to. He (Mr. Homer) would soon make out a balance-sheet if he would pay for them, but Mr. Homer thought if he had been there last week whilst bread was being distributed he would have seen where the money went to. It was

decided to play on.”

AND

“The following subscriptions to the Chainmakers’ Relief Fund have been received this week.....

True Albion Oddfellows’ Society, Cradley Heath, £1.....

Mr. Parsons, grocer, of Four Ways, Cradley Heath, has given a present of 200lbs of sugar and 200 2oz packets of tea for distribution for Christmas. The blankets and clothing sent have been carefully distributed to the most necessitous cases; but so great are the numbers requiring relief that the assistance is painfully out of proportion to the need. The chairman, however, hopes to be able, during the Christmas week, to give the usual number of loaves to each family and a small quantity of tea and sugar, and also a very little money in addition.”

County Advertiser 28/4/1888 - Advert

“Money! Money! Money!

To the Inhabitants of Cradley Heath, Quarry Bank, Lye, and Surrounding Districts.

A Loan and Investment Society is held at the Registered Office, HOLLY BUSH INN, Cradley Heath, every Tuesday Evening. (Established November 8th, 1887.)

The Society is carried out on the most economical and improved principles. Men of Business who need Cash, and also Investors, need not have the slightest hesitation in becoming members, as they can be assured the funds will be most carefully looked after, and the strictest attention paid to all business connected therewith.

Scale of Payment is at the rate of 1s per week for each share of £10.

Sums Advanced, from £10 to £50, every alternate Thursday Evening.

Hours of Business from 7.30 to 8.30.

Every information can be obtained, and members enrolled on application to the Treasurer, *Nehemiah Homer*.”

Dudley Mercury 6/4/1889

“Thomas Baker, no fixed abode, was charged with being drunk and disorderly, on the 1st of May, 1888, and also with assaulting Police-constable Wynne, on the 2nd inst. The officer stated that on the 1st of May, last year, he saw the prisoner drunk, at the FIVE WAYS INN, Cradley Heath. He had been turned out of a public house, had broken several jugs, and had thrown a jug at the landlord and a customer. Prisoner had since absconded. On Tuesday afternoon he arrested the prisoner in the HOLLY BUSH INN, Cradley Heath. He had to drag and carry the prisoner, who kicked him several times. Prisoner was fined 2s 6d and costs, or seven days’ imprisonment for the drunkenness, and 5s and costs, or fourteen days’ imprisonment for the assault.

John Stinton, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, was charged with attempting to rescue the last prisoner from the police, on the 2nd inst, and was fined 2s 6d and costs, or fourteen days’ imprisonment.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/3/1891

“During Thursday night the HOLLY BUSH INN, Cradley Heath, was broken into by thieves, who effected an entrance through the cellar window. Some money was taken from the till.”

1891 Census

190, High Street

[1] *Nehemiah Homer* (45), publican, licensed, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Maria Homer (40), wife, born Stourbridge;

[3] Nehemiah Homer (1 month), son, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Mary Ann Evans (19), general servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 5/9/1891 - Advert

“Friendly Societies’ Procession and Grand Fete and Gala will be held in the Picturesque Haden Hill Grounds (By kind permission of G. A. H. Haden Best, Esq) on Rowley Wake Monday, September 14th, 1891, on behalf of the Guest Hospital, Dudley Dispensary, and Birmingham Eye Hospital.

Mr. Jos. Darby, the Champion Jumper of the World, is specially engaged, and will beat all previous records.

Football Match – Causeway Green Villa (Holders of the Dudley Charity Cup) v Old Hill Wanderers.

Punch and Judy and other Amusements.

Grand Fireworks Display! Pool On Fire, &c, by Messrs. Brock and Co., London.

The following Bands will be in attendance, and give Selections of Music: Prince of Wales, Blackheath; St. Paul’s, Blackheath; and the Cradley Heath Brass and Reed Band.

Refreshments will be supplied on the Grounds by Mr. J. Westwood, BEE HIVE INN, Cradley Heath.

Admission – Adults Sixpence, Children Half-price.

Tickets may be had from Messrs W. Bennett, Trinity Schools, and S. Mason, Halesowen Road, Old Hill; Joseph Rock, Cock Green; Philip Taylor, Springfield; William Beddowes and William Woodhouse, Rowley; Sampson Willetts, Birmingham Road, William Lewis, Tump Road, Job Cashmore, Hackett Street, and Samuel Harper, Halesowen Street, Blackheath; Richard Roberts, Dog Lane; Thomas Brookes, Ross; George Hollies, Four Ways; *Nehemiah Homer*, HOLLY BUSH INN, Cradley Heath; from any of the Bandmasters, or from the Hon. Sec. Mr. Isaac Cashmore, Powke Lane, Blackheath.

Grounds open at 2pm.”

County Advertiser 25/7/1896

“On Monday last the members of the True Albion Friendly Society, held at the HOLLY BUSH INN, High Street, had their annual dinner, when an excellent spread was provided by the host and hostess. The report read by the secretary showed that the society was in a very prosperous condition. A vote of thanks was passed to all the officers of the society, and to the host and hostess.”

County Advertiser 20/3/1897 - Advert

“Cradley Heath.

Mr. T. Pateshall, is instructed to Sell by Auction, at the house of Mr. *Nehemiah Homer*, the HOLLY BUSH INN, Cradley Heath, on Tuesday, the 23rd day of March, 1897, at Six for Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions.

All those two valuable Freehold Messuages or Dwelling Houses, with Workshop, Brewhouse, Walled in Gardens, Yard, with cart way entrance, and Appurtenances, situate in and fronting a new street, named St. Luke's Street.....”

County Advertiser 17/7/1897

“Mr. A. A. Betham (deputy coroner) held an inquest at the HOLLY BUSH INN, High Street, Cradley Heath, on Wednesday, on the body of Lucy Harris (81), formerly residing in Fox Oak Street, Cradley Heath, who died on Tuesday last, from injuries received through falling down on the 26th June.

William Harris, son, stated that deceased had been a very feeble old lady. On the 26th of June she was walking by the Theatre Royal when she stumbled and fell backwards to the ground. Witness and another man assisted to get deceased into the house.

Dr. T. V. de Denne was called in, and he attended her until she died on Tuesday last. The doctor informed him that deceased had suffered from a broken thigh. Deceased had on many occasions fallen down, but had not hurt herself.

Evidence was given by a Mrs. Doods, and Police-constable Maisey deposed to making all the inquiries into the case and finding no suspicious circumstances connected with it.

The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Nehemiah Homer was also a brewer. [1898]

County Advertiser 17/12/1898

“On Monday morning Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest at the HOLLY BUSH INN, High Street, Cradley Heath, concerning the death of Francis Horace Blunt, aged one year and eleven months, whose parents reside in High Street, Cradley Heath, who died on the 9th inst, from burns received on the 8th.

The evidence showed that on the 8th the deceased was left in the kitchen playing, when suddenly the assistant at the shop, Sophia Homer, heard screams, and rushing in she saw him with his clothing all in flames. The flames were extinguished, and deceased was attended by Dr. Tibbetts, but he died at 6-30 on the 9th inst.

Dr. Tibbetts stated that deceased had sustained serious burns to his legs, arms chest, and face. He attributed death to be due to the high fever which set in as a result of the burns.

Evidence was also given by Police-sergeant Pitcher and Rosannah Homer, who stated that before he died deceased said he was playing with a piece of string when his clothing caught fire.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1901 Census

190, High Street

[1] *Nehemiah Homer* (55), publican, born Cradley Heath;

[2] Maria Homer (40), wife, born Lye;

[3] *Nehemiah Homer* (10), son, born Cradley Heath:

County Advertiser 8/3/1902 - Advert

“To be Sold, by Private Treaty, belonging to the True Albion Friendly Society, held at the house of the HOLLY BUSH INN, Cradley Heath, Four Houses and a Plot of Land adjoining, situate in St. Luke's Street, Cradley Heath. Mines and Minerals to be Sold with Surface.

Apply to Mr. Edward Bennett, Reddal Hill Road, or Mr. Samuel Mason, 74, Halesowen Road, Old Hill.”

County Advertiser 12/11/1904 - Advert

“Wanted, a General Servant; one used to Public Business preferred.

Mrs. *N. Homer*, HOLLY BUSH, High Street, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 14/4/1906

Mr. J. W. Clulow applied on behalf of Messrs. Atkinsons Ltd, brewers of Birmingham, for sanction to the re-building of the HOLLY BUSH INN, which is one of the oldest licensed houses in the Cradley Heath district. He pointed out that it was necessary both in the interests of the owners and also the public that it should be re-built. He submitted plans for the re-building of the house, and also for the erection of stabling to accommodate four horses. Mr. Bassano (presiding magistrate) said it appeared to the licensing justices that the restored house would fit in with the general scheme as regarded licensed houses in the district, and that from its position it should remain. The magistrates therefore approved the plans.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/3/1907 - Advert

“General, strong (20-26), 5s; three in family; no caps.

Apply, Mrs. *Harvey*, the HOLLY BUSH, High Street, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 30/3/1907

“Daniel Bridgwater, chainmaker, of Foxoak Street, Cradley Heath, was charged with using threats towards *Arthur Harvey*, landlord of the HOLLY BUSH INN, High Street, Cradley Heath, on the 23rd inst.

Mr. G. Williams, who prosecuted, explained that defendant was annoyed because complainant refused to serve him in his house. On the date in question the defendant threatened him in a very violent manner.

The magistrates bound defendant over to keep the peace for six months.”

County Advertiser 3/8/1907

“*Arthur Harvey*, licensee of the HOLLY BUSH INN, High Street, Cradley Heath, was summoned for permitting drunkenness upon his licensed premises, and also for supplying a drunken person, on the 1st ult. Mr. J. Clulow prosecuted for the Chief Constable, and Mr. W. Waldron defended.

Mr. Clulow explained that shortly after nine o'clock on the night in question, Police-constables Bridgwood and Horton visited the public house, and upon going into the tap room they found a man named Andrew Billingham in a very drunken state. At the time the officers entered Billingham was drinking from a cup. Bridgwood spoke to defendant, who said the man had been in the house about half an hour, but had not been served, and one of the customers had given him his cup to drink from. Evidence bearing out this statement was given by Police-constables Bridgwood and Horton.

For the defence, Mr. Waldron admitted that Billingham was drunk, but said he had been in the house about five minutes before the constables came in. The man went to the public house during a rush in the business, but was refused by *Harvey*, who asked him to leave. Defendant thought Billingham had done so, but later on, when the rush was over, he found that he was still in the house. Another man gave Billingham his cup of beer to drink from before defendant could intervene, and he was in the act of drinking when the constables appeared on the scene. He contended that defendant had taken all necessary precaution to prevent drunkenness, especially as Billingham was suffering from consumption, and to use force in ejecting him would probably have a serious effect. A number of witnesses were called to support.

The Bench, however, considered that insufficient care was used by defendant, and fined him 40s and costs, amounting in all to £4 15s 6d.

Billingham was fined 20s and costs, for being drunk upon the licensed premises.”

County Express 12/9/1908

“Friendly Societies’ Parade. On Wednesday evening the committee of the above met at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Mr. W. Coley presiding over a large attendance. The following was a complete list of those boxes which contained amounts of 1s and upwards.

Mr. *J. Waring*, HOLLY BUSH, 2s 3½d.”

Tipton Herald 6/11/1909

“On Monday morning the Coroner, Mr. G. C. Lewis, held an inquest in the HOLLY BUSH INN, Cradley Heath, into the circumstances concerning the death of Sidney Richard Priest, son of Horace Priest, who died at the house of his grandmother, 189, High Street, Cradley Heath.

It appears that on the 27th ult, the child was playing in the kitchen when he upset a pan, which was on the hob, containing melted butter, and a quantity of the liquid went over one of his legs.

Phoebe Bennett, 189, High Street, Cradley Heath, said she was a grandmother of the dead child. On the 27th ult she was engaged in her usual household duties when the boy got on a chair behind her and by some means or other a quantity of melted butter fell on to his leg, which was badly burned. She was advised to dress the wound with olive oil. She did this. The boy cried for half an hour, and then appeared all right and playful. The next day she sent for Dr. Kelly. The child, however, died on the following morning.

Dr. L. F. Kelly said he was sent for after the accident. The child was suffering badly from shock. He called next morning, and the child was dead. The burns were superficial. So far as treatment was concerned, the people in the house did what was necessary.

The cause of death was septic absorption.

Mr. Thomas Pateshall, the foreman of the jury, proposed a resolution of sympathy with the parents and relatives.

Mr. Walter Coley seconded, and the Coroner was asked to forward the message.

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the doctor’s evidence.”

Blackcountryman (Spring 1969)

‘The Chain of Events from 1910 - Billy Russell’

“The Empire theatre was next to the HOLLY BUSH, which in those days was a new red brick building. The actors would pop in between acts and the regular customers would always shout as soon as one of the actors entered, ‘What am yow ‘avin?’”

1911 Census

190, High Street – HOLLY BUSH INN

- [1] *Samuel Lester* (46), licensed victualler, born Brierley Hill;
- [2] *Harriett Lester* (41), wife, married 21 years, born Netherton;
- [3] *Sidney Lewiston Lester* (20), son, butcher, born Netherton;
- [4] *May Stinten* (17), general servant, born Old Hill;

[5] Girly Himer (16), general servant, born Cradley Heath:

County Express 3/6/1911

“Old Cradley Heath. Chat with Mr. Thomas Hingley Parsons, sexton at St. Luke’s Church for Forty Years.....
Though in his 81st year, Mr. Parsons is wonderfully virile and active, the keenness of his intellect and memory is unabated, and he willingly discoursed upon the Cradley Heath of his younger days.....
In those days, he added, the inhabitants of the district were not quarter so many as they are now, and the only public houses were the HOLLY BUSH, High Street; Bannister’s Newtown; ‘Benny Fiddler’s’; SALUTATION, Lomey Town; BEEHIVE, Graingers Lane; and QUEENS HEAD, Corngreaves Road.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/2/1912

“The Sessions for Old Hill division were held on Wednesday. Supt. Johnson reported that the number of licenses for renewal was 147, showing a decrease of two alehouses and one beerhouse, dealt with by the Compensation Authority. The Bench renewed the licenses of the WAGGON AND HORSES, Old Hill, the HOLLY BUSH, High Street, Cradley Heath, and the VINE INN, Cradley Heath, but the Chairman warned the holders to be more careful about the manner in which the houses were managed.”

County Express 31/8/1912 - Advert

“Girl (strong) Wanted as General, about 18.
Apply HOLLY BUSH, near Theatre, Cradley Heath.”

The People 13/9/1914

“Pte. M. Perks, 8035, Worcestershire Regt., has returned from the front with a wound in the foot, and is now in hospital at Netley. Perks and a brother private are members of a cork club at the HOLLY BUSH HOTEL, Cradley Heath, one of the rules of which is to the effect that when challenged a member has to produce his cork or pay a fine. The two men met at the front, and this is how Perks refers to the meeting, ‘You can tell the boys at the club that I have a complaint from Belgium to lodge against Alf. Grosvenor. I corked him up, but he had not got his cork.’”

County Express 22/1/1916

“On Tuesday, Mr. *Nehemiah Homer*, Foxoak Street, Cradley Heath, died at the age of 70. He leaves a widow and a son. Mr. *Homer* was a retired publican, having succeeded his father as licensee of the HOLLY BUSH, Upper High Street, now re-built and owned by Messrs. Atkinsons Brewery Company. The old house was built by a forebear and it is said the license has been held by members of the *Homer* family for 200 years, and the son of the deceased is the fifth generation to bear the christian name *Nehemiah*. In the ‘good old days’ bull baiting took place on the ground on which the present Empire Theatre stands, and there is in possession of the family one of the old bull baiting ropes. Whilst his father was still alive, Mr. *Homer* was for some time manager of the works of Messrs. Holmes and Hickman, nail and chain manufacturers, Halesowen, and later he was at the firm in Netherton. He retired from the business of the HOLLY BUSH some 11 years ago. The funeral is to-day, at 3.30, at St. Luke’s Church.”

Bert Adrian Slim – check also SPRING MEADOW.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/9/1929 - Advert

“By Order of Messrs. Atkinsons Brewery Limited and Messrs. Peter Walker & Co. Limited.
In The Black Country Industrial Area, and Embracing Properties in Staffordshire and Worcestershire.
Important Sale In Separate Lots, of 45 Freehold Licensed Houses, some with adjoining properties, and including 36 Fully-licensed Houses, 8 On-Beer Houses and 1 Off-License, situate in.....
Old Hill and Cradley.....
HOLLY BUSH, Cradley Heath.....
Boswell & Tomlins, FAI, in conjunction with William Fowler, Bewlay & Co., Will submit the above for Sale by Public Auction, in 45 Lots (subject to Conditions of Sale), at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, on Monday, October 14, 1929, Commencing at 3.30 pm Promptly.
Printed particulars may be obtained from the Solicitors, Messrs. Redfern and Co., 25, Colmore Row, Birmingham; or from the Auctioneers, Messrs. Boswell and Tomlins, FIA, 88 and 89, Darlington Street, Wolverhampton (Tel. No.1116 (two lines), Telegrams ‘Auctions’), and Messrs. William Fowler, Bewlay and Co., 59, Temple Row, Birmingham (Tel. Midland 6120).”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/10/1929

“An important sale of freehold licensed premises in the Black Country was held at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, yesterday, when Messrs. Boswell and Tomlins, Wolverhampton, and Messrs. William Fowler, Bewlay and and Co., Birmingham, offered 45 lots, the vendors of which were Messrs. Atkinsons Brewery Ltd, and Messrs. Peter Walker and Co. Ltd.
Of the 45 lots which were situate at West Bromwich, Tipton, Dudley, Brierley Hill, Old Hill, and Stourbridge, 32 were sold at the sale, and these realised over £80,000.....
HOLLY BUSH, High Street, Cradley, was sold for £3,200.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/10/1930

“Norton Canes Disaster Fund. More Generous Donations.....
The Subscription list.....

Customers, HOLLY BUSH INN, Cradley Heath, per *J. C. Johnstone*, £2 8s 6d.”

1939 Register

High Street – HOLLYBUSH

[1] *Thomas E. Evans*, date of birth 12/9/1892, licensed victualler, married;

[2] *Kate Evans*, dob 18/7/1894, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Olive (Evans) Williams*, dob 28/10/1916, bar general attendant, single;

Thomas 'Tommy' Edward Evans played football for Brighton and Cradley Heath St. Lukes.

He died in 1940.

John Birch was fined £10 and £1 1s 0d costs for 5 cases of supplying, and £5 fine for aiding and abetting on 27th November 1958.

News Telephone 10/9/1970

“.....The HQ now uv the Credley 'Eath Whipit Rercin' Club is the 'Olly Bush in High Street, but it wuz ut the CROSS GUNS from 1956, wen it wuz founded, up till just abuv twelve months agoo.

Norman Plant the fishmon kept the CROSS GUNS from 1950 to 1969 after 'is uncle Joe Mallen the bull terrier mon, ud bin pul-lin' um in theer 29 'ears! It's a thousand to one on wherever bull terriers um meshuned the nerm of Joe Mallen un is fermus dog Gentleman Jim crop up.

Norman is treasurer uv the club ooh rerce Sundy mornins on the Belle Vale ens uv 'Aden'ill Park un E wuz a founder member.

Norman's ferce is knowed all over the plerce in the whippit world.....”

A team from here took part in the Cradley Heath Darts League. [1970]

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?

HOLLY BUSH, High Street, Cradley Heath, 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.....”

David Jones was married to Sandra.

They both came from a long line of travelling fairground show folk.

It was refurbished and reopened in March 1996.

It closed in 2000.

It was damaged in an arson attack in April 2004.

It was demolished in 2006.

HOLLY BUSH

53, (55), (42), Newtown Lane (53, New Town) / Bannister Street, CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd.

Leased to William Henry Simpkins

Julia Hanson and Son

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

David Francis

LICENSEES

Mrs. Sarah Bannister [1833] – [1851]

Thomas Bannister [1854] – [1866]

Mrs. Helena Bannister* [1868] – [1870]

Eleanor Round* [] – 1869;

William Bannister (1869 – [1892]

Charles Mills [1891]

Alfred Lane [1896]
John Penn [1897]
Barnsley [1900]
John H Smith [1900] – [1901]
Charles Henry Partridge [1904]
Alfred Price [1908] – **1911**);
Edward Hale (**1911** – [1914]
Charles Deeley [1916] – **1921**);
Frederick George Hickman (**1921** – **1925**);
John Cole (**1925** – **1926**);
Harold Jasper (**1926** – **1928**);
David Wilfred Hughes (**1928** – **1932**);
Elizabeth Rice (**1932** – **1934**);
Jack Hudson (**1934** – **1936**);
Harold Lavender (**1936** – **1937**);
Joseph Woodall (**1937** – **1941**);
William Forrest (**1941** – **1950**);
John Cole (**1950** – **1952**);
Ronald William Joseph Unitt (**1952** – **1954**);
William Bertram Bradley (**1954** – **1955**);
Thomas Brookes (**1955** – **1958**);
Reginald Robert Granger (**1958** – **1959**);
Richard Hadlington (**1959** – [1966]
W T Chambers [1983]
Keith Arnold [1993]
Dave Keeley (**1999** – []
David ‘Dave’ Francis (**2006** – [2020]

NOTES

New Town [1841]
Newtown [1851], [1861]
42, Newtown Lane [1881], [1891]
53, New Town [1904]
55, Newtown Lane
53, Newtown Lane [1932], [1939], [1940], [2002], [2003]

OLD HOLLY BUSH [1845]

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 12/2/1838 - Advert

“Freehold Steam Engine and Mills, Newtown, Cradley Heath.

To be Sold by Auction, by John Webb, on Monday the 26th day of February inst, at four o’clock in the afternoon, at the house of Mrs. *Sarah Bannister*, the HOLLY BUSH, at Newtown, near the Five Ways, Cradley Heath, by direction of the Assignee of Joseph Attwood, a bankrupt, subject to conditions then to be produced.

All that recently erected Gun-barrel Boring, Grinding, and Polishing Mill, with Sawing Mill attached, and the Machinery thereto belonging, together with, the Shops and other Buildings; also a high-pressure Steam Engine, 14-horse power, with Boiler, and Fly and other Wheels quite complete, situate at Newtown, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, and till recently worked by the bankrupt.

The Works, with a commodious Yard, contain upwards of 500 square yards, and they are capable of considerable extension, or may at a small expense be altered for a Corn or Flour Mill, or any other purpose where steam power in necessary.

A full stream of water flows round the Works, affording an abundant supply thereto.

The Works have been erected with great care within the last 18 months, and the Engine and Machinery are in a very superior working state.

Being surrounded with Gun-barrel and other extensive Hardware Manufactories, of Cradley and Rowley, these Works are rendered a desirable acquisition.

Any further particulars may be obtained upon application to Messrs. Roberts and Crompton, Solicitors, Stourbridge.”

1841 Census

New Town

[1] *Sarah Bannister* (55), publican, born Staffordshire;

[2] Caroline Thorneycroft (15), fs:

1851 Census

Newtown

- [1] *Sarah Bannister* (67), widow, victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Thomas Bannister (9), grandson, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Thomas Penn (16), grandson, blacksmith, born Kingswinford;
- [4] Matilda Round (12), servant, born Tipton:

Thomas Bannister was also a shopkeeper. [1860]

1861 Census

Newtown

- [1] *Thomas Bannister* (51), publican, born Newtown;
- [2] Elenor Bannister (48), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] Jane Clarke (22), niece, domestic servant, born Brierley Hill;
- [4] Joseph Fowler (37), lodger, born Birmingham;
- [5] Edwin Newton (52), lodger, manager, born Birmingham:

Birmingham Journal 19/3/1864 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Properties, Four Ways, Cradley Heath, Black Waggon Street, Old Hill, and Quarry Bank, near Brierley Hill, in the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. James Wheeler (by order of the Trustees of the Will of the late Mr. Henry Holloway, deceased), at the house of Mr. *Thomas Bannister*, the HOLLY BUSH INN, New Town, Cradley, on Tuesday Next, the 22nd day of March, at Six o'clock in the afternoon, in the following or such other lots as may be determined at the time of Sale, and subject to conditions to be then produced.....”

Stourbridge Observer 21/10/1865

“On Wednesday evening last, a few friends met at the house of Mr. *Bannister*, the HOLLY BUSH INN, where an excellent supper was put upon the table by the host and hostess, which reflected great credit upon them.....”

Stourbridge Observer 10/3/1866

“The annual supper in connection with Mr. Smart's draw (Dudley) took place last Monday evening at the house of Mr. *Bannister*, New Town. Among those present were Dr. Hodgson, Messrs. Smart, Tinkham, W. Field, B. Heys, Lowe, S. Mason, J. Leader, S. Coley, W. Good, Humphreys, &c. The spread was of a first class character and reflected great credit on the host *Bannister*.....”

* possibly the same person

1871 Census

New Town – HOLLY BUSH public house

- [1] *William Bannister* (51), publican, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Jane Bannister, (50), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] Mary A. Bannister (19), daughter, born Halesowen;
- [4] William Bannister (21), son, visitor, labourer, born Halesowen;
- [5] Mary Bannister (19), son's wife, born Dudley;
- [6] Frederick W. Bannister (3 months), grandson, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Elizabeth Little (19), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

William Bannister was also a chainmaker. [1873], [1892]

County Advertiser 11/12/1875 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant.

Apply, HOLLY BUSH INN, Newtown, Cradley Heath.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/5/1878

“A meeting of the small chainmakers now on strike in the Cradley and Cradley Heath districts for an increase of wages was held yesterday morning, at the MANCHESTER INN, Four Ways, Cradley Heath. Mr. N. Forrest presided, and stated that he had waited upon two other masters – Messrs. B. Price, Cradley Heath, and Jones and Kendrick, Rowley – and both these firms had promised to pay their workmen according to the advanced list. It was decided by resolution that their men should return to their work at once. The Chairman further stated that no information had been received concerning the difficulty which arose through Messrs. Noah Hingley and Sons, Primrose Hill, Netherton, paying their men at a lower rate than other firms, and they were not in a position to say what steps that firm intended to take. The Secretary, Mr. Price, reported that he had been informed that Mr. *William Bannister* (employer), New Town, after having promised to pay the advance had refused to do so when his workpeople took in their work. He (Mr. *Bannister*) had told his employés that he could not give out work only at the old prices, and that he could only afford to give the increase for a little odd work. He (the secretary) also reported that some of the men had taken out work from Mr. Holmes, Halesowen, at the old price list. A deputation was appointed to wait upon Mr. *Bannister* and also the men who had taken out work at reduced rates from Mr. Holmes. The men, as usual, passed a resolution pledging themselves to remain out

on strike until the advanced list was obtained from all the employers.”

County Advertiser 25/5/1878 - Marriages

“On the 20th inst, at Halesowen Church, by the Rev. H. Hardy, MA, William Wyatt, of Wassell Grove, second son of Mr. William Wyatt, Hagley, Registrar, to Mary Ann (Polly), the youngest daughter of Mr. *William Bannister*, of New Town, Cradley Heath, chain manufacturer.”

1881 Census

42, New Town Lane

- [1] *William Bannister* (60), licensed victualler, born Cradley Heath;
- [2] Jane Bannister (59), wife, born Netherton;
- [3] Mary A. Bannister (18), granddaughter, born Cradley Heath;
- [4] Amy Bennett (18), general servant, born Netherton:

West Bromwich Weekly News 11/6/1881

“William Barnsley, chain maker, New Town, Cradley Heath, was charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of *William Bannister*, the HOLLY BUSH INN, New Town. Prosecutor said on the 6th inst the defendant used profane language, and on being told to quit refused. The Bench imposed a fine of 1s and costs, or 7 days.”

Dudley and District News 11/11/1882

“At a large meeting of chainmakers held at Cradley Heath on Monday, it was resolved to strike for an advance of wages at those factories where employers refused to grant an increase of ten per cent. Some employers have large orders for chains for shipbuilders, and have granted an increase.

A mass meeting of chainmakers was held on Tuesday at the FOUR WAYS INN, Cradley Heath. Mr. Bellingham, who presided, said the following employers had consented to give the required advance.....

William Bannister, New Town.”

Dudley and District News 16/2/1884

“A most daring robbery has been discovered to have taken place on the premises of Mr. *William Bannister*, publican and chain manufacturer, New Town. Mr. *Bannister* has a small office in the centre of the premises, and a thief gained admittance into it by entering a stable and getting into a loft, and afterwards climbing a wall and removing a portion of the rafters and ceiling over the office. A drawer was burst open and between £4 and £5 taken. Some postage stamps were left behind.”

County Advertiser 16/6/1888 - Advert

“Holly Bush Street, Cradley Heath. Desirable Freehold Houses and Premises.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. T. Pateshall, at the house of Mr. *William Bannister*, the HOLLY BUSH INN, New Town, Cradley Heath, on Wednesday, the 20th day of June, 1888, at Six for Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to Conditions.....”

William Bannister was also a brewer. [1892]

1891 Census

42, New Town Lane

- [1] *Charles Mills* (45), publican (licensed), born Dudley;
- [2] Ellen Mills (46), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] Beatrice Mills (11), daughter, scholar, born Dudley;
- [4] Douglas Mills (9), son, scholar, born Dudley;
- [5] Harold Mills (8), son, scholar, born Dudley;
- [6] Elizabeth Weston (33), sister in law, unmarried, general servant, born Dudley:

County Advertiser 1/8/1891

“Joseph Dunn, of Quarry Bank, was charged with being drunk and disorderly on the licensed premises of *Charles Mills*, landlord of the HOLLY BUSH INN, Cradley Heath, and refusing to leave the same when requested, on the 24th instant [sic].

The landlord said that on the night in question defendant came to his house and began to quarrel, taking a piece of meat off another man's plate. Defendant was using very bad language, and witness told him to go away, which defendant refused to do at first.

Witness sent for Police-constable Davies. The latter deposed to defendant being drunk.

The Bench fined defendant 5s and costs, or seven days.”

County Advertiser 16/9/1893 - Advert

“To be Let, the HOLLY BUSH INN, New Town, Cradley Heath; doing a good trade.

Apply on the premises for all particulars.”

County Advertiser 4/9/1897

“George Bradbury, New Town, Cradley Heath, was charged with being disorderly on the licensed premises of *John Penn*, the HOLLY BUSH INN, Cradley Heath, and refusing to quit. *Penn* stated that defendant was the worse for beer, and used filthy lan-

guage when put out of the house. The Bench imposed a fine of 5s and costs.”

Demolished

Rebuilt

County Advertiser 17/6/1899

“On Thursday morning Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest at the HOLLY BUSH INN, Newtown Road, Cradley Heath, respecting the death of Josiah Nock (54), chainmaker, of Allbut Street, Cradley Heath, who died suddenly on the 12th inst. One of the jurymen summoned (Mr. H. Collier) sent a substitute, but the coroner ordered him to be fetched, and then reminded him that he and the one who came as his substitute had rendered themselves each liable to a penalty of £5.

Phoebe Nock, wife of deceased, stated that her husband had not been in very good health for the past few months, but had been able to attend to his work. On Monday morning he seemed very low spirited and troubled. He returned from work, but could not eat anything at breakfast. Shortly after seven o'clock three young men named James Tibbetts, Ezra Applebey, and James Shaw, who were employed at deceased's shop, were playing in the yard. A traveller called, and beer was fetched and several recitations were given by the traveller, and a man sang. After the traveller left the men were singing for money, when a quarrel arose, and Shaw commenced to use obscene language. Witness went to strike Shaw, but Tibbetts stopped her from doing so. Shaw then picked up some bricks, but Tibbetts caught hold of him, threw him to the ground, and took the bricks off him. Shaw then turned on Applebey and they commenced to fight, but deceased interfered, saying he would not have any fighting there. He went to Shaw and said they ought to be ashamed of themselves, when he fell backwards and immediately expired.

James Shaw, chainmaker, said he was formerly employed by deceased. On the night in question they had a few recitations and songs, when witness used some bad language to Mrs. Nock, who struck him on the mouth. Witness and Applebey were both drunk, and they had a fight, when deceased, who was coming towards them, fell down and expired.

In reply to a jurymen, witness said deceased was not struck at all during the fight. Deceased appeared very excited, but he was not struck.

Shaw gave his evidence in a very careless manner, and the coroner reminded him that it was no laughing matter on such an occasion.

Benjamin Moore, residing in Allbutt Street, stated that he helped to pick deceased up, and he was then dead, but Dr. Tibbetts was sent for. He was quite sure that deceased was not struck.

Dr. Tibbetts said he was called at 7.45pm to deceased's house. He had since made a post-mortem examination of the body, and attributed death to syncope, accelerated by excitement on the night of the fight.

The Coroner said it was a sad sequel to a drunken brawl.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.

One of the jurymen said the way in which Shaw gave his evidence was very unsatisfactory, and he was deserving of censure.

The Coroner, on the jury's recommendation, administered a severe reprimand to Shaw, and said he had given his evidence in a very careless manner, and had treated the matter more as a joke. He should disallow his expenses. A jurymen remarked that Shaw had acted in a very callous manner.”

1901 Census

53, New Town Lane – HOLLY BUSH INN

[1] *John H. Smith* (46), unmarried, publican, born Wednesbury;

[2] *Elizabeth J. Edwards* (50), sister, widow, born Scotland;

[3] *John W. Edwards* (23), nephew, fitting maker, born Cradley Heath;

[4] *Florence A. Edwards* (19), niece, born Cradley Heath;

[5] *George F. Edwards* (17), nephew, sadler and harness maker, born Cradley Heath;

[6] *James A. Edwards* (14), nephew, born Cradley Heath;

[7] *Mariaine Hill* (16), domestic servant, born Cradley;

County Express 12/9/1908

“Friendly Societies' Parade. On Wednesday evening the committee of the above met at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Mr. W. Coley presiding over a large attendance. The following was a complete list of those boxes which contained amounts of 1s and upwards.....

Mr. *F. Price*, HOLLY BUSH, 2s 6½d.”

Tipton Herald 14/8/1909

“A meeting of the committee who have had in hand the management of the recent parade in Cradley Heath was held on Tuesday evening in the smoke room at the HOLLY BUSH INN, Newtown Lane. There was a large attendance. Mr. Walter Coley was in the chair.....”

Tipton Herald 14/8/1909

“About 20 of the members of the Sick and Darw held at the HOLLY BUSH INN, Newtown Lane, Cradley Heath, had their annual supper on Wednesday last week. A capital dinner was served by the host, and to it ample justice was done. After the meal Mr. Boswell was voted to the chair, and Mr. T. Tromans to the vice-chair. On the proposal of Mr. Haynes, seconded by Mr. Adams, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the host and his staff for the excellent manner in which they had served the meal. Songs, recitations, &c, were contributed by Messrs. D. Perry, Priest, Boswell, Turley, and others. Messrs. Perry and Priest contributed the

duet 'Passing the time away' in excellent style. A most enjoyable evening was spent."

County Express 3/6/1911

"Old Cradley Heath. Chat with Mr. Thomas Hingley Parsons, sexton at St. Luke's Church for Forty Years.....

Though in his 81st year, Mr. Parsons is wonderfully virile and active, the keenness of his intellect and memory is unabated, and he willingly discoursed upon the Cradley Heath of his younger days.....

In those days, he added, the inhabitants of the district were not quarter so many as they are now, and the only public houses were the HOLLY BUSH, High Street; *Bannister's* Newtown; 'Benny Fiddler's'; SALUTATION, Lomey Town; BEEHIVE, Graingers Lane; and QUEENS HEAD, Corngreaves Road."

Dudley Chronicle 9/12/1911

"The license of the HOLLY BUSH, Newtown, was transferred from the executors of the late *Alfred Price* to *Edward Hale*."

Frederick George Hickman – see also SALUTATION.

Harold Jasper was married to Lilian.

See also ANCHOR and SWAN.

Jack Hudson – see also VICTORIA, Old Hill.

1939 Register

53, Newtown Lane

[1] *Joseph Woodall*, date of birth 3/4/1901, boatman, heavy, married;

[2] *Phoebe Ann (Woodall) Cadman*, dob 23/8/1908, house duties, unpaid, married;

Keith Arnold was married to Michelle.

Dave Keeley was married to Carol.

[2003]

Closed [2005]

It reopened in May 2006.

David Francis was born c.1972.

Dudley News 25/5/2019

"From photography to pottery and music to murals, organisers are promising something for everyone at this year's Cradley Heath Arts Festival. The fifth annual free community arts festival, organised by Cradley Heath Creative, takes place on Saturday, June 8. Four different venues – the HOLLY BUSH Arts Pub, the Art Yard Gallery, Haden Hill Park and Cradley Heath Library – will host an exciting mix of exhibitions, events and practical workshops. It will be the first time photography has featured at the event, thanks to a collaboration between Cradley Heath Creative and Blast! photo festival. The HOLLY BUSH will be the hub of the event, hosting drop-in workshops for solar powered photography, stop-motion animation, embroidery involving photography, portrait painting and creative writing. It will also host viewings of the results of an open competition for three-minute films made on mobile phones. These events will run alongside expressive ballet workshops led by Elisha Willis, former Prima Ballerina at Birmingham Royal Ballet, as well as pottery and mural painting. The HOLLY BUSH will also host the 'Comedy Caravan' and Cradley Heath Creative's famous Oss Box, a horse trailer converted into a mobile arts venue. In the evening there will be live music, performances, an art auction and the opportunity to meet artist Vicky Roden with 'Honours', her sideshow of Sandwell civic artefacts. Finally, there will be a showing of 'Glory of the Garden', a new film from Black Country visionary artist Paul 'Rick' Jones. At the Art Yard, on Redall Hill Road, meanwhile, there will be a felt sculpture workshop. The gallery is also holding an exhibition over the next month, running until June 29, featuring artists' interpretations of local people and places, alongside photographs of Sandwell people by famous photographer Martin Parr. Haden Hill will be hosting 'Painting in the Park' on June 8, a day's interpretation of the park's dramatic landscape, open to artists working in any art form. Finally, Cradley Heath Library will host special children's arts activities during its opening hours."

Express & Star 22/7/2019

"Black Country Festival. Laughs aplenty at annual Bush Fest.

It was a laugh a minute as almost 70 comedy acts took to the stage at a popular comedy festival. The feast of fun took place over four days at the HOLLY BUSH pub in Cradley Heath, where TV comic Joe Lycett cut his stand-up teeth. Among the highlights were Canadian comedian Tom Stade, who lived in Bilston for several years, and American funnyman Lewis Schaffer, now based in London, who made the trip to the Black Country funded by a customer. Landlord *Dave Francis*, who runs a Thursday open-mic night at the Newton Lane boozier, said one of his customers, Frances Davies, offered to stump up the cash to have him appear....."

Halesowen News 29/8/2019

“A host of talented artists will perform at a gig in Cradley Heath this weekend to raise funds for The Brain Tumour Charity. The outdoor event will be at the HOLLYBUSH pub, Newtown Lane, on Saturday August 31, from 2pm. Award-winning indie-tronic artist Omar Anthony, countrified indie band Gasfoodlodging, locally-acclaimed folk musician Ian Marrey and internationally successful rock and blues artist Michael Pritchard will play an acoustic set. Also performing will be covers artist Smithy, swing, jazz and blues soloist A J Tomlins, Agents of Evolution who promise an unmissable audio-visual experience of 80s horror movie themed electronic music, rock covers band Medusa Rising and rock band Fox Fires. People can make cash donations to the charity on the day.”

Express & Star 10/8/2020

“A Black Country pub has been forced to temporarily close after a loud party led to a spate of complaints from neighbours. A 48-hour closure notice was issued to the HOLLY BUSH pub in Cradley Heath after concerns over loud noise and anti-social behaviour were ignored on Saturday, West Midlands Police said. The party at the pub was one of more than 100 that the force shut down across the region over the weekend as officers responded to reports of illegal gatherings. Although pubs and bars are now allowed to open with social distancing measures in place, gatherings of more than six people from different households remain illegal. Residents in Cradley Heath said police attended the HOLLY BUSH at least five times on Saturday and a drone was used to monitor the party which lasted for around eight hours before the music stopped at around 8pm.

A resident, who wished to remain anonymous, described the noise as ‘exceptionally loud,’ adding, ‘We needed to have our windows shut because it was that loud, despite being how hot it was.’

The licensee of the pub, on the junction of Newtown Lane and Bannister Street, said the party having to be held outside meant noise travelled further than usual. Mr. *Francis*, who did not provide his first name, said, ‘I would like to apologise. I didn’t realise how far the sound would travel and how loud it was. We did a drum and bass thing. I haven’t done anything outside for a year. It’s been over a year since the last time we had recording music played at volume outside. Normally these events would be held inside but due to the current restrictions we weren’t allowed to.’”

[2020]

HOPE AND ANCHOR

OLD HILL

OWNERS

LICENSEES

NOTES

Dudley and District News 7/5/1881

“Frederick Neil, Cradley Heath, was charged with withholding £56 belonging to the Hope and Anchor Friendly Society, which meets at an Inn in Old Hill after the same name.

Mr. Wright appeared for the complainants, and asked the court to permit the case to be withdrawn, as the defendant had promised to pay the money.

The magistrates acceded to the request.”

HORSE SHOE

99, Station Road, (71, Waterfall Lane), (Gosty Hill), (Slack Hillock), OLD HILL

OWNERS

Samuel Darby [1875]

Atkinsons Ltd. [1898]

Jesse Woodhall, Old Hill [1938]

William Butler and Co. Ltd. (acquired on 24th April 1945)

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

Enterprise Inns [1993]

LICENSEES

Samuel Darby [1849] – [1883]
Benjamin Darby [1888] – [1892]
Frank Gadd (1897 – [1899])
Mrs. Eliza Ann Gadd [1901] – 1905;
John Howell (1905 – 1907);
Thomas Brady (1907 – 1908);
George Henry ‘Harry’ Sample (1908 – [1916])
John Buttery [1919] – 1920);
George Johnson (1920 – 1921);
James Horace Bywater (1921 – 1926);
Ernest Edward Turner (1926);
Frederick Henry Vaughan (1926 – 1930);
Jesse Woodhall (1930 – 1937);
Ernest Herbert West (1937 – 1954);
Albert Totney (1954 – 1965);
Eric Lawson Wakeman (1965 – [])

NOTES

Slack Hillock [1851]
Waterfall Lane [1862]
Gosty Hill [1891]
71, Waterfall Lane [1881], [1901]
Station Road [1904], [1940]

Samuel Darby was also a shopkeeper. [1849], [1850]
Samuel Darby, maltster and beer retailer, Waterfall Lane. [1850]

1851 Census

Slack Hillock

- [1] *Samuel Darby* (37), provision dealer, born Handsworth;
- [2] Mary Darby (36), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] William Darby (14), son, shopman, born Cradley;
- [4] John Darby (11), son, shopman, born Cradley;
- [5] Mary Ann Darby (9), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] James Darby (7), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Eliza Darby (1), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] Thomas Darby (17 days), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [9] Harriet Endor (18), general servant, born Monmouthshire;
- [10] Jane Godfrey (22), visitor, washerwoman, born Worcestershire:

William Darby, son of *Samuel Darby*, became licensee of the ROYAL OAK, Blackheath.

Worcestershire Chronicle 20/9/1854

“Unjust Weights and Measures. No less than 52 delinquents of this description were today fined as follows.....
Rowley Regis..... *Samuel Darby*, one pint and half-pint, 2s 6d.”

1861 Census

Waterfall Lane

- [1] *Samuel Darby* (47), maltster, beerseller and provision dealer, born Handsworth;
- [2] Mary Darby (47), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Mary A. Darby (19), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] James Darby (17), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Eliza Darby (11), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Thomas Darby (10), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *Benjamin Darby* (5), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/5/1861 - Marriages

“On the 1st instant, at the Old Church, Handsworth, by the Rev. H. R. Peel, John, second son of Mr. *Samuel Darby*, maltster, of Blackheath, to Martha, eldest daughter of Mr. Joseph Hackett, coal-master, of Blackheath, Rowley Regis.”

Birmingham Journal 2/11/1861 - Deaths

“On the 24th ult, aged 18 years, James, third son of *Samuel Darby*, grocer, Old Hill, near Dudley; deeply regretted.”

Samuel Darby was also a provision dealer. [1864], [1865]

County Advertiser 31/8/1867

“Rowley. The Annual Licensing Meeting.....

There were thirteen applications for spirit licenses. The applications of the following were refused.....

Samuel Darby, Waterfall Lane.”

County Express 18/1/1868 - Marriage

“On the 7th inst, at Handsworth Old Church, Eliza, the youngest daughter of Mr. *Samuel Darby*, maltster, of Waterfall Lane, to John, son of Mr. Richard Green, gentleman, of Old Hill.”

1871 Census

Waterfall Lane

[1] *Samuel Darby* (56), widower, maltster and grocer, born Handsworth;

[2] Thomas Darby (20), son, assistant, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *Benjamin Darby* (15), son, assistant, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Ann Shaw (50), widow, domestic servant, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Mary A. Brooks (19), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Caroline Brooks (18), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 30/8/1871

“The annual meeting for the division of Rowley Regis, was held at COOKSEYS HOTEL, yesterday.....

Samuel Darby, beerhouse keeper, residing at Waterfall Lane, made an application for a spirit license to be consumed on or off the premises. The application was refused.”

Samuel Darby, beer retailer and maltster, Old Hill. [1872]

Birmingham Daily Post 26/3/1873 - Advert

“Lost, March 22, a black-and-tan Dog, about 15lb weight, with a mark on the right eye.

Anyone returning him to *Samuel Darby*, HORSE SHOE INN, Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, will be rewarded.”

County Advertiser 30/8/1873

“The annual licensing meeting for the division of Rowley Regis, was held at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, yesterday.....

Samuel Darby, beerhouse keeper, residing at Waterfall Lane, made an application for a spirit license to be consumed on and off the premises. The application was refused.”

County Express 7/8/1875 - Notice

“To the Overseers of the Poor, and the Superintendent of Police, of the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, and to all whom it may concern.

I, *Samuel Darby*, Retailer of Beer, Maltster and Grocer, now residing at Waterfall Lane, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, do Hereby Give Notice, that it is my intention to Apply, at the General Annual Licensing Meeting for the Division of Rowley Regis, to be holden at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, at Old Hill, in the said County, on the 27th day of August next ensuing, at the hour of Eleven o’clock in the forenoon of the same day, for a Six Days’ License to hold any Excise License or Licenses, to Sell by Retail, under The Intoxicating Liquors Licensing Act 1828, and the Acts amending the same, all Intoxicating Liquors to be consumed either on or off the Premises, situate at Waterfall Lane, in the said Parish, and known by the sign of the THREE HORSE SHOES, which said Premises are duly rated for the relief of the Poor, as by law is required, of which House and Premises I am the owner, and the same are now in my occupation.

Given under my hand this 30th day of July, 1875.

Samuel Darby.”

County Advertiser 28/8/1875

“Old Hill Licensing Sessions.....

Samuel Darby, HORSE SHOES, Waterfall Lane, applied for a spirit license. Refused.”

1881 Census

71, Waterfall Lane – HORSE SHOE INN

[1] *Samuel Darby* (67), widower, maltster and beerseller, born Handsworth;

[2] Phoebe Brooks (23), house keeper, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Annie Brooks (11), boarder, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 3/11/1883

“Mr. *Samuel Darby*, maltster and grocer, of the THREE HORSE SHOES, Waterfall Lane, was found dead in bed last Monday morning. Deceased celebrated his seventieth birthday on Sunday, and retired to rest about half-past nine in apparently good health. The next morning the servant found him dead. Death is supposed to have been due to heart disease. No inquest was held.”

County Advertiser 10/11/1883 - Advert

“The HORSE SHOE INN, Waterfall Lane, Old Hill.

Mr. T. Homer will Sell by Auction on Wednesday Next, November the 14th, 1883, the surplus Stock and Household Furniture, belonging to the late Mr. *S. Darby*, consisting of Four Spring Carts, One Strong do., Four Sets of Harness, strong Cart Horse, 16 hands; Chaff Machines, 10cwt of Hay, Corn Bin, Sack and other Weighing Machines, Malt Crusher, Malt Mill, Malt Screen, Sack Trucks, Bushel Measures, Scales, Wheel Barrows, Iron and Wooden Ladders, Iron and Wood Baskets, Hops, Seed Potatoes, Garden Tools, Steps, Pembroke, Drinking, and other Tables; Saccharometer (by Bailey), Butcher’s Block, Bird Cage, Clothes Horse, Wash and Water Tubs, Water Can, quantity of Timber, Lead Piping, Tea Lead, Scrap Iron, &c, &c.
Sale to commence at 11 o’clock in the Morning.”

Birmingham Mail 10/10/1887

“Today Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the THREE FURNACES INN, Waterfall Lane, touching the death of Charles Baldwin (34), a baker, who was employed by Mr. Hickin, baker, of High Street, Black Heath.

Edward Hickin stated that he last saw deceased alive about half-past two on Monday afternoon. About five o’clock he was sent to Great Bridge, and he was expected to return from Great Bridge on the 9.8 train, but he did not come. Witness afterwards communicated with the police and they dragged the canal, and in a short time found the body in the water.

Thomas Belcher, of Waterfall Lane, stated that on Monday night, about a quarter or twenty minutes to ten, deceased came into *Darby’s*, the HORSE SHOE INN, Waterfall Lane, and had a pint of ale. Deceased paid for a pint of ale for witness. They left about a quarter-past ten, when deceased said he was going to Black Heath. Witness heard nothing more of him until Tuesday, when he heard he was drowned in the canal.

Police-sergeant Salt, stationed at Black Heath, stated that on Tuesday night, from information he received from Mr. Hickin, he went to the canal, and Mr. Hackett pulled the body out.

Mr. Barnsley, occupier of the wharf where it is supposed deceased walked into the water, also gave evidence, and said the place had been in its present condition for a number of years.

The jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned, and suggested that the place should be properly fenced. Mr. Barnsley promised to comply with the recommendation of the coroner and jury.”

County Advertiser 29/9/1888

“The adjourned licensing sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Rowley Regis were held at the Police Court.....

An application on behalf of Mr. *Benjamin Darby*, HORSE SHOE INN, Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, for a wine license, was made by Mr. T. Tanfield, who pointed out that applicant had kept the present inn for five years, and that he paid a rental of £30 yearly. The application, which was opposed by Mr. Waldron on behalf of Mr. Andrews, of the CROWN INN, was granted.”

County Advertiser 24/11/1888

“At the County Court on Thursday, before Sir Rupert Kettle, Judge, and a jury, a case was heard in which William Burton, cooper, of Langley, sued *Benjamin Darby*, publican, Old Hill, for the sum of £9 18s 8d, and there was a counter claim for £50. Mr. Sharpe was for the plaintiff, and Mr. Jackson for the defendant. Mr. Sharpe stated that about seven o’clock on the 19th of last December plaintiff was on the right side, driving a pony and truck past the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Blackheath, when defendant’s trap ran into plaintiff’s truck, and defendant, who was in the trap, was thrown out and seriously injured. In subsequent conversation defendant admitted his liability and promised recompense, which he not only failed to pay, but had now made a counter claim. Evidence was given. A verdict of 40s was given.”

1891 Census

Gosty Hill – HORSE SHOE INN

[1] *Benjamin Darby* (35), maltster and brewer, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Lucy Darby (40), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Samuel W. Darby (13), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Mary W. Darby (12), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Benjamin W. Darby (10), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[6] William W. Darby (9), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[7] Henry W. Darby (7), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[8] Louisa Beard (22), general servant, born Dudley:

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.....

Benjamin Darby, HORSE SHOE INN, Waterfall Lane, applied, though Mr. Waldron, for an extension of his beerhouse license to a full license, and the application was opposed by Mr. Barradale on behalf of Mr. Andrews, a neighbouring licensed victualler.

Superintendent Woollaston also took objection to the application.

In support of the application Mr. Waldron said his client's premises were situate in an important centre, and a place where a full license should be given. It was a house which had been in the occupation of the *Darby* family for a very considerable time. He understood it had been a licensed house for nearly sixty years. If he was correctly informed the next licensed house was the CROWN. He failed to understand the opposition of his friend to the granting of this license. There was a memorial in favour of the granting of the license, and amongst those who had signed it was Mr. Haden Best, and the opposition was not only a selfish but an interested opposition on the part of Mr. Andrews of the CROWN INN. Some 800 people went daily to and from the railway station. Travellers called for spirits, but no spirits could be had, because there was no license. No one house, he argued, should have a monopoly to the exclusion of other houses.

Mr. Bassano: Do you seriously say we ought to level up all the licenses? – Mr. Waldron: I do.

Mr. Bassano: I'm afraid you'll be disappointed in the result.

Mr. Waldron said his disappointment would not affect the Bench. The experiment had been tried.

Mr. Bassano: It won't be tried again. It is such an absurdity to plead it. You know perfectly well what our duty is, and it is no use trying to make us think we have some other duty. The question is whether the house is wanted or not.

Mr. Waldron: That is the one point.

In the course of some further argument, Mr. Waldron said he had a duty to perform, and after the expression of opinion from the Bench he should call witnesses. Applicant was then called.

Mr. Bassano said they could quite understand if there were not already a fully-licensed house, then the present would be a proper application, but inasmuch as there was already a fully-licensed house near, whatever their sympathies be, and he liked to see people on an equality in trade facility, they must not be guided by that and add to the already outrageously great number of fully-licensed houses. It would be a flagrant neglect of duty to comply with the application, which, therefore, must be refused."

County Advertiser 9/3/1895

"Dudley County Court.

James Holden and Co., seed merchants, Tewkesbury, sued *Benjamin Darby*, brewer and maltster, of Old Hill, for £7 10s damages for breach of contract to accept and pay for 37½qrs of barley at 25s 6d per qr, which had been sold at a loss equalising the amount claimed. Mr. A. H. Spink, of Gloucester, appeared for plaintiffs, and Mr. Frank Deeley defended.

The plaintiff's case was that Mr. James Davenport, a broker, had sold the plaintiffs' barley to the defendant on December 14th, handing the defendant a sold note stating the terms of the bargain. The note was not signed by the defendant, although the latter had written several letters to the plaintiffs in relation to the matter. The barley was tendered in the early part of January, and rejected by the defendant, consequent on its not being equal to sample.

Mr. Deeley, at the outset, pointed out that although his client had a perfectly good defence on the merits, yet as there was no sufficient note of the contract signed by the defendant to satisfy the requirements of Section 4 of the Sale of Goods Act, 1893, plaintiffs could not make out a case against the defendant. A comparison of the sold note and particulars of claim showed that 4qrs more than had been contracted for had been tendered, and that this alone justified the defendant in refusing to accept delivery even of that which he was alleged to have contracted to purchase.

Mr. Spink, in reply, argued that, according to the custom of the trade, James Davenport was the agent for both parties, and that therefore, the memorandum was sufficient.

His Honour, without hearing any further evidence, nonsuited the plaintiffs with costs, but gave leave to appeal conditionally upon the plaintiffs giving security for the defendant's costs of the appeal."

Benjamin Darby – see also HADEN CROSS.

Frank Gadd = Frank Gad

County Advertiser 11/12/1897

"*Frank Gadd*, of the HORSE SHOE INN, Old Hill, was charged with furiously driving a horse and trap on the 19th ult.

Police-constable Lyes stated that he saw defendant driving a horse in Whitehall, Halesowen, at 11.50 on the 19th ult. He shouted for him to stop, but he took no heed and kept urging on the horse with the whip. He was driving at the rate of 16 miles an hour, and from his manner seemed to be under the influence of drink.

He was ordered to pay the costs."

County Advertiser 16/7/1898 - Advert

"Sale of Valuable Brewing Plants at WHITE SWAN INN, Upper High Street, Lye, and HORSESHOE INN, Waterfall Lane, Old Hill.

Mr. T. Pateshall is instructed to Sell by Auction, on the Premises, as above, on Tuesday, July 26th, 1898, the whole of the Capital Brewing Plants, comprising Wrought and Cast-iron Boilers, Squares, excellent Fermenting Vats, Refrigerators, large quantity of English Oak Casks, of 120 gallons downwards; capital Mash Tuns, and other Effects, belonging to Messrs. Atkinson and Co. Limited.

Sale at WHITE SWAN at Eleven o'clock am.

Sale at HORSESHOE at Two o'clock pm.

Further particulars from the Auctioneer, Cradley Heath."

County Advertiser 30/7/1898 - Notice

“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 hereinafter mentioned is situate, and to all whom it may concern.

I, *Frank Gadd*, Beerhouse Keeper, now residing at Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, Do Hereby Give Notice that it is my intention to Apply, at the General Annual Licensing Meeting for the Division of Rowley Regis, to be holden at the Public Office, at Old Hill, in the said County, on the 24th day of August, 1898, for an Order sanctioning the Removal of the License now held by William Pearson, of and at the NAVIGATION INN, Granville Road, Gorsty Hill, Old Hill, aforesaid (authorising him to Apply for and Hold any of the Licenses that may be held by a Publican for the Sale by Retail of Intoxicating Liquor, to be Consumed either on or off the Premises), to the Premises now occupied by me at Waterfall Lane, Old Hill aforesaid, and known by the sign of the HORSE SHOE INN, and that such License may be granted and continue in respect of such last-mentioned Premises, in pursuance of the Licensing Act 1872, and all other Acts thereto enabling, of which said Premises Atkinsons Brewery Limited, of Aston Park Brewery, Queens Road, Aston, in the County of Warwick, are the Owners, and the same are of the annual value, and are otherwise qualified as required by law, and are now in my occupation.

Given under my hand this 27th day of July, 1898.

Frank Gadd.”

Dudley Herald 27/8/1898

“The annual Licensing Sessions of the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division was held at the Old Hill Police Court on Wednesday.....

Mr. Cartland, Birmingham (instructed by Messrs. Redfern and Company) applied for the transferring of a full license from the NAVIGATION INN to the HORSE SHOE INN, Old Hill, and also for the beer license of the HORSE SHOE INN to be transferred to the NAVIGATION INN.

Mr. B. Shakespeare opposed on behalf of Mrs. Foley, of the THREE FURNACES INN, and Mr. McWinter, of the CROWN INN. Mr. Clulow also opposed for Mr. McWinter.

Mr. Cartland thought that this exchange would be one which would be for the benefit of the district. The HORSE SHOE INN was situated, as the Bench knew, on the main road near to the station and was in every way suitable for a fully licensed house. The tenant, Mr. *Gad*, provided an ‘ordinary’ for the travellers within the district and they required something stronger than beer with their dinner. The opposition was made upon selfish grounds as the CROWN INN and the THREE FURNACES were also near to the railway station.

Mr. Bassano said the NAVIGATION INN would probably have to be given up. He said the Bench knew most of the circumstances in connection with the houses and they were of opinion that the NAVIGATION INN was a house where a license ought not to be held.

Mr. Cartland: I understand that the house does a great deal of business.

The Chairman: You never knew a house that did not – (laughter).

Eventually the consideration of the matter was adjourned to the Adjourned Sessions.”

County Advertiser 1/10/1898

“The adjourned licensing sessions for the Rowley petty sessional division were held on Wednesday.....

Mr. Cartland, of Birmingham, applied for a full license on behalf of Mr. *Gadd*, in respect of the HORSE SHOE INN, and also for the renewal of the license of the NAVIGATION INN. He might say in his opening remarks that Messrs. Atkinson and Co. had thought over the advice given by the magistrates at the last meeting, and they had acted very wisely. They could see that there were a considerable number of houses in the district, and they were willing to surrender the license of the NAVIGATION INN if the application for the full license of the HORSE SHOE INN was granted by the Bench. The NAVIGATION INN was a valuable property, and they consented to surrender it with reluctance.

Mr. Bassano said the Bench knew the district very well, and the opinion of the Bench was that they would grant the license of the HORSE SHOE INN, but it would have to go to Stafford for confirmation.

Mr. B. Shakespeare said he appeared to oppose on behalf of other publicans, but after the intimation of the Bench he could go no further.

Mr. J. W. Clulow also opposed the application on behalf of other licensed holders; and stated that he thought premises were included in the application which had not been used in the premises before.

Mr. Cooksey (magistrates’ clerk) said the premises alluded to had been used before.

The tenant of the house, *Frank Gadd*, was then called, and said that at present he had a beer license. He had occupied the premises since December 1897, and he produced a memorial to the justices from several of the inhabitants (Mr. Cartland said he would put in the memorial for what it was worth).

Witness said he was in the habit of providing dinners daily for travellers, and he should think he provided between 200 and 300 a week. Witness had great many applications for spirits from people who used the house. The applications for spirits averaged twelve times a day during the last month. He had considerable stabling at the house. He had four rooms downstairs for the use of the public.

Cross-examined by Mr. Clulow: He used the cottage adjoining for the purpose of selling beer for the accommodation of passengers from the station. There was no communication between the licensed house and the cottage. The CROWN INN was separated from him by Waterfall Lane.

Cross-examined by Mr. Shakespeare: He was going to sell Atkinson and Co’s spirits, and Atkinson and Co. were really making the application. The CROWN INN, kept by Mr. McWhirter, was more than fifty yards away. There were six fully-licensed houses within 400 yards. He thought they had more callers from the station than the other six had.

Mr. Bassano said the license would be granted, but the other license would not be. The house was totally unfit to be licensed, and

ought never to have been licensed.”

County Advertiser 8/10/1898

“The annual meeting of the Licensing Committee of the county of Staffordshire was held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Saturday.....

HORSESHOE INN, Old Hill. *Frank Gadd*, landlord of the above-named public-house, applied for the confirmation of the grant of a full license to the house by the licensing justices in petty sessions. Mr. Cartland and Mr. Parfitt supported the application, and Mr. Vachell (instructed by Mr. J. W. Clulow) opposed, on behalf of the North Worcestershire Breweries Limited and others. Mr. Cartland stated that the HORSESHOE INN had been in existence over seventy years. Some ten years ago a wine license was granted. *Gadd* entered into possession of the house last December, and he had got a large dining trade. He had endeavoured to improve the standing of the house, and he now provided on an average between 200 and 300 dinners a week. The district was a populous one, and in the neighbourhood were some extensive works giving employment to a large number of men. The house was the property of Messrs. Atkinson, brewers, and they had given an undertaking to the Court below, that should a full license be granted to the HORSESHOE and confirmed, they would allow the license of the NAVIGATION INN, also owned by them, to lapse.

Applicant gave evidence in support of the case. He stated that he had taken a record of the number of times he had been asked for spirits, and he found that since August 1st the number was 743.

Mr. Vachell contended that the applicant had no interest in having the license enlarged, it being a pure case of a brewery company seeking to improve their property. There were houses in the district which were sufficient in all purposes, and he ridiculed the statement that since August 1st 743 people had asked for spirits. He asked the committee to consider the case on its merits, and regretted that the practice was springing up of bolstering up a case by offering to give up a license belonging to some other house. In this case the brewery company were not offering much, as the NAVIGATION INN had been soundly condemned by the police and was of no value.

Mr. Cartland said the license to the NAVIGATION INN had been renewed, but he was instructed to give an undertaking to the committee that in case the full license to the HORSESHOE was confirmed the other license should be given up immediately. The Chairman said that on that undertaking, and that undertaking only, the committee were willing to confirm the grant of the Court below.”

County Advertiser 10/12/1898

“Dudley Board Of Guardians.

The tender of Mr. Darby, THREE HORSE SHOES, Old Hill, for the supply of 90 to 100 gallons of XXX ale for the Christmas dinner, at 11d per gallon, was accepted.”

County Advertiser 18/11/1899

“Joseph Smith, of Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, was charged with being disorderly on the licensed premises of *Frank Gadd*, and also with refusing to quit when requested, on the 12th inst.

Frank Gadd said that he kept the HORSESHOE INN, Old Hill, and that on Sunday, the 12th inst, defendant came into his house about 6.40pm, and was quite sober. Soon afterwards he commenced using obscene language, and his (complainant's) wife went up to him and told him that they would not have that language there. Defendant, however, continued it. He then ordered defendant to quit, but he refused to do so, and tried to get hold of two cups that were on the table, and, in doing so, knocked one on the floor and broke it. The other cup he threw at the wife of witness and broke it. The mother of the defendant came in, and he used worse language to her. Complainant then sent for the police.

Joseph Careless corroborated.

Defendant was also charged with wilful damage to the cups. He was fined 10s and costs for refusing to quit, and in the other case he was ordered to pay the damages and costs.”

Frank Gadd died on 15th April 1900.

1901 Census

71, Waterfall Lane

[1] *Eliza A. Gadd* (42), widow, licensed victualler, HORSE SHOE INN, born West Bromwich;

[2] Florence Gadd (17), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Thomas Gadd (14), son, gas tube socket heater, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Selina Tooth (70), mother, widow, born West Bromwich;

[5] Lucy Blunt (44), domestic servant, born Cradley Heath;

[6] Hannah Harris (40), visitor, born West Bromwich;

[7] William Tooth (40), brother, married, house painter, born West Bromwich:

Mrs. *Eliza Ann Gadd* was also a brewer. [1902]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/11/1905

“An inquest was held by Mr. Betham (acting coroner for South Staffordshire) at the HORSE SHOE HOTEL, Waterfall Lane, with respect to the death of an illegitimate child of Mahalah Johnson, a domestic servant. The deceased was nearly five months old, and the mother was housekeeper to Walter Homer, who resided in Waterfall Lane, and as he promised her marriage she consented

to live with him, and the child was born in June Last. She instituted proceedings against Homer to contribute to the maintenance of the child, and the magistrates made an order for Homer to contribute 3s a week, but the police had been unable to serve the order, he having left the district for America. The child became emaciated, and died in consequence of not being properly fed. The inquiry was adjourned until Tuesday.”

County Advertiser 18/11/1905

“On Tuesday morning, Mr. A. A. Betham (acting coroner) resumed the adjourned inquest at the HORSE SHOE HOTEL, Station Road, Old Hill, respecting the death of Mahalah Johnson, aged four months and three weeks, the illegitimate child of Mahalah Johnson, a single woman residing at Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, who died under singular circumstances on the 5th last. Bertha Ann Smith, a widow residing at Waterfall Lane, stated that some time ago she took in the mother of the child, and agreed to look after the infant for 3s a week. The mother then went away and returned about ten days later, when she paid witness 3s. Witness could not communicate with the mother in case there was anything the matter with the child because she did not leave any address. Johnson then stayed with witness for about three weeks, and left to go to the hop fields. Witness fed the child upon condensed cream milk during the time she was in her charge. The baby grew worse, and witness took the child to Dr. Tibbetts. Subsequently the mother obtained a note for Dr. Tibbetts to attend the child. Dr. Tibbetts attended the deceased on several occasions, and once advised the mother to obtain Nestlé’s milk for it, as the milk she was giving it was not fit for pigs. Dr. Tibbetts also advised the mother to go into the Workhouse with the child, but when the doctor had gone she told witness that she would not go into the Union. She continued to feed it upon the skimmed milk preparation, and when witness asked why she did not obtain Nestlé’s milk she told her that she got what she could afford. In reply to Inspector Gibbs, witness said the child had been fed properly during the time it had been in her charge. She had purchased as much as four tins of condensed milk in one week. The mother of the child was recalled, and was cross-examined by Inspector Gibbs at considerable length. She admitted that when she went away to Birmingham she forgot to leave her address with Mrs. Smith. She had done her duty to the child. A woman named Preece stated that it was untrue that Mrs. Smith obtained four tins of condensed milk each week, and Lily Owen, a married woman residing at Waterfall Lane, said that before the mother left her house the child was a healthy one. Dr. Tibbetts stated that when he first attended the infant it was fairly healthy. He was informed that the child was being fed upon tinned milk, and he asked the mother to bring him a tin of the milk she was giving it. She, however, failed to do this, and treated the matter lightly. About a week after he had asked for the tin, witness saw the deceased child at its home, and also noticed a tin containing some condensed milk upon the table. It was labelled ‘Machine skimmed.’ Witness told the mother that the milk was not fit to feed pigs upon. He had previously given the mother a bottle of Nestlé’s milk, and told her to feed the child upon this. He also advised her to go to the Workhouse, but this she did not do. Since the adjournment of the inquest he had made a post mortem examination of the body of the child. It was in a very emaciated condition. The child only weighed 8lbs, whereas she ought to have weighed 12lbs. All the internal organs were healthy excepting the brain, which was generally inflamed. Death was due to meningitis, which was a very rare thing to account for the death of children. The child had apparently been improperly fed. He gave a certificate of death and added it was due to want of breast milk. The Acting Coroner said that led up the question which he dealt with at the previous inquiry, and he still thought it would be better in cases of that kind for the medical man to report the matter to the police or coroner. Dr. Tibbetts said unfortunately in that district there were so many cases, that if they reported every case in which the mothers failed to carry out the instructions the doctor and coroner would be very busy. The Acting Coroner said he would make an example of some of them. Dr. Tibbetts said the tinned milk was largely used in that district, and mothers were quite indifferent to the use of the milk so long as it was tinned milk. There was a tremendous amount of ignorance amongst the mothers. He also added that the meningitis might have been the result of blood poisoning from a sore upon the child’s hip. It might also have been produced from other causes. In summing up the acting Coroner said unfortunately the infantile death-rate throughout the country was very high, and he noticed that medical officers had been calling attention to the excessive infantile death-rate in the Black Country. To his own knowledge the infantile death-rate in the Black Country was very high indeed. The evidence of Mrs. Smith was very unreliable, and was not of much value. It was clear in his opinion that both women had neglected the child, and if he had been quite certain that the child had been starved, and died from that cause, he would have sent them both to the assizes for trial. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes and requested the acting Coroner to severely censure both the women. The acting Coroner called the mother and Mrs. Smith before him, and addressing them said the jury had devoted much time to the case, and they had come to the conclusion that the child might have lived if it had had that attention which it ought to have had. It was very clear to them after hearing the evidence, that both of them had neglected this child, and very luckily for them the medical evidence was not sufficient to prove that the child had actually died from that neglect. If that had been so he should have sent them both for trial at the Assizes. It was such serious neglect that he should have been rather glad to have done it. He thought their conduct was very bad indeed and they could thank themselves that they were not sent upon their trial. He considered that both ought to be punished, and he should instruct Inspector Gibbs to report the matter to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. He should also disallow the expenses of both of them.”

Tipton Herald 9/1/1909

“The customers at the HORSE SHOES, Old Hill, were on Saturday evening entertained to supper in the clubroom. There were about 50 present. The artistes were Messrs. Steve Hingley, Dud Hingley, H. Burrup, W. Travis, and B. Dorse. A pleasant evening was spent. On the proposition of Mr. H. Burrup, seconded by Mr. H. Dorse, the host and hostess were heartily thanked for their catering.”

County Express 16/1/1909

“Dividend Clubs..... HORSE SHOE HOTEL (Old Hill).

We are asked to state that the supper reported last week was the first annual gathering in connection with the dividend club, and not a dinner to which customers were entertained by the host and hostess.”

Tipton Herald 3/4/1909

“To celebrate the wedding of Mr. Joseph Hall, of Gorsty Hill, a party was on Tuesday held in the HORSE SHOE HOTEL, Old Hill. An excellent dinner was served by Mr. and Mrs. *Harry Sample*, to which exhaustive justice was done. Afterwards Mr. J. Evans was voted in the chair, and Mr. T. Tromans the vice chair, and a happy evening was spent.....”

County Express 11/6/1910

“A sad accident, resulting in the drowning of two girls, named Laura Withers (13), and Elsie Foster (11), of Tory Street, Blackheath, occurred at a canal basin belonging to the Station Colliery, Old Hill, on Saturday morning. The girls, together with Maggie Roden (8), of the same locality, left their homes shortly before eight o’clock, and at length found their way to the canal basin close to the Station Colliery, Old Hill, which is at present disused. The elder girls were on a wooden bridge, formerly used for the purposes of an endless rope, when the woodwork beneath them gave way, and they fell into the canal. Roden raised an alarm, and Elijah Evans, of Tory Street, Blackheath who was engaged at a local tube works, ran to the spot, and jumped into the water. He succeeded in getting out the body of Foster, which was at once removed to its home. Later he secured Withers’ body, and PCs Longman and Pass and Mr. *Harry Sample*, of the HORSE SHOE INN, Station Road, Old Hill, tried artificial respiration. This was continued for 45 minutes, until Dr. McQueen arriving pronounced life extinct, and the body was removed home by the police. The inquest was held on Tuesday morning at the THREE FURNACES INN, Waterfall Lane, before Mr. G. C. Lewis (coroner). Mr. J. L. Fellows represented the proprietors of the Station Colliery.

The parents stated that early on Saturday morning the children left their homes for the purpose of playing.

Maggie Roden, aged eight, said she accompanied the two girls to the Station Colliery for the purpose of picking coal. She saw then go on the bridge, which spans the canal, and suddenly the floor collapsed, and the girls fell into the water. She was frightened and ran away, and told the first man she met.

Elijah Evans (50), miner, stated that when the child Roden told him of the accident he hurried to the canal, and divesting himself of clothing jumped in. He soon recovered the body of Foster, but a considerable time elapsed before he could recover Withers.

The Coroner thanked Evans for his courageous efforts.

PC Longman stated that when he and PC Pass arrived at the colliery the body of Foster had been recovered and conveyed to her home. With the assistance of a man named *Sample* they tried artificial respiration with Withers for three-quarters of an hour without success.

The Coroner: Were the girls trespassing?

Witness: Yes, sir, they were. Trespassers had been warned many times not to go on the colliery estate. The floor of the canal bridge was decayed; it had, in fact, been fenced off.

The Coroner said it was a very sad accident, but the unfortunate girls were the authors of their own misfortune. The owners of the bridge were not to blame. PCs Longman and Pass and Mr. *Sample* were to be commended for what they had done. Bright features of the sad affair were the gallant efforts made to save life.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

County Express 31/12/1910

“On Saturday a dinner was held in connection with the HORSE SHOE Dividend Club. After all had enjoyed the excellent catering of the host (Mr. *H. Sample*), Mr. Whyley presided. It was reported that owing to the exceptional amount of illness, the dividend showed a considerable reduction. A convivial evening followed.”

1911 Census

Waterfall Lane – HORSE SHOE INN

- [1] *George Henry Sample* (33), licensed victualler, born Dudley;
- [2] Alice Sample (40), wife, married 11 years, born West Bromwich;
- [3] Edith Annie Batty (21), general servant, born Old Hill:

County Express 28/10/1911

“Football Carnival Committee. A meeting of this committee connected with the Coombs Wood Ambulance Brigade was held at the HORSE SHOE INN, Old Hill, last week, when it was decided to hold the annual dinner on November 11th. It was also resolved that the balance sheet should be prepared and presented at that meeting.”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/2/1914

“The licensing sessions for the Old Hill Petty Sessional Division were held yesterday.....

Mr. Waldron supported an application by *George Harry Sample*, the licensee of the HORSE SHOE HOTEL, Station Road, Old Hill, for alterations to the premises. He said the accommodation at the house was of a limited character, and inadequate for the trade. It was proposed to convert the bed rooms of an adjoining cottage into a club room, the bottom rooms to be utilised as a store room.

Applicant gave evidence, and he said he had been unable to cater for dinner parties at his house because the club room was too

small to accommodate the members.

The Chairman said the Bench considered it was a reasonable public requirement, and the application would be granted.”

Evening Despatch 16/2/1914

“The annual dinner of the members of the Coombs Wood Ambulance Brigade was held on Saturday, at the HORSESHOE HOTEL, Old Hill.

The superintendent of the brigade, Mr. D. H. Williams, who presided, was presented with a malacca walking-stick, mounted in silver with the crest of the St. John’s Ambulance Association. Mrs. *G. H. Sample*, for her efforts as a collector, was presented with a piece of Worcester ware. In returning thanks Mr. Williams said that during the year the brigade had attended 2,000 accidents at Coombs Wood Works. During the year the committee had raised £54 10s, and after meeting all expenses had been able to hand over £40 to the brigade. This sum had enabled thirty-three men to attend camp.

The artistes at the subsequent concert were Messrs. D. H. Williams, W. H. Mitchell, D. C. Nock, George Hadley, R. Willetts, and E. Skidmore (pianist).”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/7/1914

“On a charge of embezzling money from his employer, John Walker, of 99, Ash Road, Saltley, was sent to gaol for two months by the magistrates at the Birmingham Victoria Courts yesterday.

Mr. Walter George Townsend, of 34, Victoria Road, Stechford, carrying on business in Cornwall Buildings, Newhall Street, as a wholesale tea merchant, under the name of Townsend and Co., said that it was the prisoner’s duty to solicit orders and collect accounts. He was paid salary, expenses, and commission. On 15 May he called on Mr. *George H. Sample*, of the HORSE SHOE HOTEL, Old Hill, and received £2 16s. This had not been paid to Mr. Townsend or his agents.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/7/1914

“An inquest was held at the HORSE SHOE HOTEL, Old Hill, on Albert Victor Smith (10), of Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, who was drowned the previous evening. The evidence showed that the lad was playing on the towing past of the Birmingham canal, near Barr’s Colliery, when he was seized with an epileptic fit and fell into the water. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/10/1914

“I have been here since the beginning and have gone through all the war so far, I am thankful to say, without a scratch, though I have had some narrow escapes. Once I was on the look-out in the trenches and one of their snipers took a piece out of my cap. Sorry I could not find the man, as I should have returned the compliment. I was on the look-out and a shell burst within two yards of me. It killed two men and wounded twelve others. The force of the explosion knocked me into the trench. Never mind; it’s all in a day’s work. Their shell fire does a lot of damage, and their machine guns are not nice to face. Their rifle fire is rotten. Coombs Wood Ambulance are doing good work. I dropped across Dan Nock, one of Coombs’s. He is in the firing line and has not been hit yet.

Private F. Williams to Mr. *G. H. Sample*, Old Hill.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 31/10/1914

“We have the *Birmingham Gazette* at the front occasionally, and I see in one of the papers that it says I was in hospital. I am pleased to say, however, that I am safe. I was in a battle that lasted twenty-five days, and we came out victorious. Corporal D. C. Mock, 6331, B Company South Staffs, to *G. H. Sample*, Old Hill.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/8/1926

“Florence E. *Turner*, aged 54, wife of the licensee of the HORSE SHOE INN, Old Hill, was serving in the bar on Saturday evening when she fell down and expired immediately.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/9/1929 - Advert

“By Order of Messrs. Atkinsons Brewery Limited and Messrs. Peter Walker & Co. Limited.

In The Black Country Industrial Area, and Embracing Properties in Staffordshire and Worcestershire.

Important Sale In Separate Lots, of 45 Freehold Licensed Houses, some with adjoining properties, and including 36 Fully-licensed Houses, 8 On-Beer Houses and 1 Off-License, situate in.....

Old Hill and Cradley.....

HORSE SHOE and Shop adjoining, Old Hill.....

Boswell & Tomlins, FAI, in conjunction with William Fowler, Bewlay & Co., Will submit the above for Sale by Public Auction, in 45 Lots (subject to Conditions of Sale), at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, on Monday, October 14, 1929, Commencing at 3.30 pm Promptly.

Printed particulars may be obtained from the Solicitors, Messrs. Redfern and Co., 25, Colmore Row, Birmingham; or from the Auctioneers, Messrs. Boswell and Tomlins, FIA, 88 and 89, Darlington Street, Wolverhampton (Tel. No.1116 (two lines), Telegrams ‘Auctions’), and Messrs. William Fowler, Bewlay and Co., 59, Temple Row, Birmingham (Tel. Midland 6120).”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/10/1929

“An important sale of freehold licensed premises in the Black Country was held at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, yesterday, when Messrs. Boswell and Tomlins, Wolverhampton, and Messrs. William Fowler, Bewlay and and Co., Birmingham, offered 45 lots, the vendors of which were Messrs. Atkinsons Brewery Ltd, and Messrs. Peter Walker and Co. Ltd.

Of the 45 lots which were situate at West Bromwich, Tipton, Dudley, Brierley Hill, Old Hill, and Stourbridge, 32 were sold at the sale, and these realised over £80,000.....”

[The prices realised by 15 pubs were listed but did not include the HORSE SHOE, Old Hill, so it is not known whether it was sold.]

1939 Register

Station Road – HORSE SHOE INN

[1] *Ernest Herbert West*, date of birth 1/4/1886, publican (manager), late foreman steel spring maker, married;

[2] Amelia West, dob 29/11/1886, unpaid domestic duties, but helps in public house, married:

Sandwell Evening Mail 16/1/1986

“A total of £250 has been raised by members of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffalos, based at the HORSESHOES pub, Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, towards buying equipment to fight cancer at Birmingham Children’s Hospital.”

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?

HORSESHOE, Station Road, Old Hill, 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.....”

[1996]

Closed

HUNTSMAN

City Road, Tividale, ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

Julia Hanson and Sons Ltd.

Red Mango Group Ltd.

LICENSEES

Martin Ridley Barnsley (1956);

Charles Clifford Short (1956 – [1962])

NOTES

It opened in 1956.

Tipton Herald 5/3/1960

““We know about the continual strumming of musical instruments; one knows what a perfect nuisance and nightmare it can be if you have got to live with it,’ commented Mr. C. C. Ladds, at Old Hill adjourned licensing sessions on Wednesday, when opposing an application for permission to have music and singing in public houses in Rowley Regis on Sundays.

Mr. Ladds who opposed the application on behalf of 10 people living near the HUNTSMAN INN, City Road, Tividale, said that music and singing in a public house attracted large crowds of young people, who often made their own music and took part in the singing. Making the application, Mr. A. Williams asked that the licensees be ‘given a fair crack of the whip.’ ‘If music and singing are allowed on six days a week, and in general there is no bother, it is not unreasonable to ask for music and singing on Sundays,’ he commented. The magistrates, after a 15 minutes retirement, refused the application.”

[2005]

It became a restaurant. [2006]

JAY'S BAR

3, Graingers Lane, Five Ways, CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

Brian and Jean Jay
Brian and Darren Jones (acquired on 2nd July 2002)

LICENSEES

Brian Jay [2001] – **2002**);
Brian Jones* (**2002** – [2006]
Brian Allen Jones* [2009]

NOTES

It was originally run by the Jay family as a café and restaurant.

It originally opened as JAY'S BAR. [2001]

Brian Jay was married to Jean.

* probably the same person

Brian Jones was born c.1951.

He was originally an air conditioning engineer.

He was married to Yvonne.

He was banned from playing music on 31st March 2006, until he had obtained a music license, and paid up and backdated.

It was renamed B. D. EYES in 2002.

[2006]

It was renamed COACH HOUSE. [2007]

It was renamed JAY'S BAR. [2009]

Halesowen News 8/4/2010

“A Cradley Heath company has organised a gentleman's afternoon to raise cash for charity this weekend. Kind-hearted staff from Gold Direct are fundraising for Sense, which helps the deaf and blind, and have teamed up with JAY'S BAR to hold the event. From 1pm to 5pm on Sunday April 11 there will be showgirls, a comedian and a lunch at JAY'S BAR, Five Ways. Sham Bains, from Gold Direct, said, ‘It should be a lot of fun on Sunday and hopefully JAY'S BAR will be packed out with people for a good cause. Sense is a fantastic charity and hopefully everyone will dig deep and raise some cash. And as well as organising the Gentleman's Afternoon the boys will be running the London Marathon this year to raise even more cash for Sense.’ Tickets for the event cost £15 and are available from Gold Direct on Cradley Heath High Street and JAY'S BAR, Five Ways.”

[2016]

Closed

Halesowen News 18/2/2020

“A developer wants to transform a former pub in Cradley Heath into shops. Proposals have been submitted to convert the former JAY'S BAR in Graingers Lane, which has been empty for years, into three retail units. The plans, from Birmingham-based developer Abdul Ghafoor, have been welcomed by Cradley Heath councillor Julie Webb. She said, ‘I'm glad it's being brought back into use – we need shops to attract people to the area. It's nice to see something new being brought in rather than the site going to decay. It would be good if on. We have the new housing development in Woods Lane which will be finished hopefully by summer and will bring in hundreds of new residents who could be potential customers for these shops.’

It is believed JAY'S BAR closed in 2017.

Proposals, which were submitted to Sandwell Council last week, will be considered by Sandwell Council planners.”

Halesowen News 8/2/2021

“A former Cradley Heath bar looks set to be transformed into a flat after plans for three shops were dropped. JAY’S BAR, on Graingers Lane, which has been empty since 2018, will be converted into a three-bedroom flat, if plans submitted to Sandwell Council get the go-ahead. An application to convert the former bar into three shops was given permission last March. It was granted permission despite one objection raising concerns over rear access and a lack of parking. A report by a council officer at the time noted that, ‘The development would contribute to the vitality and viability of Cradley Heath town centre whilst bring back into use a currently empty premises.’ But now it looks like the shops plan, from Abdul Ghafoor, has been dropped, as Mr Ghafoor has submitted the new application to convert the ground floor of the former bar into a flat with three bedrooms, a lounge, kitchen, bathroom and shower room. The application states that the first floor of the property is already a flat. It will be considered by Sandwell Council planners.”

JEWS HARP

Reddall Hill, Old Hill

OWNERS

LICENSEES

NOTES

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 26/4/1830 - Advert

“Desirable Freehold Property.

To be Sold by Auction, by Jesse Wright, at the JEWS HARP Public House, at Reddall Hill, near Rowley Regis, on Friday the 7th day of May, 1830, at four o’clock in the afternoon, subject to the usual conditions, and either together or in lots, as may be agreed upon – those valuable Freehold Premises at Reddall Hill, in the parish of Rowley Regis, belonging to and in the possession of Thomas Perry; consisting of a well built and roomy Dwelling House, with a slaughter-house, stable, shop, garden ground, and other conveniences attached, and a valuable piece of Meadow Land, containing about an acre, closely adjoining thereto.

The above premises are well situated in an improving neighbourhood, and are supposed to contain valuable Mines of Coal and Ironstone.

For all further particulars apply to the Auctioneer, or to Mr. Fellowes, Solicitor, Dudley.”

JUNCTION

Rowley Road, ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Plant [1877]

NOTES

County Advertiser 30/6/1877 - Advert

“JUNCTION INN, near the Spring House, Rowley Road, Parish of Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. John G. Wright on Wednesday Next, July 4th, 1877, the Public House Fittings, Brewing Utensils, and a Portion of the Household Furniture and Effects belonging to Mr. *Plant*, JUNCTION INN, Rowley Road, Rowley Regis, who is giving up the business and removing from the premises; comprising capital Cooper’s Made Ale Casks, Vats, Boilers, Benches, Screens, Mahogany Centre and other Tables, Chairs, Beer Machine, Bar Fittings, Bedsteads, Feather Beds, and Chamber Appendages, quantity of Books, Kitchen Utensils, and other Effects.

Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock prompt.”

KINGS ARMS

87, (82), Rowley Village, (Dudley Road), ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

Thomas B. Williams and Lizzie Bate, Rowley Regis
Ansells Ltd. (acquired on 15th June 1946)

LICENSEES

Richard Bowater [1818] – [1834]
Benjamin Howard [1841] – **1842)**
Thomas Parrish [1843] – **1853)**;
Benjamin Slimm (**1853** – []
John Hodgetts [] – **1855)**;
John Truemans* (**1855** – []
John Tromans* [1857] – [1865]
Henry Tromans (**1867** – **1882)**;
Mrs. Sarah Tromans (**1882** – []
Isaac Whitehouse [1887]
Joseph Sidaway [1890]
John Hartill [1891] – [1892]
Carl Henze [1896]
Alexander Hadley (**1897** – [1900]
Benjamin Hadley [1901]
Thomas Gould Taylor [1904] – **1907)**;
Samuel Blakeway (**1907** – **1912)**;
John Richard McAfee (**1912** – []
James Davenport [1916] – **1926)**;
John ‘Jackie’ Bird (**1926** – **1932)**;
Noah Harris (**1932** – **1936)**;
Walter Watts (**1936** – **1938)**;
Charles Ernest Skelding (**1938** – **1940)**;
James Edward ‘Ted’ Richards (**1940** – **1952)**;
Henry Herbert Biggins (**1952** – **1955)**;
Isaiah Aston (**1955** – **1963)**;
Dennis Howard (**1963** – [1965]

NOTES

82, The Village [1881]
82, Rowley Village [1900], [1901], [1904], [1908], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1932]
87, Rowley Village [1939], [1940]

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 29/8/1825 - Advert

“Rowley Regis. Desirable Freehold Property for Sale, Land Tax Redeemed.

To be Sold by Auction by Henry Jacob, at the house of Mr. *Richard Bowater*, the KINGS ARMS, in Rowley, on Monday the 5th day of September, 1825, at four o’clock in the afternoon.....”

Birmingham Journal 2/2/1826 - Advert

“To Be Sold. A Complete Winding Engine, 30 inch Cylinder; it stands on the Bank of the Birmingham Canal, near to Oldbury, and may be removed on that line at a small expense.

Apply to Mr. *Richard Bowater*, KINGS ARMS, Rowley, near Dudley, Worcestershire.”

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 20/9/1830 - Advert

“The KINGS ARMS Public House, Rowley Regus, Staffordshire.

To be Let by private Treaty, the above well known, old established, and good accustomed House, which is remarkably convenient and low rental.

Possession may be had at Michaelmas next.

For further particulars and to treat apply to Mr. *Richard Bowater*, Rowley Regis.”

Richard Bowater was also a Jew’s harp maker. [1834]

1841 Census

Village

- [1] *Benjamin Howard* (45), publican;
- [2] *Mary Howard* (35), born Staffordshire;
- [3] *Phoebe Howard* (10), born Staffordshire;
- [4] *Alexander Howard* (10), born Staffordshire;
- [5] *William Howard* (8);
- [6] *George Bincon* (20), ms;
- [6] *Mary Ann Maysfield* (20), fs;
- [7] *Jane Cole* (23), fs:

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 4/4/1842 - Advert

“Vote for the County.

Desirable Freehold Property, situate at Black Heath, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford.

To be Sold by Public Auction, by W. R. Jobson, on Wednesday the 11th of May next, at the KINGS ARMS Public House, situate at Rowley Regis aforesaid, at four o’clock in the afternoon (by direction of the Executors of the late *Benjamin Howard*), subject to conditions then and there to be produced.

All those five Freehold Dwelling Houses, with good Outbuildings and Workshops attached, together with a space of Land sufficient for the erection of another Dwelling House and Shop, situate at Black Heath, in the parish of Rowley Regis aforesaid. The above Houses are substantially built, in excellent repair, and are all tenanted, at low rents.

The Property is situated in a populous and improving neighbourhood, where tenants may always be insured, being surrounded by Collieries and Nail Manufactories.

For further particulars apply to Mr. W. S. Sutton, Attorney, 22, Temple Street, Birmingham; or to the Auctioneer, also of Birmingham.”

Thomas Parrish = Thomas Parish

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 13/3/1843 - Advert

“Freehold Houses and Premises, at Blackheath.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Newbold, on Monday next the 20th day of March, at the house of Mr. *Parrish*, the KINGS ARMS INN, Rowley, at five o’clock in the afternoon, and subject to conditions then to be produced.”

Thomas Parrish was also a tinman’s rivet maker and nail factor. [1845]

He was also a nail factor and nail ironmonger and tinman’s rivet manufacturer. [1849], [1850]

1851 Census

Village

- [1] *Thomas Parish* (51), publican, born Hales Owen;
- [2] *Mary Ann Parish* (57), wife, born Hales Owen;
- [3] *Henry Parish* (22), son, nail ironmonger, born Hales Owen;
- [4] *Mary Ann Parish* (16), daughter, born Hales Owen:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 9/2/1853

“An inquest was held on Friday last, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Rowley Regis, before G. H. Hinchcliffe, Esq, coroner, and a highly respectable jury, on the body of Edward Round, aged twenty-five years.

The first witness examined was John Baggott, who stated that on the 24th of January last he went to a place called Ganner Green, near Bromsgrove, as he heard there was going to be a prize fight. He arrived there about eleven o’clock, and saw a great number of people on a common there. A ring was formed and deceased and a man named Thomas Davis were both stripping; after they had stript a man called ‘Flesh’ (but whose proper name the witnesses could not tell) acted as Davis’s second. Davis and deceased then commenced fighting, and deceased was knocked down, but after waiting a little another round commenced. The witness then described twenty rounds which were fought, and stated that a man named Richard Taylor and ‘Flesh’ both acted as Davis’s seconds. Deceased’s nose was broken and he was cut under the eye. During the fight Taylor and ‘Flesh’ both encouraged Davis, and told him how to strike deceased. After the twenty rounds had been fought deceased sat down (as he had done between each round) on the knee of a man named Fox, and when the signal was given for the fight to be renewed deceased attempted to rise but appeared unable to do so, and fell insensible to the ground. Fox carried him on to the public road, but a cry of police being heard he dropped deceased down and left him. Witness shortly afterwards carried him to a cottage, where he remained in an insensible state until the following day, when he was conveyed to his residence in Rowley Regis, and attended by Mr. Beatty, surgeon, but he died on Wednesday last.

Other witnesses were examined, and confirmed the statement of Baggott.

Mr. James Beatty, surgeon, of Oldbury, stated that when called to the deceased he found him in an exhausted state and suffering

from a low fever. Witness described his treatment of deceased, and stated that since death he had made a post mortem examination of the body; there was a fracture of the nose and a cut under the left eye, and injury on the ribs, one of which had been fractured. Mr. Beatty detailed the appearances he found in the body, and proved death had been produced by extravasation of blood upon the brain, and congestion of its membranes; that these appearances were the result of the violence to the nose and cheek, and that such injuries might be produced by blows or by deceased having frequently fallen down.

Subinspector Joynson stated that Davis was in custody, but very ill and unable to leave his bed, and that he believed 'Flesh' and Taylor had absconded.

The coroner said he thought it would be advisable before concluding the inquiry to have Davis brought before the jury, and as the surgeon had stated that Davis would be in fit state to leave home in a few days, he should adjourn the inquest for his attendance. The inquest was therefore adjourned until Thursday next, and the police will in the meantime endeavour to find 'Flesh' and Taylor."

Worcestershire Journal 17/2/1853

"An adjourned inquest was held at the KINGS ARMS, Rowley Regis, on Thursday evening last, touching the death of Round, alias Bladey, one of the principals in the late prize fight at Gannow Green, in the vicinity of Bromsgrove. Davis, 'the man wot won the fight,' was brought in; he appeared ill, his face and hands exhibiting marks of the contest. After hearing the whole of the evidence read over, the prisoner, being duly cautioned, said to the Jury: I did not challenge him (deceased); he came over to Oldbury and challenged me. He said, 'Davis, I'll fate yo' and I said, 'Well I'll fate yo.' The Coroner summed up, and explained the law as it bore upon the case. The Jury held a long consultation, which ended in a verdict of Manslaughter against Davis, and 'Flesh,' and Taylor, seconds. They expressed their regret that the law did not enable them to deal with the other parties concerned, and their opinion was that the authorities should take the greatest care to suppress the unseemly and demoralising system of prize fighting.

Davis was then committed for trial at the next Stafford Assizes; the seconds, with others, have absconded. The deceased is represented as having been a very quarrelsome man of bad character generally. He had been many times before the Wordsley Magistrates for assaults and was the terror of the neighbourhood. He has left a wife and child."

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/3/1853

"His Lordship entered the court this morning at nine o'clock.

Thomas Davis, Samuel Instone, Jas. Reynolds, William Rudge, John Tracey, Joseph Walters, and Jacob Griffiths were indicted for the manslaughter of Edward Round, at Rowley Regis, on the 2nd February last.

Mr. Best was instructed for the prosecution; and Mr. Scotland appeared on behalf of Davis, Tracey, and Griffiths.

The prisoners, with the exception of Griffiths, pleaded guilty.

Mr. Best, in addressing the Court, said that inasmuch as the unfortunate fight out of which the present charge arose was not one of an aggravated nature, the prosecution was desirous of recommending the prisoners to the favourable consideration of the Court; but as far as regarded Griffiths, no evidence would be offered, owing to his having taken no part whatever in the affray.

After a few words from Mr. Huddleston, upon one or two points in the case which tended to palliate the offence against the prisoners, his Lordship remarked that this was not one of those degrading and brutalising exhibitions which had taken place near Tamworth, and in other localities, in the shape of prize fights. On the contrary, this was merely a contest which had arisen out of a challenge given by the deceased to the prisoner; but which had, nevertheless, ended in a distressing manner in the death of the former. The prosecution, however, had taken into consideration the extenuating circumstances of the case, and recommended the prisoners to mercy, of which he should give them the benefit, hoping at the same time that the lesson it was calculated to teach them would not be thrown away. He should, therefore, only require them to enter into their own recognizances in £100 each, to appear for sentence when called on, and in the meantime keep the peace towards all her Majesty's subjects.

The prisoners then entered into the required sureties, and, with the exception of Instone, against whom there was another charge, were released from custody."

[Samuel Instone and Thomas Round, charged with assaulting William Rockham, a policeman, at the fight, were found guilty; Round received nine months' and Instone six months' imprisonment.]

Birmingham Journal 25/2/1854 - Advert

"Unreserved Sale, at the KINGS ARMS, Rowley.

To Be Sold By Auction, by Mr. Hawkins, on Monday, March 6th, 1854, the whole of the Public House Fixtures, excellent Screens, Drinking Tables, four-pull Beer Machine, well-seasoned Casks, 16-bushel Mashing Tubs, 150-gallon Iron Furnace, pair of excellent Vats, 150 Gallons of prime Ale, and other useful Effects, particularised in catalogues, to be had at the Offices of the Auctioneer, Brierley Hill and Oldbury."

* possibly the same person

Worcestershire Chronicle 30/12/1857

"*John Tromans*, landlord of the KINGS ARMS, Rowley Regis, was fined 20s and costs, for permitting drunkenness and disorderly conduct in his house on the 19th inst."

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

18th February 1858 - Henry (b. 14/6/1830), son of *John* and *Ann Tromans*, licensed victualler, Village.

18th February 1858 - Martha Foster (b. 11/6/1828), daughter of *John* and *Ann Tromans*, licensed victualler, Village.

Brierley Hill Advertiser 2/1/1858

“*John Tromans*, landlord of the KINGS ARMS INN, Rowley Regis, was charged with allowing fighting and other disorderly conduct, to be carried on in his house, on Saturday, the 19th ult. Sub-Inspector Burton said that about half past eleven o’clock, on the above night, he was on duty, and heard a disturbance in defendant’s house. He went and found the two men, John Rollinson and Thomas Rollinson, as noted above, fighting. Defendant was doing all in his power to prolong the fight, and requested him (Burton) to let them have it out. Superintendent Mills, in reply to the Bench, said the house had been badly conducted for some time. Fined 20s with costs.”

County Advertiser 29/5/1858

“This case – in which William Harris, a respectable farmer of Rowley, was charged with allowing his waggon to obstruct the free passage of the turnpike road on the 5th inst, and also with assaulting the police in the execution of their duty – was adjourned for a fortnight on Monday, the 10th inst, in order to secure the attendance of Mr. Edward Bridgewater as a witness. Mr. Bridgewater attended to give evidence today, and Mr. Homfray again appeared for the defendants.

The facts of the case are briefly these: On the 5th inst, Harris had some business to transact at the KINGS ARMS, Rowley Village, and accordingly went there with his team, attended by his waggoner, Frederick Tuffley, who was also charged with assaulting the police. PS Burton stated that the waggon was standing in the road in front of the KINGS ARMS for an hour and a half, the front horses being in such a position as to cause an obstruction of the road; also stating that after waiting this hour and a half he went up to the waggoner and asked him for his name, which he refused to give. Witness accordingly threatened to take him into custody unless he complied with his request, whereupon the waggoner, Tuffley, commenced an assault upon him, his master, William Harris, also assisting him. Counter-charges of assault were brought against the police by Harris. The particulars of the case being fresh in the recollection of the Bench only the additional evidence was taken today.

Hannah Burton, wife of PS Burton, was first examined, and she deposed to seeing the horses stand across the road in the manner described by her husband.

Edward Bridgewater, who lived opposite the KINGS ARMS, and was the owner of the police-station in that locality, deposed that the horses were standing straight down the road, and that the waggon was close in the channel, thus leaving abundance of room for carts to pass and repass; but the time he saw the waggon was about ten minutes before the constable came up.

Richard Hinton, and inhabitant for 30 years of the parish of Rowley, corroborated the statement of Mr. Bridgewater.

The charges of assault were then gone into, and several witnesses were examined, PS Burton stating as above, and PC Dobson corroborating the statement.

Mr. Homfray then addressed the Bench for the defence, he said he scarcely knew what country we were living in that such charges as the present should be preferred. The Act of Parliament laid down the law very clearly on the matter, the offence consisting of causing an obstruction of the free passage of the road; while the evidence proved that there was plenty of room for other waggons to pass and repass, the road being 30ft wide. He also commented on the fact of the constable allowing the waggon and horses to stand for such a length of time without taking any notice, and then when he saw the horses standing across the road, laying the present information. He apprehended that it was part of a policeman’s duty to prevent if possible any breach of the law. The waggoner, he contended, was illegally taken into custody, inasmuch as he was not bound to give his name, the owner being responsible, and the name ‘William Harris, farmer, Halesowen,’ being painted in legible characters on the waggon. Under these circumstances he considered Tuffley was justified in resisting the police, and his master in assisting him so to do. The whole question turned upon whether it was not an illegal act to take him in custody, because if was, the assaults complained of arose was a matter of course. Harris saw his waggoner being dragged along the road, and beaten with handcuffs, and accordingly interfered, and was therefore also charged with assault. He had no doubt but that the whole affair had arisen from a mistaken interpretation of the law on the part of PS Burton, and that he was therefore not deserving of blame, but that if a superior officer had been in attendance all the evils complained of would have been prevented. Under these circumstances he submitted that the ends of justice would be best attained by the withdrawal of the whole of the summonses on each side.

The Bench stated that the law only required the owner’s name to be upon the waggon, and that there had been some mistake in the case, they should dismiss the whole of the charges.”

1861 Census

Rowley Village – Public House – KINGS ARMS

[1] *John Tromans* (56), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Ann Tromans (51), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] John Tromans (12), son, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Sarah Bright (16), servant, born Rowley Regis

Birmingham Daily Post 27/6/1863 - Advert

“Public Apology.

I, *John Tromans*, of the KINGS ARMS INN, Rowley Regis, do hereby publicly declare that the charge of stealing recently preferred by me against Sarah Knight, who has been in my employ as domestic servant for the last two years, was wrongfully made and was totally unfounded, and I hereby express my regret and Apologise for making such charge, and I agree to pay all the costs and expenses attending the publication of this Apology, and I further state that I am quite ready to give her a character for being honest, industrious, and steady.

Dated this 24th day of June, 1863.

The Mark of X *John Tromans*.

Witness – W. C. Maltby, Solicitor, Dudley and Stourbridge.”

John Tromans was also a rivet maker. [1864], [1865]

Henry Tromans = Henry Troman

County Advertiser 20/4/1867

“At the Petty Sessions, on Wednesday, an interim authority was granted to *Henry Tromans* to keep open the KINGS ARMS, Rowley, until the next transfer day.”

Henry Tromans was the carrier to Birmingham on Thursdays and Saturdays. [1868], [1870], [1872], [1873]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/12/1870 - Advert

“Wanted, a good able Servant-Of-All-Work.
Apply at the KINGS ARMS, Rowley Regis, near Dudley.”

1871 Census

Rowley Village – KINGS ARMS

[1] *Henry Tromans* (36), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Jane Tromans (36), wife, born Northfield, Worcestershire;

[3] George Tromans (13), son, born Rowley Regis;

[4] John T. Tromans (11), son, Rowley Regis;

[5] Harry Tromans (9), son, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Louisa Tromans (8), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[7] Hannah Tromans (6), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[8] Mary Tromans (4), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[9] Jane Tromans (2), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[10] *Sarah* Bridgwater (18), general servant, born Rowley Regis:

Stourbridge Observer 29/4/1871

“At the Police Court, on Wednesday last, before Messrs. F. W. G. Barrs and N. Hingley, Thomas Allen and Thomas Siviter were charged with being riotous, and refusing to leave the KINGS ARMS, Rowley, on the 20th, when requested by the landlord. Police-constable Jackson said about 20 minutes past 11 on the above date he visited the KINGS ARMS, when he saw the two defendants fighting. Allen had his hat and coat off. Witness asked the landlord why he did not separate them, and he said he could not.

Henry Troman, the landlord, said defendants were in his house and commenced fighting. He ordered them to leave, and they did not. He asked them again, and Siviter went.

Siviter was fined 2s and costs, and Allen 1s and costs; in default 14 days.”

Henry Tromans married *Sarah Ann* Bridgwater on 28th January 1873.

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

March 1873 - Phoebe, daughter of *Henry* and *Sarah Tromans*, publican, Village.

29th March 1874 - Fred, son of *Henry* and *Sarah Tromans*, publican, Village.

16th July 1876 - David, son of *Henry* and *Sarah Tromans*, licensed victualler, Village.

21st July 1878 - Ellen, daughter of *Henry* and *Sarah Tromans*, publican, Village.

County Express 24/7/1875

“*Henry Tromans*, landlord of the KINGS ARMS, was summoned for keeping his house open during prohibited hours. Police-constable Heman stated that on the 17th inst, he was passing the defendant’s house at twenty minutes past eleven when he saw a man come out with a quart jug filled with ale. He then went and charged the defendant, who asked him to have something to drink, and he refused. Mr. Hingley said that although the officer might have seen a man with ale, yet he could not say when or where he came into possession of it. He must dismiss the case.”

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. *Troman*’s, KINGS ARMS INN, Rowley, near Dudley.”

County Advertiser 17/4/1880

“*Henry Tromans*, landlord of the KINGS ARMS INN, Rowley, was charged with selling liquors during prohibited hours, on the 28th ult.

The evidence given by Police-constables Styles and Lightfoot was that on Sunday the 28th ult, they were near defendant's house. At about twenty minutes past ten pm, four men came from the house, and the landlady followed them carrying a tray containing four glasses of liquors.

Mr. Hayes, who defended, said no money was passed, and said that the glasses of liquor were only intended as a gift to the men. The Bench considered that an offence had been committed, and said it was especially important that the law should be observed on Sundays.

Mr. Hayes said there had been no charge against the house for thirty years.

The Bench said they should take that into consideration.

The defendant was fined 5s and costs."

Dudley Herald 28/8/1880

"The annual Licensing Session was held at the Police Court, Old Hill, on Wednesday.....

Police-superintendent Woollaston presented his annual statement of offending publicans during the past year.....

Henry Tromans, KINGS ARMS, Rowley, open after hours April 14th, 1880, fined £5 and costs.....

The licence of *Henry Tromans*, KINGS ARMS, Rowley, was granted, the wife of the applicant being cautioned to conduct the house better in future."

Dudley and District News 15/1/1881

"Shadrach Hackett and John Andrews were charged with having, on the 27th of December, committed a breach of the peace by fighting on licensed premises.

Sarah Troman, landlady of the KINGS ARMS INN, Rowley, stated the case, remarking that the defendants were sober, but the Bench considering it not proven, dismissed the defendants."

1881 Census

82, The Village – KINGS ARMS INN

[1] *Henry Tromans* (50), licensed victualler, born Rowley;

[2] *Sarah Tromans* (28), wife, born Rowley;

[3] John Tromans (21), son, stone quarry man, born Rowley;

[4] Henry Tromans (19), son, stone quarry man, born Rowley;

[5] Louisa Tromans (17), daughter, born Rowley;

[6] Jane Tromans (12), daughter, born Rowley;

[7] Phoebe Tromans (8), daughter, scholar, born Rowley;

[8] Frederick Tromans (7), son, scholar, born Rowley;

[9] David Tromans (5), son, scholar, born Rowley;

[10] Ellen Tromans (3), daughter, born Rowley:

Henry Tromans died on 27th June 1882.

County Advertiser 5/8/1882

"The following transfers were allowed.....

KINGS ARMS INN, Rowley, from *Henry Tromans* (deceased) to *Sarah Tromans*, the widow."

Sarah Tromans – see also SWAN.

[St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms](#)

[7th April 1887 - Amy, daughter of Isaac and Mary Elizabeth Whitehouse, publican, Rowley Village.](#)

County Advertiser 2/7/1887

"A curious incident occurred in a yard belonging to Mr. *Isaac Whitehouse*, landlord of the KINGS ARMS, Rowley, on Tuesday last, when a fight took place between a rat and a hen. The fight lasted for about ten minutes. The hen was walking about the yard with two chickens, when the rat suddenly pounced on one of them, apparently with the intention of carrying it away. His intentions, however, were frustrated by the mother of the chickens, which faced the rat and then flew at him causing him to loose hold of the chicken. The bird followed up her advantage, and caught hold of the rat by the jaw. After picking him up from the ground she dashed it down again with some violence. This she repeated until the rat was hors de combat. The owner of the fowl was attracted to the spot by the noise, and seeing how matters stood gave the finishing stroke to the rat which was all but dead from the heavy punishment he had received from the enraged mother."

County Advertiser 26/4/1890

"*Joseph Sidaway*, landlord of the KINGS ARMS INN, Dudley Road, Rowley Village, was charged with stealing a dog's collar, the property of Daniel Darbey, commercial traveller.

Mr. Jackson, of West Bromwich, who defended, informed the magistrates that the information was signed by Inspector Bishop, and not by the prosecutor. He should like to say that two men took to the defendant's house a dog valued at £5, which they said they had found. They left the dog, defendant promising to endeavour to find the owner. Defendant subsequently ascertained that the dog belonged to Mr. Darbey, and sent it to his house but omitted to send the collar. It subsequently transpired that the defen-

dant's little boy had taken the collar from the dog's neck, without the knowledge of the defendant. The magistrates decided to adjourn the case for a fortnight."

County Advertiser 17/5/1890

"*Joseph Sidaway*, landlord of the KINGS ARMS INN, Rowley Regis, was charged with stealing a dog collar, value 1s 6d, the property of Daniel Darby, on the 6th of April. Mr. H. Jackson (West Bromwich) defended.

Complainant said that he missed the dog on the date named, and that it had a brown leather collar at the time. On the Monday following defendant asked him if he had lost a dog, and also to describe him. Defendant, from his description, told him that he had one answering the description at his house, which two men had brought in, and he gave them half a gallon of beer. Complainant told him that it had a collar on, describing the same. Defendant replied that it had no collar at all. Complainant meanwhile told the police, and in the evening defendant brought him the dog without the collar. Defendant afterwards produced the collar, and told him that he was very sorry for what he had done.

Police-constable Hyman said that he met Mr. Darby, who spoke to him about the loss of a dog with a collar. Complainant asked him to make inquiries, and he went to the KINGS ARMS INN, where he saw the dog with the collar round his neck. About 5.30 defendant came to him, and said he had got to settle with him (witness) for the half gallon of beer which the two men had for bringing the dog. Mr. Darby came in soon afterwards, and witness saw defendant run towards the back with the collar in his hand, and put it in a drawer in the kitchen. The officer told defendant he would be charged with stealing the collar, and he began to swear, calling him a liar. Defendant afterwards said that he was a 'd— fool,' that he would make a clean breast of it, and the reason why he took it was that he had told Mr. Darby that he had no collar, and he didn't want to be found out in a lie.

Mr. Jackson, for the defence, said that the affair arose out of an incident which was very trivial. While the dog was at defendant's house his little girl was playing with it, and the collar got lost.

The Bench allowed the case to be withdrawn on payment of costs."

County Advertiser 26/7/1890

"On Monday last the members of the Poor Man's Friend lodge, No.934 of the Rowley Regis Provincial Chapter of the Nottingham United Order of Oddfellows, held their annual meeting at Brother *Joseph Sidaway's*, the KINGS ARMS INN, Rowley. An excellent dinner was provided. Brother Eli Hackeson, PIF, was voted to the chair, and Brother George Malabone to the vice-chair. Brother Thos. Fletcher, PGI (secretary), read the yearly accounts, which showed the lodge to be in a flourishing condition. A vote of thanks to the secretary was carried, and 'Success to the Working Man's' Friend,' was proposed and responded to very heartily. Other toasts were given, and a happy evening was spent."

County Express 8/10/1890

"Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the WARD ARMS INN, Tuesday, respecting the death of William Hackett (22), Hawes Lane, who was found dead in bed on the 2nd inst. The evidence showed that on Saturday the deceased was drinking at various public houses with a young man named John Parkes; but the latter did not consider he was drunk when he left the KINGS ARMS INN, where they each had four glasses of whisky, having previously had whisky and beer at other inns. Parkes, however, admitted to the coroner that he could not walk upstairs. When he left at closing time he fell in the street, and was carried home and put to bed, being found the next morning dead. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Suffocation caused by Excessive Drinking. The Coroner said he found the evidence of Parkes anything but satisfactory, and he would disallow his expenses. He also called the attention of Superintendent Woollaston, who was present, to the case, and expressed a hope that he would make enquiries and take action with regard to the supply of drink to the deceased."

County Express 13/12/1890

"At the Rowley Police Court on Wednesday, before Messrs. W. Bassano, H. A. Wiggin, J. Walker, A. H. Bassano, and G. H. Cloughton, *Joseph Sidaway*, manager of the KINGS ARMS, Rowley Regis, was charged with permitting drunkenness and also selling intoxicating liquors to a drunken person, on Nov. 1st. Mr. Waldron prosecuted, and Mr. Lawrence (Underhill and Lawrence, Wolverhampton) was for the defence.

Mr. Waldron said he was instructed to prefer these charges by the chief-constable of the county. The case was a very sad and serious one, because he thought the evidence would disclose, beyond all question of a doubt, that a young man of the name of William Hackett lost his life on the 1st of November through excessive drinking. Hackett was healthy and robust, and on the 1st ult he went about seven o'clock to the KINGS ARMS, perfectly sober, and remained drinking there until nine o'clock. He then proceeded to the SWAN INN, where he had some ale and also some whisky. At about 10.20 he returned to the defendant's house, accompanied by another young man. On this occasion he was supplied with a number of glasses of whisky and water. In the KINGS ARMS he had four glasses of whisky and one at the SWAN. At closing time Hackett left the house, but he was so drunk that the moment he got into the street he fell down twice, and was assisted home by his companions. The sister of the deceased would state that when her brother arrived home he was unconscious. He was taken up stairs and put on the bed, where the next morning he was found dead. It was a very sad and terrible tale, and he hoped that, if he satisfied the Bench on these charges, they would inflict a substantial penalty, so that publicans would not supply people in such a rapid manner as the defendant supplied the deceased.

Shadrack Hackett, Hawes Lane, Rowley Regis, blacksmith, said deceased, who was his son, was a boilermaker, 22 years of age. On 1st November he arrived home at 5.30 from work, sober, and went out about 7.30. He was a strong young man. At a quarter past eleven at night two men carried his son in as well as they could. His son was drunk. He was carried upstairs and laid on the bed with his clothes on. He was so helpless that he could not be undressed. A man named Parkes slept on the same bed. Next morning he was found on the bed dead. Cross-examined: Parkes seemed to be sober. Witness was in the SWAN at ten o'clock with the deceased, and he was not drunk.

Parthenia Hackett, daughter of the last witness, said on the 1st November she saw her brother brought home in a drunken unconscious state. They could not undress him because he was helpless. When Parkes came down the next morning, he said, 'I wish I could sleep like your brother.' She went upstairs and found he was dead. Cross-examined: They then sent for a doctor, and Dr. Beasley's assistant came in, but did not do anything except hold her brother's hand. No doctor was called at the inquest on her brother. Re-examined: She heard the doctor's assistant say in the bed room the stuff he had drunk had poisoned him. They could smell the whisky in the bed room.

Alexander Parkes, High Street, Rowley, quarryman, said on the 1st ult he was at the KINGS ARMS INN, and saw Hackett come in at 10.20pm. Hackett was not sober. Witness saw him supplied with four glasses of whisky in the bar. Cross-examined: Witness and the landlord drank one of the glasses of whisky. Deceased was standing at the bar counter all the time quietly. No one led him out at closing time. Hackett walked into the middle of the road and fell on his back twice. There was a great change in his condition afterwards, and he had to be taken home. Re-examined: When Hackett got outside the fresh air got over him. He did not reckon that three or four pints of ale would make a man drunk.

Police-constable Hyman said he was called to Hackett's house at 10.30am on the 2nd ult. Deceased was on the bed dead. A fluid was running from his mouth, and smelt very strongly of whisky. Witness accompanied Police-sergeant Salt to the defendant's house the same day. *Sidaway*, in answer to the sergeant, said he knew the man was dead. He said he only supplied him with one pint of ale that night. There was a club in the house, and he might have had some beer. They left at a quarter to ten, and returned at 10.20, and the wife supplied the deceased with some whisky. The defendant's wife said she supplied them with three or four whiskies. The night before the inquest he asked defendant to attend the inquest. Cross-examined: At the inquest he heard the Coroner say it was a case of excessive drinking, and it was one of the worst cases he had ever heard, and should bring it before the notice of the justices. When the Coroner said this he did not think it his duty to send for the publican. There was no post mortem examination, and Mr. Griffiths (Dr. Beasley's assistant) did not attend at the inquest. The Coroner did not suggest *Sidaway* should be called.

Police-sergeant Salt was called to corroborate Hyman's statement

Mr. Lawrence said he would postpone his remarks until he had called all his witnesses.

Mr. W. Bassano: Is it a fact that no medical evidence was taken at the inquest?

Mr. Lawrence: None. *Sidaway* was waiting all day dressed in his coat to go to this inquest, but never had the slightest opportunity of being present.

Superintendent Woollaston: I was present at the inquest, and the coroner's jury appeared to be perfectly satisfied, and the surgeon was not called. We never call surgeons unless the coroner desires it. We are not permitted to do it.

Mr. Lawrence: I am not complaining in the least so far as the police are concerned, as their evidence has been given very fairly.

Mr. Bassano: We are wondering at the extraordinary circumstances of a man who was found dead in bed, and a medical man called in who took hold of his hand, and yet no medical evidence was called at the inquest. It is simply wonderful; I never heard of such a strange thing in my life.

Mr. Wiggin: What was the verdict?

Mr. Lawrence: 'That the deceased died from Excessive Drinking of Spirits.'

Mr. Lawrence, in reply to a question, said Mr. Hooper was the coroner.

Mr. Bassano: I must say I'm very much astonished.

Mr. Waldron: I can only say this, that if the defendant had chosen he could have attended and given his evidence. He knew perfectly well that as a publican his conduct would be brought into question, and I submit it was his duty to have attended.

Mr. Lawrence: He held himself in readiness to attend all day.

Mr. Bassano: Having expressed our surprise at this, we have nothing else to say.

Samuel Blakeway said he was at the KINGS ARMS on the 1st ult, and saw the men go out and come in. They returned at half-past ten, and went to the counter, Hackett standing up. They had three glasses of something. At closing time Hackett walked out all right. Outside the house he fell twice, and could not stand afterwards.

Simeon Siviter, Rowley, said he was in the defendant's house when Hackett and Parkes were in, at twenty minutes past ten. Hackett walked out all right, and fell down outside twice. One fall was a fearful fall. Cross-examined: Hackett paid for six glasses of whisky, and Parkes had three of them. He did not know what made Hackett fall.

John Parkes, labourer, Rowley, said on the night in question he was with Hackett. At the KINGS ARMS they stayed for over an hour, and then went to the SWAN INN, and afterwards returned to the KINGS ARMS. On the first occasion they had a pint of ale between them; and at the SWAN they had two pints of ale and a bottle of ginger beer, and a glass of whisky each; and on returning to the KINGS ARMS, four or five glasses of whisky each. When Hackett got outside, he started up the road. Witness did not see him fall, but afterwards found him helpless, and in a shaky condition. Witness helped him home and slept with deceased. He left at 8.10 the next morning, and the deceased was then lying on the bed, witness thought he was sleeping. Deceased had been working overtime the same day. At the inquest, the Coroner said he did not believe witness was telling the truth when he swore that the man was sober when he left the house. Cross-examined: He told the coroner that they had four or five glasses of whisky in twenty-five minutes.

Mary *Sidaway*, wife of the defendant, said she saw the men come into the house at 10.20. Until closing time they had three or four glasses of whisky each – three-pennyworth at a time. Hackett was perfectly sober. It was not usual for her to supply four or five glasses of whisky in the course of half-an-hour.

Defendant was called, and said his wife supplied the men with the whisky. When Hackett had gone some distance up the street he had a bad fall. Sergeant Salt said he would call for them if they were required at the inquest, and they waited, but were not fetched. Hackett appeared to be perfectly sober.

Mr. Lawrence, for the defence, said he agreed with what Mr. Waldron said, that it was a sad and serious case, but it was serious for different reasons to what Mr. Waldron would have them believe. It seemed to him that Mr. Waldron wished to prejudice this

case in the same way that the coroner prejudiced his jury, and wanted them to believe that, without a tittle of evidence, that the man died in consequence of excessive drinking. This amount of drink was not an extraordinary amount for strong man, nor would it be likely to kill a man. At the inquest statements were made as to what he had had to drink, and, without calling any medical man, the jury returned a verdict of Death from Excessive Drinking. The coroner had an opportunity of calling the doctor, and could have directed a post mortem examination, but did not do so. It seemed to him that the doctor jumped to the conclusion he did from what the mother told him. He was justified in speaking in the very strongest terms upon the conduct of the inquest, and he felt it most keenly. It was quite obvious that the man must have been seriously injured by the fall which was referred to, and he hoped there being a doubt in the case the Bench would give defendant the benefit of it.

The Bench fined defendant £5 and costs for selling to a drunken person, and for permitting drunkenness ordered him to pay costs, and the next time anyone was found dead in bed under such circumstances they hoped a post mortem examination would be made. Including solicitor's fee and costs, the penalty amounted to £12 7s."

County Advertiser 17/1/1891 - Advert

"On Tuesday Next. To Persons Seeking a Sound Investment.

Notice of Sale by Auction of a Valuable Old-Established Public House, situate in Rowley Village, near Dudley.

Alfred W. Dando is directed to Offer for Sale by Auction, at the KINGS ARMS INN, Rowley Village, on Tuesday, January 20th, 1891, at Seven o'clock in the Evening precisely, subject to Conditions of Sale incorporating the Common Form Conditions of the Birmingham Law Society.

All that Valuable Freehold Double-Fronted Old-Licensed Property, known as the KINGS ARMS INN, Rowley Village, containing large Liquor Vaults, Tap and Club Rooms, Three Bed Rooms, with Kitchen, Scullery, Stable, Warehouse, Pigsties, and other Out-buildings. There is a Gateway Entrance, large Yard, and every convenience for the trade. The above Property possesses a long Frontage to the Road, in an excellent situation, and is held upon a repairing lease by Messrs. George Thompson and Sons for 14 years, from the 24th of June, 1888, at the clear annual rental of £25, thus affording a sound investment to Capitalists and others. Further particulars may be had and the Lease inspected upon application to Messrs. Stokes and Hooper, Solicitors, or the Auctioneer, all of Priory Street, Dudley."

Birmingham Daily Post 20/3/1891 - Advert

"Donkey, either Stolen or Strayed; dark brown; it had a mark on its rump; from a field in Rowley, Friday last.

Apply to *J. Sidaway*, KINGS ARMS INN, Rowley."

1891 Census

82, The Village

[1] *Joseph Sidaway* (27), general labourer and licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Mary Sidaway* (27), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *Ernest Sidaway* (3), son, born Oldbury;

[4] *Randolph Sidaway* (1), son, born Oldbury;

Birmingham Mail 6/4/1891 - Advert

"Bitch (white Bull Terrier) Found, if not owned in three days, will be sold.

KINGS ARMS INN, Rowley."

County Advertiser 29/8/1891

"The annual licensing sessions for Rowley Petty Sessional Division were held last Wednesday.....

The magistrates said they were pleased to learn that there had been a decrease in the drunken cases. They then proceeded to consider the 'black list'.....

Mr. Lawrence applied for a renewal of the license of the KINGS ARMS INN, Rowley Village, on behalf of *John Hartill*. Inspector Bishop said that the late tenant was convicted on the 1st of December, 1890, for supplying ale to a drunken person, and fined £5 and costs. There was nothing against the present applicant. Mr. Lawrence said that the applicant managed the house, and the conviction against *Joseph Sidaway*, the previous tenant, did not affect him. Whenever the offence was committed *Sidaway* was requested to leave, and the house had been conducted satisfactorily since then Adjourned."

County Express 3/10/1891

"Old Hill Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. W. Bassano said the only case in which they proposed not to renew the license was in the case of the CROSS INN, Old Hill.....

Mr. Ward asked if all the other licenses were granted without any special application being necessary. Mr. Bassano said this was so. Of course they had, in the exercise of their discretion, thought there were several cases in which they might reasonably withhold the license, and the Bench had had a long discussion that morning before coming into Court as to whether they should do so in the case of a man fined £10 and costs. However, they had decided to grant the whole of the licenses this year, and they gave an intimation that in future the Bench would deal very stringently in cases of conviction under the licensing laws, both as regards the amount of fines and endorsements, and in the cases of endorsements they would deal more stringently. In plain English, this meant that a person with an endorsement against the house would in future have a very small chance indeed of getting his license renewed. They hoped the licensed victuallers and other licensed persons in the district would take a warning from that."

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

20th January 1892 - Eva, daughter of *John* and *Mary Ann Hartill*, publican, Village.

County Advertiser 24/9/1898

“On Sunday afternoon the annual friendly societies’ Sunday service, on behalf of the hospitals, was held in a field at the back of Mountford House, Siviters Lane, Rowley, kindly lent for the occasion by Dr. J. G. Beasley. The members of various societies met at their headquarters, and were formed into a procession as below. The Blackheath Village Band started from the WHEAT SHEAF INN, Turners Hill at one o’clock, with the Church of England Friendly Society, and proceeded through Portway and Perys Lake, calling at the BULLS HEAD INN for the Sick Club, at the WARD ARMS INN for Court Foresters’ Pride, at the KINGS ARMS INN for Lodge Working Man’s Friend. It then proceeded by way of Ross, Holly Road, Tump Road, and John Street, to the GEORGE AND DRAGON Ground. The Woodgate Brass Band had in the meantime covered its route from the OLD BUSH INN, Powke Lane, with Court Little Band of Hope, calling at the MALT SHOVEL INN for Lodge Lily of the Valley, the VINE INN for Court Mistletoe Bough, proceeding along Station Road to the RAILWAY INN for Court Britannia’s Pride, thence through Halesowen Street, Tump Road, and Hackett Street, meeting the other Courts at the GEORGE AND DRAGON Ground. A united procession was then formed, and marched to Siviters Lane, reaching the ground at three o’clock. The proceedings opened with the hymn ‘All people that on earth do dwell,’ after which the Chairman (Mr. E. Pewtress, CC) delivered a short address. The Rev. C. W. Barnard, MA, Rector of Kings Norton, then addressed the meeting, after which the hymn ‘Lead, kindly light,’ was sung. Addresses were also delivered by the Revs. W. Hall and N. Haigh, of Blackheath. At the close a collection was taken on behalf of the Dudley Dispensary and Birmingham Eye Hospital. It amounted to £11 9s 5d.”

County Express 17/2/1900

“Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest, on Wednesday, at the KINGS ARMS INN, concerning the death of Elijah Law (54), no fixed abode, who was found dead in a stable at Bell End, Rowley, on Sunday.

The evidence of the deceased’s brother was that Law had been of no regular occupation, and for the past three years had slept where he could. Witness had not been on the best terms with his brother, and when he last saw him alive (on Thursday) they did not speak.

The other evidence was to the effect that the deceased was drinking on Saturday night, and when they left at closing time deceased was the worse for drink. The following day he was found by a boy named Payne in the stable of his employer. He had slept in the same place on previous occasions.

The evidence of Dr. Beesley was that death was due to exposure. Deceased was of drunken habits, and had evidently fallen whilst trying to ascend the loft, and had remained there until death supervened.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Exposure.”

1901 Census

82, Rowley Village – KINGS ARMS INN

[1] *Benjamin Hadley* (48), innkeeper, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Hannah Hadley* (46), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *Alice Shakespeare* (23), general servant (domestic), born Halesowen:

County Advertiser 20/4/1907

“Yesterday, at Dudley County Court – before Judge Harrington – *Thomas Gould Taylor*, KINGS ARMS, Rowley, farmer, sued *Thomas Frederick Holland*, farmer, of Portway Road, Rowley, to recover £20 damages in respect of the alleged illegal seizure and impounding by the defendant of sixteen cows. There was a counter claim for £5, general damages for personal assault. The case for the plaintiff was that on November 16th last sixteen of his cows, which had strayed on to defendant’s field, were seized and impounded at Oldbury. On the application of the plaintiff fourteen cows were liberated, the other two being detained to cover the claim for damages and expenses. These two cows were sold by auction, and purchased by the plaintiff for £11 5s, of which £7 18s was handed over to the defendant in respect of the damages, the balance being retained to cover the charges for impounding the cattle. His Honour held that the damage claimed by the defendant must be confined to the day of the seizure, and that the amount of damage done by the cattle on that day was £1. He therefore gave a verdict for the plaintiff for £6 18s, the difference between £1 damages and the amount defendant had received as the proceeds of the sale of the cattle, with costs. The counter claim was struck out.”

Thomas Gould Taylor – check also WARD ARMS.

County Express 3/7/1909

“At 9.45pm on Saturday *Benjamin Bradley*, of Tibbetts Gardens, Cradley Heath, was in the vicinity of Powke Lane when he heard a splash in the Birmingham canal close to the NEPTUNE INN. Proceeding to the spot he saw a young woman, and with assistance rescued her. She subsequently gave her name as *Lizzie Blakeway* residing with her brother at the KINGS ARMS INN, Rowley Village. It was alleged that after being rescued she made efforts to again jump into the canal, but was prevented from doing so by *Bradley*. She was taken to the NEPTUNE INN, and afterwards removed home.”

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

20th October 1909 - Frank (b. 29/9/1909), son of *Samuel* and *Fanny Blakeway*, innkeeper, KINGS ARMS, Rowley.

1911 Census

Rowley Village

- [1] *Samuel Blakeway* (38), pipe maker, sanitary manufacturing, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Fanny Blakeway* (38), wife, married 12 years, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Arthur Blakeway* (18), son, clay miner, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Albert Blakeway* (15), son, horse driver (underground), born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Annie Blakeway* (9), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Joseph Blakeway* (7), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *Alexander Blakeway* (5), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] *Gladys Blakeway* (3), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [9] *Frank Blakeway* (1), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [10] *Ann Horton* (59), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

Dudley Chronicle 17/8/1912

“At Old Hill Police Court on Wednesday, the license of the **KINGS ARMS INN**, Blackheath, was transferred to ex-Sergeant *J. R. McAfee* from *Samuel Blakeway*.”

John Richard McAfee was originally from Enniskillen.
He joined Staffordshire Police in 1887, and retired as a Sergeant in 1912.

James Davenport = James Devonport

John 'Jackie' Bird played football for Walsall FC.
He later worked at Edwin Richards' Quarry, Rowley Regis.
He married Ella Bessie Woodhouse (nee Tromans), a widow.

Sports Argus 17/1/1934

“Fishing. The members of the Rowley Regis and District A. S. held their annual dinner at their headquarters, the **KINGS ARMS**, Rowley, last Saturday. Among the guests was the mayor of the borough, Alderman B. Hobbs, who, I gather from the chairman's speech of welcome, has been a good friend indeed to this society. Had it not been for his good services there is little doubt that the pool which the club rent locally would have been filled in some time ago and, of course, lost for ever to the members. Alderman Hobbs replied and said what great pleasure it gave him to be invited to this annual function and assured the members of his active support and encouragement in their healthy pursuit of angling. The chairman (Mr. T. Bennett) gave no room for complaint when it came to the explaining of the affairs of the club. This society, which is now in its sixth year, is in a favourable position financially. Besides renting a pool easily accessible to the members, it has a specimen fish preservation fund, which at present amounts to just over £10.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/4/1938

“References to a man's visits to public-houses before committing suicide were made at an inquest at Old Hill yesterday on Thomas Mansell, aged 56, 63, Mackmillan Road, Blackheath, a refuse collector, employed by Rowley Regis Town Council. The widow, Elizabeth Mansell, stated that her husband returned from work at mid-day on Saturday and left at one o'clock to have a drink at the **SIR ROBERT PEEL INN**. He returned at 1.35 and he had had a few drinks. He afterwards went out for a walk, and said he should be back at eight o'clock. William Dunn, licensee of the **BRITANNIA INN**, Rowley, stated that at 2.50 Mansell called at his house and asked for a gallon of beer, but he refused to serve him. He was too much over the mark. *Walter Watts*, landlord of the **KINGS ARMS INN**, Rowley, said that at about three o'clock Mansell asked for a gallon of beer, but he refused to supply it. Witness said he would not describe the man as drunk, but he had had enough. Other evidence showed that Mansell's coat, waistcoat, and cardigan were found by the side of Rowley Hall pool at 4.30. A verdict that Mansell committed Suicide while the Balance of his Mind was Disturbed was returned.”

Walter Watts – check also **HORSE AND JOCKEY**, West Bromwich.

1939 Register

87, Rowley Village

- [1] *Charles E. Skelding*, date of birth 20/6/1903, publican, married;
- [2] *Lizzie C. Skelding*, dob 18/4/1902, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [5] *Janet Ethel (Skelding) Parry*, dob 3/10/1934, under school age, single:

Henry Herbert Biggins – see also **BULLS HEAD**, Cradley Heath; **MARKSMAN**, West Bromwich; and **BOAT**, Darlaston.

A team from here took part in the Rowley Regis Darts League. [1959/60]

Birmingham Daily Post 20/11/1961

“By defeating **KINGS ARMS B** of Rowley Village by 6-3 at Ansell's Assembly Rooms, Aston Cross, on Saturday night, Halesow-

en Labour Club became the new Darts Team Champions of the Midlands.....”

Closed
Demolished

KINGS HEAD

9, Elbow Street, OLD HILL

OWNERS

Kidderminster Brewery Co. Ltd.
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

Joseph Johnson [1861] – **1878**);
George Johnson (**1878** – [1883]
Joseph James [1891] – **1904**);
Mrs. Annie James (**1904** – **1925**);
Edward ‘Ted’ Slater (**1925** – **1928**);
Mrs. Annie Slater (**1928** – **1953**);
Reginald Frederick Hooper (**1953** – **1959**);
Albert Smith (**1959** – [1965]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

It was known locally as “Rasher’s”.

1861 Census

Elbow Street – KINGS HEAD

- [1] *Joseph Johnson* (53), beerseller, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Elizabeth Johnson (52), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Harriet Barker (19), general servant, born Bromsgrove:

County Advertiser 27/8/1864

“Yesterday, the annual licensing of the Rowley division was held at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill.....
There were nine applications by beerhouse keepers for licenses, only one of which was granted.....
Joseph Johnson, KINGS HEAD, Old Hill (refused).”

County Advertiser 25/8/1866

“Rowley annual licensing meeting was held yesterday.....
The following are the new applications and their results.....
Joseph Johnson, Old Hill, refused.”

County Advertiser 31/8/1867

“Rowley. The Annual Licensing Meeting.....
There were thirteen applications for spirit licenses. The applications of the following were refused.....
Joseph Johnson, Old Hill.”

Stourbridge Observer 3/7/1869

“An inquest was held on Monday last, before Mr. Hooper, Coroner, at *Joseph Johnson*’s, the KINGS HEAD INN, Old Hill, touching the death of Benjamin Baker, a child four years old.
From the evidence it appears that deceased got into a bosh of water in the brickyard of Mr. Foley, brickmaker, and could not extricate itself, and was drowned. There was no evidence to show how the deceased got in, and the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1871 Census

Elbow Street – KINGS HEAD

- [1] *Joseph Johnson* (63), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Elizabeth Johnson (62), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] George Troman (44), lodger, tailor, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 10/2/1872

“William Shaw, Samuel Gardiner, and Joseph Round, three young men, were charged with assaulting Samuel Willetts, a nailmaker, on the 6th inst. The complainant stated that he came out of the KINGS HEAD INN, Old Hill, at one o’clock on Tuesday morning, when he was struck by Round, and knocked down. The other defendants were in the road, and they assisted in the assault, knocking the complainant down and kicking him. He had spoken to the defendants in the public house, but had not given them any provocation. Mr. Deakin, of Oldbury, who appeared for the defendants, elicited from complainant, in cross-examination, that ‘he was took up for dead’ after the assault. He had been having a few pints during the day, but was quite sober when the assault took place. A young woman, named Jane Willetts, said she heard the noise of the defendants and complainant quarrelling near her residence, when she was in bed. She went down into the street, and the defendants were saying that ‘they would kick complainant’s b— life out.’ She could swear to Round’s voice in particular. Evidence to rebut that of the complainant was adduced on behalf of the defendants, the result being that a penalty of 1s and the costs was imposed on each of the three men charged.”

Stourbridge Observer 5/10/1872

“At the Petty Sessions, on Wednesday *Joseph Johnson*, licensed victualler, at the KINGS HEAD, Old Hill, was charged by Superintendent Mills with permitting drunkenness in his house on the 21st ult. Police-constable Cooper proved that he visited the defendant’s house at 10 minutes to 11 o’clock. He found a man in the house drunk and he had to be led away. Police-constable Grady corroborated. Fined 20s and costs.”

George Johnson was the son of *Joseph Johnson*.

1881 Census

9, Elbow Street

- [1] *George Johnson* (49), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Eliza Johnson (49), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Alice Johnson (13), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Henrietta Johnson (11), daughter, scholar, born, Rowley Regis;
- [5] Elizabeth Johnson (72), mother, born Rowley Regis:

G. Johnson issued tokens from here.

Dudley and District News 13/5/1882

“At the Old Hill Police Court on Wednesday, before Messrs. W. Bassano and C. Holcroft, William Ball, alias George Keel, Poplar Place, Bridge Street, West Hockley, Birmingham, pearl and stud turner, and John Johnson, 12, Eaton Street, Hockley, pearl turner, were charged with uttering and putting off counterfeit coins representing half-crowns, and one florin, at Old Hill and Cradley Heath, on the 8th inst. On the prisoner Ball was found 8s 9d and five coins, and on Johnson 29s 7½d and two coins.

Joseph Manning, QUEENS HEAD, Corngreaves Road, said on Monday evening last the prisoners came to his house while he was sitting at tea. Ball called for two drinks, and was served by his wife, who called him to look at the half-crown they had tendered for the drink. He looked at the coin and broke it in two. It was bad, and he sent for a police officer, and detained Ball, but Johnson would not stay, and went out because he said he had nothing to do with Ball.

Aquilla Parkes, landlord of the BIRD IN HAND, Spinners End, said Ball came to his house on Monday afternoon about 4.30 and called for a glass of ale, tendering the base half-crown produced, he filled the glass of ale and gave him 2s 4½d back. It rang well on the counter. Ball drank the ale and went out. The next morning a police officer came and asked if he had taken any bad money, and his wife examined the money they took on Monday and picked the half-crown out, it being the only one they took that day. He identified Ball next day.

Susan Harris, wife of Thomas Harris, licensed victualler, CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Providence Street, New Town, said on Monday Ball came to her house and asked for a bottle of soda water, she had none and gave him a bottle of ginger beer, he tendered her half-a-crown, she gave him 2s 4½d in change and he went out. Next day she found that the coin was bad.

Louisa Nicklin said she was servant to Priscilla Foley, who kept the BRITISH OAK, High Street. On Monday afternoon both the prisoners came to the house and Ball called for a pint of ale. She filled it and Ball gave her half-a-crown which she took to her mistress who gave her change. She was quite sure that Johnson was with Ball. Priscilla Foley said when her servant brought the half-crown and she had given her the change she went into the shop and saw the prisoners standing by the counter. Two more men were with them. When she went into the bar Ball asked for the cup to be filled, and gave her a two shilling piece, she gave him 1s 9½d in change, they did not wait to empty their cup but said they must go so as not to be caught in the rain. Ball and Johnson then left the other men and went out. The two coins she received were bad, and she gave them to the police.

Emma Johnson (14), daughter of Samuel Johnson, the HEARTY GOOD FELLOW, King Street, Old Hill, said she saw the prisoners come into the house on Monday afternoon. Ball called for a quart of ale, she supplied it and Ball gave her half-a-crown in payment. She gave the change, Ball threw the drink down and both went out. Her father wanted some change and she took it to Chances for sixpences.

Hanna Webb, barmaid at Mr. John Foley's, the SWAN INN, Old Hill, said the prisoner came into the house and Ball asked for some ale and tendered her half-a-crown, she took the coin to Mrs. Foley and gave Ball the change. Hannah Foley said Hannah Webb brought her a half-crown which she put in her pocket with the other money. The same night she gave it to a police officer. PC Litherly said he was sent for to the QUEENS HEAD, Corngreaves Road, on Monday and received the half-crown produced, from Mr. Manning, who said in the presence of Ball, that he had received it from him. He took Ball into custody, and he at first gave the name of George Keel, Hart Yard, Hatton Garden, London, and said it was not half-a-crown but a two shilling piece which he gave. PCs Litherly and Lawrence proved receiving the base coins produced from the witnesses.

Inspector Walters said on Monday the prisoner Ball was brought to the station and gave the name of George Keel, Hart Yard, Hatton Garden, London. He declined to give any reference, and said witness might enquire about it. He took him to Birmingham to the detective department, where he saw detective Baker, who called Keel by his right name, and said, 'How do William Ball.' He then went to Ball's address in Bridge Street, West Hockley, and on going into the house he found the prisoner Johnson lying on a screen, he then gave the name of George William Hobson, No.13, Eaton Street, Abbey Fields, Hockley. He told him he would be charged with being in company with Ball the previous day at Old Hill, and passing counterfeit coins. He replied, 'I know nothing at all about it.' He searched him and found £1 9s 7½d all in small coins. He told him he would have to go with him to Old Hill, when he became very violent, and rushed to the table to get a knife, but he put the handcuffs on him and brought him to Old Hill. He was present in the office when Ball was identified, and he might add that he went to Eaton Street, Hockley, but no such person as the prisoner Johnson was known there.

Honor Chance, wife of John Chance, 2, King Street, underground manager for Messrs. Hingley, said she changed half-a-crown for Emma Johnson on Monday afternoon. Emma came and told her that it was a bad half-crown, and took it back.

Eliza Johnson, wife of George Johnson, publican, KINGS HEAD, Elbow Street, said four men came to her house on Monday, and Ball asked for half-an-ounce of tobacco and a pipe, and gave her half-a-crown which she changed. PC Rowlands came at night, and she found the coin was a bad one.

Mr. Henn, Cradley Heath, said PC Litherly showed him three half-crowns which he examined and found to be bad. They were made principally of lead. PC Rowlands also showed him four half-crowns, and one two shilling piece which were counterfeit. The half-crowns were all from the same mould, dated 1875, and plated.

Prisoners were remanded to Stafford to appear on Wednesday."

[At the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions, William Ball (32) and John Johnson (27), both button makers, were each sentenced to twelve months, Ball pleading guilty.]

Dudley and District News 18/8/1883

"The third anniversary of the Old Hill Loan and Investment Society, which is held at the KINGS HEAD INN, Old Hill, was celebrated on Monday last. An excellent dinner was served up on the occasion by the host and treasurer (Mr. G. Johnson), and a good number of members attended. After the cloth was drawn Mr. Charles Lester was voted to the chair, while Mr. Isaac Hill occupied the vice-chair, and a very sociable evening was spent. Mr. Isaac Cashmore, the secretary, reported the society to be in a satisfactory condition. He stated that the number of members was 157. During the last three years the society had advanced £1,480 to members, while £196 (paid up shares) had been paid out. He also reported that the society had a reserve fund, which at the present time was worth £200, and a sinking fund worth £21 15s 0d."

Birmingham Daily Post 10/7/1885

"An inquest was held yesterday before Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, at the KINGS HEAD, Elbow Street, Old Hill, relative to the death of John Nayler (27), miner, who was killed whilst working in the Ridding Colliery, on the 7th inst. Mr. W. B. Scott, Government inspector, and Mr. Pickering, assistant inspector, were present. The colliery proprietors were represented by Mr. Waldron, of Brierley Hill.

Zachariah Harris deposed that he was in the employ of the Ridding Colliery Company Limited. He went down the pit where the accident happened on Monday night, in company with John Nayler. They were the only two at work in the pit. He saw Nayler lying on the ground 'holeing' when a great quantity of 'lomme' fell upon him, and completely covered him. He ran to the bottom of the pit and shouted for assistance, but failed to obtain a hearing. There was no signal bell, and had not been one since he commenced to work at the pit, which was on Friday last. It was about half-past two when the accident happened, and he remained at the bottom of the shaft until two of the miners came at seven o'clock the next morning. There was a banksman at the top of the pit when deceased and himself went down, but he did not stay there throughout the night. He thought at the time he went down that the engineer and banksmen would remain there. In reply to Mr. Scott, witness said Nayler had 'holed' under about three feet. He had been at work for three hours and a half, and during that time he had never put a tree up.

Thomas Priest stated that he was deputy at the Ridding Colliery. He left the pit on Monday night, and on Tuesday morning, when he descended again, he found that a great fall of clay had taken place. He had left a man named Westwood in charge of the pit on the Monday night, but it was understood that he would leave the place a few hours afterwards.

Mark Priest deposed to being on duty as watchman at the top of the pit from 6pm to 6am. He heard the boy shout up the shaft in the night, but could not make out what he said. In answer to the Coroner, witness said the signals had been broken for two or three days.

Mr. W. H. Pickering said he examined the pit on Wednesday, and found that earth had fallen through a slip. The timber was placed about 5 feet from the back of the 'holeing.' The Act of Parliament had not been infringed, but his opinion was that, owing to the nature of the roof, more timber should have been used.

In summing up, the Coroner said he had held office for more than thirty years, and he did not think he had come across a worse case. A more disgraceful occurrence had not been heard of for years. He hoped the inspector would take the most rigid steps he possibly could.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and added a rider to the effect that it was their opinion that the person in charge ought to have been down the pit when the man lost his life, and they considered the owners were most blameable in not providing sufficient signalling apparatus, and also for not having the engineer at his post. They requested the inspector to make the most stringent measures that the law allowed him to take.”

County Express 29/8/1885

“William Walter Homer and Jeremiah Skidmore, the proprietors of the Ridding Colliery, were summoned by Mr. Scott, Government Inspector, for a series of offences under the Coal Mines’ Regulation Act. Thomas Priest, the doggy, was also summoned at the instance of Messrs. Homer and Skidmore, for violating three of the colliery rules. It was explained by the Magistrates’ Clerk that in all twenty two summonses had been issued, and Mr. Waldron, who represented the defendants, applied for the summonses to be adjourned. The magistrates decided to adjourn the hearing of the case until September 23rd. Proceedings had been initiated in consequence of a man named John Nayler meeting with his death at the colliery on July 7th.”

[The adjourned hearing was again adjourned because the defendant solicitor could not attend. When the case was heard Jeremiah Skidmore was fined 10s and costs in several summonses, the other summonses were dismissed on payment of costs. Thomas Priest was fined 10s and costs.]

Joseph James was the son of Horatio and Ann.

1891 Census

9, Elbow Street

[1] *Joseph James* (52), gas tube maker and beerseller, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Annie James (49), wife, born Kingswinford;

[3] Annie Baker (16), niece, general servant, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Hannah Baker (15), niece, general servant, born Rowley Regis:

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 have been convicted during the year....

Joseph James, KINGS HEAD, Old Hill, permitting drunkenness March 9th, 1892, fined £2 and costs.....

An objection was taken to the renewal of the license of the KINGS HEAD INN, and Mr. Waldron appeared for applicant, *Joseph James*. The Bench advised *James* to be careful, and granted the renewal of the license.”

County Advertiser 14/11/1896

“On Wednesday night a meeting of miners was held at the KINGS HEAD INN, Old Hill. Mr. S. Thompson presided, and spoke of the importance of unionism. Mr. B. Winwood, miners’ agent, in addressing the meeting, upon the necessity of combination and the wages question, said, while admitting the recent rise in the price of coal which had taken place, he contended that it would be quite useless for him to tell them that they could expect to obtain any direct or immediate increase in the rate of wages in their present disorganised condition. He urged upon all miners the absolute necessity of improving their organisation if they would improve their position. If nothing was done during good trade their position would be unbearable in depressed times. A resolution was unanimously passed in favour of better organisation.”

County Advertiser 17/3/1897

“On Monday night a large representative meeting of delegates connected with the Old Hill and District Miners’ Association, was held at the KINGS HEAD, Old Hill, a miner presiding. Mr. B. Winwood (agent) explained that the new Coal Mines Regulations Act would come into operation in July next. Regarding the explosives order, if this was not satisfactory to them, the miners’ options should be ascertained by means of open-air meetings held throughout the district with a view to claim exemption from it, and to send a deputation to the Home Secretary upon the question. A resolution was unanimously carried in favour of holding Sunday open-air meetings to obtain the men’s opinions on the question.”

County Advertiser 20/3/1897

“On Monday morning an inquest was held at the DUKE WILLIAM INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, concerning the death of Alfred George Foxall (42), blacksmith, of Bank Street, Old Hill, who died suddenly on Sunday morning. On Saturday night deceased returned home from the KINGS HEAD INN, where he had been playing the piano. He ate a good supper, and at 2-40 the next morning he was taken suddenly ill. Dr. Mitchell was called in, but deceased expired before his arrival. He was described by Inspector Given as a steady and sober man, and a verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned by the jury.”

County Express 11/8/1900

“Upwards of 90 members of court Benjamin, held at the KINGS HEAD, Old Hill, met on Tuesday morning, and accompanied by the Blackheath Village Band, paraded the principal streets of Cradley Heath and Old Hill, and returned to a large tent in the yard of the court-house for dinner, which was provided by the host (Mr. *James*).....”

1901 Census

9, Elbow Street

[1] *Joseph James* (62), publican, born Old Hill;

[2] *Annie James* (59), wife, born Pensnett;

[3] *Alice Baker* (19), niece, born Blackheath;

[4] *Julia Baker* (16), niece, born Blackheath:

County Express 9/8/1902

“Foresters Parade. The members of court Benjamin, No.7304, held at the KINGS HEAD INN, Elbow Street, held their annual dinner and parade on Tuesday. A procession started at 11.30, headed by mounted brethren in Foresters’ costumes, Blackheath Village Prize Band, and a prettily dressed wagon laden with the children of the members, and paraded the district. At 1.30 dinner was served in Mr. *J. James* well-known style, and there was a second procession in the afternoon. On returning to the club-house the members settled down to an evening’s conviviality.”

County Advertiser 23/1/1904

“On Monday night Mr. *Joseph James*, landlord of the KINGS HEAD INN, Elbow Street, died very suddenly at his residence. It appears that deceased went out to a birthday party, and immediately after returning home he was seized with violent pains near his heart, and expired before medical aid could be obtained. Death was due to heart disease, and, as Mr. *James* had been medically examined prior to his death, no inquest was deemed necessary. Much sympathy is felt for the relatives.”

County Advertiser 30/1/1904

“On Wednesday night a meeting of the miners who have been thrown out of employment in consequence of the stoppage of Rowley Hall and Yew Tree Collieries, was held at the KINGS HEAD INN, Old Hill. Mr. B. Winwood (miners’ agent) presided over a large attendance. At the outset it was resolved that a vote of condolence with the widow and family of the late Mr. *James*, landlord of the public house, and also treasurer of the miners’ lodge held there, be conveyed to Mrs. *James*. Mr. Winwood then pointed out that during the last two weeks, when he issued an appeal, their funds were increasing. The first week they were able to pay 6s each to all the men, and 3s to the boys. Last week, through a special effort made possible by Col. Webb, MP for the King-swinford Division, who had sent them a donation of £5 5s, they had been able to pay them 7s 6d each. Strong efforts were being made to re-start the collieries, and he expressed the hope that in the course of a few weeks all the men would resume work. Some of them had obtained employment, and their numbers were gradually growing less.

A resolution was passed thanking the subscribers to the fund.

The balance sheet shows that £27 9s 9½d had been collected, and that seventy men had received 7s 6d each, leaving a balance of 10s in hand, after paying some small expenses.”

County Advertiser 13/2/1904

“The following licenses were transferred.....

KINGS HEAD INN, King Street, from *Joseph James* (deceased) to *Annie James*.”

County Advertiser 20/2/1904

“On Wednesday morning, Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest at the KINGS HEAD INN, Elbow Street, respecting the death of *Elsie Southern*, aged five years, daughter of John and Ann Southern, of Elbow Street, Old Hill, who died under shocking circumstances on Tuesday. The mother of the child stated that on Monday afternoon she brewed a large quantity of beer and placed it in a bath. Afterwards she put the bath in the yard for the purpose of cooling the beer. Deceased was missed from the house and she (the mother) was subsequently informed that the girl had been found in the bath containing the beer.

Esther Ashman, a neighbour, deposed to finding the child in the beer on the date in question. She was in a conscious condition, and was crying for her mother. She had fallen backwards into the bath. Dr. Mackay said deceased sustained shocking scalds which proved fatal on the following morning. Police-constable Gratage also gave evidence and the coroner remarked that it was a very sad and extraordinary case. There was no doubt that the child in playing close to the bath had fallen into the beer. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

County Advertiser 10/9/1904

“On Monday afternoon, Mr. A. A. Betham (deputy coroner) held an inquest at the KINGS HEAD INN, Elbow Street, Old Hill, relative to the death of a child named *Wilfred Baden Charles*, aged three years and three months, whose parents reside in Elbow Street, Old Hill, who met with his death through being run over on the 3rd inst. Mr. Hollowell (from the office of Mr. Geo. Green, Cradley Heath) appeared for the relatives of the lad.

John Henry Charles, father of deceased, stated he last saw his son alive on Friday night, the 2nd inst, when he was in good health. On the following day he heard that he had been killed. Witness went home and found him dead. Deceased had always been strong and healthy. In reply to the Coroner, witness said he had a complaint to make against the driver of the vehicle which knocked his son down, as at the time of the accident he was thrashing the animal, and was also driving on his wrong side.

James Roberts, a miller, of Elbow Street, Old Hill, stated that on the afternoon of the 3rd inst he was passing along Elbow Street when he saw a horse and trap, driven by *Joseph Rock, jun*, of Halesowen Road, coming round the corner. The horse was trotting sharply, and the driver struck it with the whip. A number of children were running across the street at the time. Witness shouted to *Rock*, ‘Hello, where are you going to?’ *Rock* appeared to be driving carelessly, and continued to drive on after witness shouted to him. Witness saw the deceased lad start to cross the road, and four or five other children ran in front of him. When about three parts across the horse knocked down the lad. He rolled over two or three times, and the off wheel of the vehicle passed over the top part of deceased’s chest. After knocking the lad down the driver again struck the horse, and witness shouted to him, ‘You

have got to come back.' Rock then stopped the horse, got out of the trap, and came to deceased. He said, 'Has it hurt the lad?' to which witness replied, 'You can see it has.' Deceased was carried home by some boys. In reply to Mr. Hollowell, witness said the driver was on the wrong side of the road. Replying to a Jurymen, the witness said he knew the horse, and he had never known it go along so fast as it did on this occasion. It generally took some trouble to get it along. The driver, in his opinion, had plenty of chance to see the children.

Frank Woodcock, of Elbow Street, Old Hill, corroborated the story of the last witness with regard to the accident. He also stated that the driver struck the animal with the whip as he was turning out of Elbow Street. The animal was travelling at the rate of about eight miles an hour. The last witness shouted to the driver as deceased was crossing the road, but he was knocked down by the horse. The driver went some distance away before he stopped the horse. In reply to questions, witness said he knew it was a slow horse, but the driver was making it go as fast as it could.

Joseph Rock, the driver, who was cautioned, next gave evidence. He stated that he was an assistant to his father, who was a grocer in Halesowen Road, Old Hill. On the afternoon of the date named he was driving his father's horse and trap, and when passing the bottom of Wagon Street, the animal shied at some water in the road. Witness gave him some cuts with the whip. The animal was trotting but was not going very fast. When witness got into Elbow Street several children started running across the roadway. Deceased was the last one, and before he could get clear the horse knocked him down. He was close to the middle of the road at the time. Witness shouted to the lad, and tried to pull the horse on one side, but the child appeared to stand still, and was knocked down. When the horse felt something touch him it went all the faster, and it ran quite thirty yards before witness could pull up. In reply to questions, witness said he had driven the horse four or five times weekly for eighteen months, and had no previous accident or complaint. The horse was not a fast one, but was given to shying, and witness whipped it on account of its shying. Deceased ran out of an entry almost as soon as he got to it. He ran straight up against the horse before witness could stop. Witness was driving on the proper side of the road. He denied having whipped the horse after he turned into Elbow Street. Inspector Gibbs pointed out the deceased's father had informed him that the lad had been run over twelve months ago through running out of an entry.

The Deputy Coroner re-called the father, who denied that the child had met with a serious accident, but stated that twelve months ago he ran out of an entry into a cart wheel and had to be treated by a doctor.

After a short deliberation the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and attached no blame to the driver of the vehicle."

County Advertiser 27/8/1904

"On Sunday afternoon the eighth annual parade and service arranged by the various friendly societies in the Old Hill district took place under favourable circumstances. The proceedings commenced with a large procession.....

The Cradley Heath Salvation Army Band started from the ROSE AND CROWN INN, proceeded down Reddal Hill Road as far as the BRIDGE INN, turning across Plant Street, Lawrence Lane, Trinity Street, picking up another society. Afterwards they marched by way of Elbow Street and Wagon Street to the field, calling at the KINGS HEAD INN and ENGINE INN for societies.....

Upon arrival at the field a grand procession was formed This paraded the principal streets of the locality for some time, after which they proceeded to a field in High Street, kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. A. E. Sidaway. Here a service was held, the chair being occupied by Dr. T. E. Mitchell. Notwithstanding the threatening state of the weather there was a large attendance..... A collection was made upon the route, and at the service, on behalf of the Dudley Guest Hospital, Dudley Dispensary, Birmingham Eye Hospital, Birmingham General Hospital, Birmingham Ear and Throat Hospital, and the Old Hill Nurses Fund."

County Express 8/8/1908

"On Sunday afternoon there was held the twelfth annual service promoted by the united friendly societies in the Old Hill district. The occasion was favoured with brilliant weather, and there was a large attendance at the services. The proceedings opened with a large procession, which aroused considerable interest in the district. The Old Hill Ironworks Band started from the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Wrights Lane, at one o'clock, and proceeded to the OLD HOUSE AT HOME INN for sick and draw club, through Cherry Orchard, calling for Court Robin Hood's Cave and BRITISH OAK sick and draw club; by way of Wagon Street, calling for Success-to-the-FOX-HUNT Lodge; Elbow Street for Court Benjamin and KINGS HEAD sick and draw club; Halesowen Road, calling for Provident Institution, and on to the field. The Cradley Heath Salvation Army Band started from COOKSEY'S HOTEL at one o'clock with Snowdrop Lodge, by way of Halesowen Road, calling for Court Loyal Marlborough; Bank Street, Queens Street, High Street, and on to the field. The Cradley Heath Town Prize Band started from the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill, with Court Robin Hood the Brave; by way of Reddal Hill Road, calling for the WHY NOT sick and draw club, and on to the BRIDGE INN for Welcome to the Bridge Inn Lodge, across Plant Street, Lawrence Lane, Clyde Street, Petford Street calling for Druids Society; Pear Tree Street, Riddings Street, New Street, Halesowen Road, calling for Court Royal Sherwood and Rechabites Society and ROYAL EXCHANGE sick and draw club; High Street to the field. A grand procession was then formed....."

1911 Census

Elbow Street – KINGS HEAD INN

[1] *Annie James* (69), widow, licensed victualler, born Old Hill;

[2] *Mary Patrick* (15), general servant, born Old Hill:

Evening Despatch 20/7/1914

"The members of the Old Hill Branch of the National Federation of Miners had their annual dinner on Saturday, the club rooms at the DUKE WILLIAM, High Street; the SPRING MEADOW, Halesowen Road; and the KINGS HEAD, Elbow Street, being used

for the occasion.....”

Ted Slater was married to *Annie*.
He kept pigs and a goat in the yard.

1939 Register

9, Elbow Street

[1] *Annie Slater*, date of birth 17/1/1875, licensee, widowed;

[2] Mary Patrick, dob 24/4/1895, domestic service, single:

Reg Hooper was married to Ethel (she died in 2010).

He was born in Amblecote, c.1919.

He died on 3rd October 2016.

See also NEW WELLINGTON, Brierley Hill.

Closed

It was demolished in 1972.

KNIGHTS QUEST

126, (106), (75), High Street, BLACKHEATH

OWNERS

Robert Hackett

John Rolinson and Son Ltd.

North Worcestershire Breweries Co. Ltd. [1908]

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

Union Pub Co. [2006]

Marstons plc

LICENSEES

Joseph Hackett [1834] – **1874**);

William Hackett (**1874** – [1881]

William Ford [c.1889]

George Hadley [1891] – [1892]

(Sergeant) Frederick Salt [1896] – **1906**);

John William Beck (**1906** – **1909**);

Thomas Taylor (**1909** – **1953**);

George Barson Bradley (**1953** – [1965]

Bob Austin (**1982** – [1983]

Dave Payton [1988]

Phil Preston [1990]

David Towell [1999]

Kulwant Singh [2002]

Wendi Hannon [2003]

Gerard Lloyd (**2003** – [2015]

Thomas Lloyd [2017]

Gerald Lloyd [2017] – [2018]

NOTES

75, High Street [1881], [1891]

106, High Street [1904]

126, High Street [1901], [1911], [1924], [1932], [1940]

It was originally the GEORGE AND DRAGON.

DRAGON [1846], [1877]

Black Country Bugle (April 1983)

“The original building on this site was Hackett’s Farm with lands which occupied the ground where Blackheath town developed after Rowley Church glebe lands were sold 140 years ago.

Joseph Hackett, the tenant farmer at that time, quickly calculated that selling ales and spirits would accrue far greater profits than the agricultural labours his ancestors had pursued for generations, but he retained a few acres of land at the rear of the house as a smallholding. This was known as Hackett’s Ground and later became the place where traveling fairs and theatre companies entertained Blackheath’s rapidly growing population.....

The GEORGE AND DRAGON was the local tavern mainly used by colliers and brickmakers in the town for *Joseph Hackett* had financial interests in both trades. It is said that he made a fortune and built Hackett Street (later named Heath Street) to commemorate his family’s long connection with the area, not to mention the rents which accrued from that long street of terraced houses.....

But around the turn of the century its licensee was another legendary local character – Sergeant *Salt* – a former policeman who had gained fame for decimating ‘The Smethwick Slogging Gang’ – a group of villains we would term muggers today.

.....Eventually the old farmhouse cum tavern was pulled down and replaced by the present building.....”

Black Country Bugle (1982)

‘Blackheath Then and Now’

“*Joseph Hackett* was not merely a publican for he was also described as a coalmaster and brickmaker – a leading member of the new town’s business community.”

1841 Census

Blackheath

[1] *Joseph Hackett* (35), publican;

[2] Mary Hackett (45);

[3] Mary Millington (15), fs:

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

17th October 1842 - Joseph, son of *Joseph* and Mary Ann *Hackett*, victualler, Blackheath.

10th September 1843 - Martha, daughter of *Joseph* and Mary Ann *Hackett*, licensed victualler, Blackheath.

Joseph Hackett was also described as a farmer. [1845]

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 13/10/1845 - Advert

“Freeholds at Long Lane, Blackheath, near Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Sept. Davis, at the house of *Joseph Hackett*, the GEORGE AND DRAGON, at Blackheath, near Rowley Regis, Tomorrow (Tuesday) the 14th of October, at four o’clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions to be then produced.....”

Staffordshire Advertiser 26/12/1846

“Inquest before George Hincliffe, Esq, Coroner.....

On Saturday at the DRAGON INN, Rowley Regis, on the body of John Ross, who died in consequence of injuries received from a piece of timber falling upon him while at work at a coal pit at Rowley Regis. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/5/1847

“On Monday evening, about eight o’clock, a hay rick, the property of Mr. *Hackett*, of the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Blackheath, Rowley Regis, was discovered to be in flames. The fire is supposed to be the act of an incendiary, of whom the police have some clue, and are now in active search. An engine from the Four Ways Station was brought to the spot, and by the exertions of the police, the fire was extinguished before the whole was consumed. The damage is estimated at £35. A serious accident occurred to a man named Willetts, who was knocked down by the engine on its way to the fire.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 13/10/1847

“The following inquests have been held before George Hincliffe, Esq, coroner.....

On Thursday last, the 7th instant, at the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Black Heath, Rowley Regis, on view of the body of Thomas Packwood, aged 68 years, who was killed on the Wednesday before by the spindle of a thrashing machine at which he was employed in thrashing some wheat for a Mr. Newton catching his smock frock, by which he was taken round the spindle with great velocity, and although the machine was stopped immediately, he was quite dead from injuries he had received on his head and throat. The spindle had caught his frock a short time before, and torn a piece from it, and he was desired and urged by William Wildsmith, the manager of the machine, to take his frock off, but deceased refused, and said he knew more about the machine than he (Wildsmith) did. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Joseph Hackett was also described as being a coalmaster. [1849], [1850], [1854], [1860], [1861], [1868], [1870], [1872]

Joseph Hackett was described as being also a coalmaster and brickmaker. [1851]

Birmingham Journal 2/11/1850 - Advert

“Worcestershire. Important and Extensive Sale.

Brades Hall Farm, midway between Dudley and Oldbury.

To the Gentry and Public Generally.

Mr. Hawkins has the pleasure to announce his instructions from Mr. *Joseph Hackett*, to Offer for unreserved Sale by Public Auction, on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, November 25, 26, and 27.

A large quantity of genteel modern Household Furniture, Public House Fixtures and Casks, quantity of Drapery, new Cylinder Boiler, Pit Tools, Skips, Runners, broad and narrow wheel Carts, Timber Carriage, Condensing Engine, 25-inch cylinder, with Winding Apparatus and Boiler, Draught Horses, Carriage Horses and Harness, four-wheel Carriages, Gig, and numerous other Effects, which will appear in catalogues, and may be had at the Printer’s, Dudley; GEORGE AND DRAGON, Black Heath; TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury; DARTMOUTH HOTEL, West Bromwich; *Journal and Midland Counties Herald* Offices, Birmingham; or of the Auctioneer, Brierly Hill.

Order of Days’ Sale in next Advertisement.”

1851 Census

Blackheath

[1] *Joseph Hackett* (48), coalmaster, born Dudley Port;

[2] Maryann Hackett (30), wife, born Bilston;

[3] Martha Hackett (7), daughter, scholar, born Rowley;

[4] Mary Hackett (5), daughter, scholar, born Rowley;

[5] Joseph Hackett (3), son, scholar, born Rowley;

[6] Elizabeth Hackett (4 months), daughter, born Rowley;

[7] Martha Buffrey (76), widow, born Rowley;

[8] Ester Mackey (19), servant, born Dudley;

[9] Sarah Mackey (14), servant, born Dudley;

Worcestershire Chronicle 20/9/1854

“Unjust Weights and Measures. No less than 52 delinquents of this description were today fined as follows.....

Rowley Regis..... *Joseph Hackett*, three quarts and three pints, 10s.”

Hoof marks were reported on the roof in 1855.

Birmingham Journal 30/10/1858 - Advert

“Desirable Freehold Property, Long Lane, Rowley Regis.

Thomas Howell is instructed to Sell by Auction, at the house of Mr. *Joseph Hackett*, the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Rowley Regis, on Monday Next, November 1st, at Six o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then produced.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 31/10/1860

“On Tuesday morning an accident occurred at the Bear Moor Colliery, belonging to the New British Iron Company, whereby three men, Josiah Chivers, Henry Smith, and Joseph Siviter, were buried alive. It appears that the three men had gone down to a worked-out portion of the pit to eat their breakfast, and had sat down a few seconds, when about 100 tons of earth and rubbish fell upon them from the roof of the pit, literally burying them alive. A lad had a miraculous escape. He was driving a horse close by the spot when the rubbish fell, the animal being buried, whilst the boy only received slight bruises. The most painful excitement prevailed in the locality during the day. Great difficulty was experienced in extricating the bodies, it being close to midnight before the last was recovered. On Friday, Mr. Edwin Hooper, coroner, held inquests upon the bodies of two men, namely Siviter and Chivers, the other being removed beyond his district. The inquest on Siviter was held at the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Blackheath, and that on Chivers at the BELL INN, Cradley. It was stated that the pit was considered quite safe, and that the proprietors were known to be particularly careful that all necessary works for the safety of the men should be performed. The father of the deceased Siviter gave evidence that he was at work in the mine at the time of the accident, and that he considered it quite safe. The accident, it was stated, arose from a bump in the coal. The Coroner, after a lengthened inquiry, left it with the jury whether they thought an adjournment necessary, but they expressed themselves perfectly satisfied, and a verdict of Accidental Death was recorded.”

1861 Census

Blackheath

[1] *Joseph Hackett* (58), coalmaster and victualler, born Dudley;

[2] Mary Ann Hackett (38), wife, born Dudley;

[3] Martha Hackett (18), daughter, born Rowley;

[4] Mary Hackett (16), daughter, born Rowley;

[5] Joseph Hackett (13), son, born Rowley;

[6] Elizabeth Hackett (10), daughter, born Rowley;

[7] *William Hackett* (8), son, born Rowley;

[8] Sarah Hackett (7), daughter, born Rowley;

- [9] Louisa Hackett (3), daughter, born Rowley;
[10] John Hackett (1), son, born Rowley;
[11] Ann Hampton (20), general servant, born Rowley:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/5/1861 - Marriages

“On the 1st instant, at the Old Church, Handsworth, by the Rev. H. R. Peel, John, second son of Mr. Samuel Darby, maltster, of Blackheath, to Martha, eldest daughter of Mr. *Joseph Hackett*, coal-master, of Blackheath, Rowley Regis.”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/5/1862

“It will be recollected that on the 18th of January last, a terrible colliery accident occurred at Mr. Dawes’s Pits, at Blackheath, by which three men were entombed alive, a number of valuable horses burnt, and property to very considerable extent destroyed. The cause of the calamity was the breaking out of a fire in which the stables of the thick coal pit above the whitestone workings. The smoke produce filled up the stone pit and suffocated both men and horses. The flames extended up the shafts, burnt the ‘guides’ running up the sides, and cut off all possible communication with the sufferers below. The shafts had to be dammed up and covered over to prevent the draught feeding the flames. Notwithstanding this precaution the fire still continued to burn, and smoke to ascend through the rubbish with which the up-cast shaft was covered. The pit continued to be almost inaccessible until the 17th of February, when the bodies of the three men were recovered and brought to the surface. They were subsequently interred in the churchyard attached to the parish church of Rowley.

Yesterday, at the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Blackheath, E. Hooper, Esq (coroner), opened an inquest upon the bodies of the deceased men, whose names were Thomas Johnson, 20; Edward Hunt, 18; and William Hunt, 20. The Government Inspector of Mines was present during the enquiry, and the foreman of the jury was Mr. Thomas Darby.

The first witness was Richard Beddow. He said: I am in the employ of Mr. Dawes at the same pit as the deceased men. On the 18th of January I came up the stone pit at twenty-seven minutes past one, and I was the last person up before the accident occurred. I left the deceased man Johnson, and Edward Hunt, down the pit. William Hunt came up with me, but prepared to go down again immediately. The watchman, William Moore, called me about three o’clock on the following morning, and told me to go to the pit. On looking towards the pit from my window, I saw smoke coming out of the shaft, and its density concealed the pulleys of the pit frame. We then put two or three planks over the pit’s mouth and went to fetch other men to assist us. Plant and the doggy, Ashman, went down the coal pit after several trials, and remained down about ten minutes. When I came out of the pit, Johnson was reading a newspaper (*Daily Post*) at the engine, about twenty-five yards from the engine shaft, and six yards from the engine fire. There was no appearance of the fire when I left the pit. We shouted down both shafts, but received no answer. The signals were all right in the stone pit when I left, and the men could have communicated with the top of the shaft if they had come to the bottom and tried to do so.

By the Inspector: I have been a collier thirty years and when the winding machine has been out of order I have seen temporary measures resorted to to raise men out of the pit. I was once raised by horses myself. I had not presence of mind enough in this case to think of it, and besides there are difficulties about using horses. We had not sufficient rope, and we could not find a pulley suitable for the purpose. We went round the neighbourhood to get rope and a proper snatch.

By the Foreman: The ‘band’ was put down and lashed to the bottom, so that before it could be loosed some one would have to go down.

Thomas Llewellyn, being sworn, said: I am chartermaster at the Blackheath Colliery. I was at the pit on Friday previous to the accident, and remained there till Saturday night. Johnson had been down the pit during the day, and came up at six o’clock, and he, with the brothers Hunt, went down again. Johnson was engineer to the pit, and the Hunts went down to fetch some slack to supply the engine down the pit. The first intimation I had of the accident was the hearing of a rumbling noise about three o’clock on Saturday morning, while I was on the bank in the engine house. My impression at first was that it was a large iron drum being moved along the bank. The noise continued, but not so loud. I saw something which appeared to me to be steam and rubbish coming up the up-cast shaft. I then ran on to the bank, and found the steam still ascending fiercely up the shaft. I saw fire in small ashes and sparks playing about the top of the shaft. I sent off for assistance, and we immediately began to cover over the down-cast shaft. There were seventeen horses in the pit. We found in a few minutes, from the smell, that it was wood that was burning, and we could see that the guides were on fire down the sides of the shaft. We got the crossbar out, and sent the barrel down to see if the men would come to the bottom. Previous to that we had called down the down-cast shaft to the men twenty or thirty times, but received no answer. We ‘loosed’ the barrel down many times, and made a great noise, to attract the attention of the men, but could not; and when the barrel came up, the water in it which came out of the ‘sump’ was quite hot, and the rope as it went over the pulley frizzled with the heat. My opinion now is that the men, if they had been at the bottom, could not live in such a heat as must have then existed. We continued to pour water down the shafts until Saturday night. The manager (Mr. Whitehead) and the clerk (Mr. Dutton) were sent for about five o’clock in the morning, and they came as soon as possible. Mr. Baker, the Government Inspector, was also sent for, and he arrived about one o’clock. I went to several places to get a rope and pulley, but I could not get anything to suit the purpose. About twelve o’clock we put up some fresh framing with a rope over the up-cast shaft. No one ventured to go down, as all considered it unsafe. The shaft was then covered over again to await Mr. Baker.....

The Coroner enquired whether the jury wished any further evidence adduced, and also intimated that he scarcely thought any further light could be thrown upon the catastrophe.

The Jury assented, and were left to consider their verdict.

After a short deliberation the Jury returned a lengthy verdict, the effect of which was that the deceased Died from Suffocation produced by a fire in the pit, but what caused the fire there was no evidence to show. The Foreman also added that the opinion of the Jury was that everything that humanity could suggest for the rescue of the men was done, and the opinion of the neighbourhood was also the same.

The enquiry thus terminated, having lasted seven hours.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/3/1868

“On Wednesday last an inquest was held by Mr. Phillips, at the house of Mr. Fullwood, Upper Gornal, on the body of George Smith, a blacksmith, residing at Blackheath. The deceased, it appears on the 16th inst, became very violent in a public house, occupied by Mr. *Joseph Hackett*, at Blackheath, and Police-constable Slym was called in to remove him. He struck the officer violently, and considerable force was of necessity used to get the deceased to the station. The staff used by the officer was brought into action consequent upon the violence of the deceased. The injuries inflicted were of such a nature that it was deemed advisable to convey the deceased to the Dudley Workhouse, where he died on Tuesday last. It was stated that the deceased was of violent character, and of unsound mind. The inquest was adjourned until Monday next. It does not at present appear that the officer acted with undue violence.”

[At the adjourned inquest the jury returned a verdict to the effect that death was by excessive drinking, but they censured the sergeant in charge of the station, and the officer Slym, for not having obtained medical aid sooner to deceased, it having transpired that he had been in custody thirty hours without any medical man being called in.]

Stourbridge Observer 14/1/1871

“An inquest was held at Mr. *Hackett*'s, the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, before Mr. Hooper, Coroner, on Monday, on the body of Job Hiscock, aged 22.

It appears that deceased has been engaged at the Gawn Colliery, and whilst he was at work there on the 23rd, he was so badly bruised that he died from the injuries received on the 5th inst.

Mr. Malins, surgeon, attended deceased.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

Mr. Baker, Inspector of Mines, was present during the inquiry.”

1871 Census

High Street

[1] *Joseph Hackett* (68), farmer and licensed victualler, born Dudley;

[2] Mary A. Hackett (48), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *William Hackett* (18), son, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Sarah Ann Hackett (16), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Louise Hackett (13), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[6] John Hackett (10), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[7] Mary A. Hackett (8), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

Joseph Hackett was described as being also a farmer and royalty master. [1873]

Joseph Hackett died in January 1874 and was buried at St. Giles, Rowley Regis.

County Express 21/1/1874 - Advert

“GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Blackheath, Rowley Regis.

To Publicans, Furniture Dealers, and Others.

Mr. Hawkins will Sell by Auction, on Monday, March 2nd, 1874, the whole of the Public House Fixtures, Screens, Drinking Tables, Brewing Vessels, Casks, Household Furniture, 4-Wheel Carriage, Brougham, and other Effects, by order of the Trustees under the Will of the late Mr. *Joseph Hackett*.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.

Auctioneer's Offices, 32, Dudley Street, Brierley Hill.”

County Advertiser 21/3/1874

“The following transfers were allowed....

GEORGE AND DRAGON, Blackheath, from *Joseph Hackett*, deceased, to *William Hackett*.”

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 16th, 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.”

London Gazette 28/12/1875

“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 Hackett*, of the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, High-street, Blackheath, in the parish of Rowley Regis, 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 TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, on the 10th day of January, 1876, at twelve o'clock at noon precisely. Dated this 17th day of December, 1875.

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

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/1/1876

“Arrangements of Compositions.....

W. Hackett, GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, High Street, Blackheath, Rowley Regis, victualler.”

County Advertiser 6/1/1877

“Robert Hackett, proprietor of the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Blackheath, was charged with being the occupier of certain fields, and permitting the same to be used for the purpose of betting. Mr. Addison appeared to prosecute, and Mr. Shakespeare of Oldbury, was for the defence.

Mr. Addison said that the prosecution was laid under sec.3 of the Act 16 and 17 Vic. He should call witnesses to prove that on the 27th November last the defendant, who was the occupier of a field about 200 yards from his house, opened it for a pigeon-shooting match, which a large number of persons congregated to witness. During the day betting transactions were taking place freely in the field, and as the defendant was watching the shooting, and marking down the result of the shots, he could not but have heard them. Under the section quoted the defendant was liable to a penalty of £100 on conviction.

Police-constable Parker said that on the 27th November he was sent on special duty in plain clothes to the defendant's field, where a pigeon-shooting match was being held. Police-constable Thorley accompanied him. They paid 6d each for admission into the field, and received a pint of ale in return for the check given them. There were some hundreds of people in the field, and the defendant was amongst them. He had a book in his hand in which he marked down the number of pigeons killed by each shooter. There was betting going on very generally, some persons betting half-a-crown to a shilling, and three shillings to one on the gun or the birds. Witness got upon the ground at about half-past two o'clock in the day, and remained there until about five o'clock, during the whole of which time betting was going on. He saw a police-constable named Himan on the ground. There was a refreshment booth on the ground.

Cross-examined: Defendant did not use his book to put down bets. Witness did not know that Police-constable Himan was sent to the ground by the chief-constable, at the request of the defendant, or that the latter paid him 5s.

Re-examined: There was a 'row' between some men about a bet which the looser refused to pay, and defendant called Himan to settle it.

Police-constable Thorley gave evidence of a similar character.

Police-constable Himan said that he was on the field in question on the 27th November last from about half-past ten o'clock in the morning.

In cross-examination he said he was paid 5s, the usual fee, by Mr. Hackett, for attending. He did not see any money passed on account of bets.

This being the case for the prosecution, Mr. Shakespeare proceeded to address the magistrates on behalf of the defendant. He first called their attention to the words of the Act applying to the case, which were that a penalty was incurred by any person who being the owner or occupier of a place, 'shall knowingly and wilfully permit the same to be opened, kept, or used for such purposes' of betting. He submitted prima facie the place was opened for the purpose of shooting pigeons, and if there were bets made afterwards against his wish, there was no permission on his part. The policemen who were called only said betting was seen to take place, they did not say that Mr. Hackett saw it, and was that to be taken as meaning, under that highly penal statute, a guilty knowledge and wilful permission? The Act, he reminded the magistrates, was intended to put down those places where persons were in the habit of meeting for the express purpose of betting. If Mr. Hackett had contemplated allowing anything illegal to take place he would certainly not have written to the Chief-constable stating his intention, and asking for an officer to be sent down, in order to convict him. If, however, the Bench thought defendant had committed the offence, he asked them to deal leniently with him, on account of the previous excellent character his house, which he had kept for 47 years, had borne.

The magistrates retired to consider the case. On their return into court Colonel Fletcher said they thought it their duty to convict the defendant. They did not intend to fine him £100, as they had power to do, but only 40s and costs. They had considered, in fixing this penalty, the good character of the defendant and the house he kept, and had decided in the event of another appearance for an offence of the same nature, to inflict a very substantial penalty.

Mr. Addison said he instructed to apply for the attorney's fees, £1 1s. the Magistrates granted the application.”

County Express 25/8/1877

“After the business of the Petty Sessions had been disposed of the Annual Licensing Sessions were held. The Black List was first called on, and it appeared that the following were the publicans who had been convicted of offences against the Licensing Laws during the past year.....

William Hackett, Blackheath (for whom Mr. Hayes appeared).....

License renewed with a caution from the Magistrates.”

County Express 24/8/1878 - Advert

“Rowley Wake and Races.

These Races will take place on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, September, 16th, 17th, and 18th, at the Ground adjoining the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Blackheath.

All applications for Ground for Stalls, Shows, &c, to be made to Mr. *W. Hackett*, GEORGE AND DRAGON, Blackheath.”

County Express 31/5/1879

“The rivet makers of Blackheath and neighbourhood have struck against a proposed reduction of 10 per cent in wages. Since 1877 the men have been compelled to submit to reductions amounting, with one of 10 per cent, agreed on that year, to 25 per cent off the wages, and the masters now making a further proposal for 10 per cent drop, they have this week entered upon a strike without giving the customary fortnight’s notice. The leaders explained the steps which have led to the strike at a large meeting held on Tuesday, at the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Blackheath.....”

County Express 22/11/1879

“A meeting of rivet-makers on strike was held on Monday, at the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Blackheath; Mr. John Bennett presiding. The Chairman said a few of the men had resumed work, but efforts would be made to induce them to turn out again. He also mentioned that the Blackheath masters were only paying 7s per cwt for gas rivets at Halesowen, while the Old Hill masters were paying 7s 6d per cwt. He urged the men to remain firm to the original resolution. Mr. Isaac Cashmore remarked that the men had entered upon the fifth week of the strike, and at present he regretted to say the masters did not seem disposed to meet them in a conciliatory spirit.....

A mass meeting of the rivet makers on strike in the Birmingham and Rowley districts was held at the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Blackheath, on Wednesday, under the presidency of Mr. John Bennett. The Chairman said the gloomy prospects under which the present week began led him to fear that the strike would be a failure; but the strike and co-operation of the Halesowen men were calculated to bring about the advance which was desired.....”

1881 Census

75, High Street

[1] *William Hackett* (28), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Charlotte Hackett (26), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Etty Johnson (15), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

West Bromwich Weekly News 18/6/1881

“Samuel Parkes and Henry Walters, of Blackheath, were charged with refusing to quit.

William Hackett, landlord of the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Blackheath, said that on the 7th inst, the defendants were in his house, and being drunk were ordered to quit, they refused whereupon he sent for the police.

The Bench dismissed the case against Parkes, and fined Walters 5s and costs or in default 14 days.”

Sporting Life 13/1/1883

“Monday, January 15.....

Shooting..... Mr. *W. Hackett*’s, GEORGE AND DRAGON Grounds, Black Heath, Dudley.”

County Express 23/6/1883

“Henry Johnson, Waterfall Lane, Blackheath, was charged with stealing 4d the money of Edward Hall, farm labourer, Blackheath, on the 13th inst. Mr. T. Cooksey defended.

Complainant stated that he went into *Hackett*’s public house, and called for a pint of fourpenny. Some words passed between him and defendant, and on complainant putting down 6d to pay for his beer defendant picked up 4d change and walked out with it.

Mrs. *Hackett*, wife of the landlord of the GEORGE AND DRAGON public house, said that shortly after the time of the above occurrence a man named Jos. Wood came in and said he had found 4d on the counter. Further evidence was given showing that the charge against defendant was a mistake, and the case was dismissed.”

Sporting Life 19/1/1884 - Advert

“GEORGE AND DRAGON Grounds, Blackheath, Rowley Regis.

The proprietor, Mr. *W. Hackett*, will add £1 to a public sweepstakes of 10s each, to be shot for on Tuesday next, January 23. Conditions: To shoot at five pigeons each from two traps at ten yards apart. To be handicapped; single guns, from 20 to 25 yards rise; double guns, the use of both barrels, from 25 to 30 yards rise; 1oz shot, guns not to exceed $\frac{3}{4}$ in bore; if less than ten shooters only half the added money given. First bird trapped at one o’clock sharp. Best blue rocks supplied. *Bells Life* rules enforced. Admission to the grounds, 6d each.

NB. The above grounds are within five minutes’ walk of Rowley Regis and Old Hill Stations on G.W.R. A dinner provided after shooting at 1s 6d.”

County Express 26/4/1884

“Myra Handley, Causeway, Blackheath, was charged with inciting to steal three bottles of porter, the property of George Dexter, licensed victualler, Oldbury, and receiving the same knowing them to have been stolen. The case is a sequel to one which was before the Court a fortnight ago, in which a boy named Joseph Stewart was fined 20s for stealing the porter from Mr. Dexter’s cart whilst it was standing at Blackheath.

The boy Stewart now stated that he took a bottle of porter from the cart on the 3rd of April, and took it to the defendant. She drank the greater portion of it, and said, 'You young b—— you daren't fetch three more bottles, adding that if he would she would give him 1d. He and a boy named Israel Gould fetched three more bottles from the cart, and took them to the defendant, and she and her daughter drank the porter.

William Hackett, landlord of the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Blackheath, said the defendant brought three empty porter bottles back to him on the 3rd April. He told her they were not his, as he had sold no porter. She replied he could give her some ale for them.

Mr. Dexter was called, and identified the bottles as those stolen from his cart.

Defendant said she did not know the porter was stolen, and called her daughter in support of this statement.

A fine of 20s was imposed, in default fourteen days."

County Advertiser 14/3/1885

"On Monday evening a daring robbery was committed at the house of Mr. *William Hackett*, GEORGE AND DRAGON HOTEL, High Street, Blackheath. It seems that on Monday afternoon a stranger, dressed in a shabby-genteel suit went to Mr. *Hackett's* house and inquired if Mr. *Hackett* was at home. Receiving a reply in the negative, he left the house, and has not been seen since. On the same evening two strangers – one a well-dressed man with a bushy moustache and the other described as a low-looking character – entered Mr. *Hackett's* concert hall, and after being supplied with some liquor, remained standing at the end of the bar counter. Shortly after their entrance Mrs. *Hackett* went upstairs, and upon leaving her bed room locked the door, leaving the gas lit, and hung the key in the bar downstairs. While Mrs. *Hackett* was upstairs the two strangers left the house, but returned shortly afterwards. While the men were in the room their appearance excited the curiosity of some of the customers, who, in a conversation which ensued, made some speculations as to who they were. No one, however, had the slightest idea as to who they were and where they had come from, but it was generally agreed, after careful scrutiny, that the moustache of the gentlemanly stranger was too luxuriant to be real. Upon arriving at this conclusion the curious customers took no more notice of the two men, but turned their attention to the music which was at that time being given. The musical part of the programme, however, was brought to an abrupt termination shortly afterwards by a singular incident. It seems that one of the customers in the room called for a glass of spirits for the young woman who presided at the pianoforte. Mrs. *Hackett* filled the glass and placed it on the counter near the two strangers. It seemed that these men noticed for whom the glass was filled, and it is supposed that one of them, unseen, 'faked' the contents. Whether that was so or not no one knows, but shortly after taking a sip at her glass the pianist was suddenly taken ill and was carried out of the room in an almost insensible condition. This incident of course caused some confusion, and in the confusion the two strangers quietly slipped out of the room and have not been seen since. At eleven o'clock the house was closed, and Mrs. *Hackett* and her servant sat in the back room till twenty minutes past eleven, when Mr. *Hackett* returned home. As soon as he entered the house he enquired how it was the front bed room window was open and that the curtains were blowing outside. Mrs. *Hackett* denied that the window was open or that the curtains were blowing, and in support of this said that when she was in the room earlier the window was closed and everything was in perfect order. This aroused Mr. *Hackett's* suspicions, and he immediately went upstairs. Finding the bed room in darkness, he obtained a light, thinking that there might be someone in the room. He found, however, that the room had been ransacked, and that the thieves had entered and left by the front window, which was then wide open. Besides about £30 in gold and silver, a quantity of jewellery was missed, including a gold watch and chain, a pair of bracelets, a pair of ear-rings, two diamond rings, and two dress rings. The money was taken from a cash box, and the jewellery from another box in the room. As soon as it was found that a burglary had been committed, information was given to the police, but up to the present no clue had been obtained. It is a singular fact that at twenty minutes past ten in the evening Police-sergeant Hand went to the house, but he saw no traces of a burglary having been committed. Shortly after nine o'clock on the same evening, a little girl went to Mr. *Hackett's* house, and upon returning home, told her mother that although it was dark Mr. *Hackett's* man was cleaning the front bed room window. The girl's mother, however, thought she must have been mistaken, and took no notice of her story. It is stated that two men, who were unknown, took tickets at Rowley Railway Station for Birmingham by the 9.27 train. The thieves had every facility for carrying out their object at the time. Mr. *Hackett* was away from home, and in the confusion which existed while the pianist was unwell they had an opportunity of getting into the bed room. There is no doubt that they got on the bow window on the ground floor, and then through the bed room window. The burglary has excited a good deal of interest in the district, and on every hand the hope is expressed that the burglars will be brought to justice."

Sporting Life 9/12/1885 - Advert

"GEORGE AND DRAGON Grounds, Blackheath.

Great Starling-Shooting Sweepstakes. The proprietor, Mr. *Hackett*, will give £25 to be shot for at the above grounds on Monday, December 14, by twenty-five members, at £1 each. Conditions: To shoot at seven starlings each from three traps, eight yards apart; to be handicapped; single guns, from 19 to 22 yards, double guns (the use of both barrels) 23 to 28 yards rise; 1¼oz of shot. *Bells Life* rules. First bird at twelve o'clock sharp. Grounds within three minutes' walk of Rowley and Old Hill (G.W.R.) Stations. A dinner will be provided after the shooting. Admission to the grounds, 6d each."

County Advertiser 17/4/1886 - Advert

"For Sale, cheap, a Baker's Bread Cart.

Apply to *W. Hackett*, GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Blackheath, Rowley, Dudley."

County Express 9/10/1886 - Advert

"Valuable Freehold Property and Pasture Land, situate at High Street, Blackheath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford.

Mr. Joseph Hackett has received instructions to Sell by Auction, on Monday, the 18th day of October, 1886, at the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Blackheath aforesaid, 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 under-mentioned Properties.....

Lot 2. All that Freehold Messuage or Dwelling House, being No.76, situate adjoining and in the rear of the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Blackheath aforesaid, containing Sitting Room, Pantry, Two Bed Rooms, Nailshop, with rights of way thereto belonging, now void, and worth an annual rental of £6 10s.

Lot 3. All that Valuable Freehold Pasture or Building Land, in the rear of the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Blackheath aforesaid, and adjoining property belonging to Mr. Taylor, the GEORGE AND DRAGON owners, and others, and containing in the whole One Acre or thereabouts, producing an annual rental of £5.....”

County Express 28/4/1888 - Advert

“To Cab and Car Proprietors, Livery Keeper and Others.

GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Blackheath, Rowley Regis.

Mr. Joseph Hackett had received instructions from Mr. *William Hackett* (who is leaving the above Inn, and relinquishing business), to Sell by Auction, upon the above Premises, on Monday, April 30th, 1888, the whole of the Stock of a Cab and Brake Proprietor, comprising Two Brakes to carry 18 and 25 respectively (one with removal wooden top), Two Wagonettes, Two Dog Carts, Circular-fronted Cab, capital Dennet Gig, nearly-new Brake Body (to carry 18), Two Narrow-wheel Carts, Two Sets Double Harness, Two Sets Single ditto, Set of Tandem ditto, Two Sets Cart Tackle, Chaff Machine, Chain Harrows, Carriage and Brake Lamps, Two Wood Sheds, 30ft by 16ft and 17ft by 16ft; Quantities of Wheelwrights' and Builders' Timber, Two capital Brake or Cab Horses (well-known good workers), 30 bushel Mash Tub, Office Table with Drawers 9ft by 4ft and numerous other Effects. Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.

Auctioneer's Offices, Blackheath, and 30, Priory Street, Dudley.”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/6/1889 - Advert

“Break for Sale, in good condition; also Wagonette, with movable top, in first-class condition.

Apply, GEORGE AND DRAGON, High Street, Blackheath, near Dudley.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/9/1889

“Pianist. Wanted, at once, respectable young Person; to live in. Comfortable home.

Apply, or write, to GEORGE AND DRAGON, Blackheath, near Dudley.”

Dudley Mercury 21/12/1889

“Mr. Edwin Hooper (South Staffordshire Coroner) held an inquest on Saturday, at the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, High Street, Blackheath, Rowley Regis, touching the death of John Samuel Bate (11), residing in Darby Street, who had been found drowned.

The evidence of the mother showed that the deceased had, through overstudy at school, recently complained of severe pains in his head, and during the last few weeks been very strange in his manner. Although he was only eleven years of age he had passed the fifth standard. On the 10th inst he had a dispute with his sister, and eventually struck her. Upon his mother remonstrating with him he said, ‘You shan't box my ears,’ and immediately ran out of the house without stopping to put on his coat or hat. On the 11th inst Joseph Bate dragged the basin of the Birmingham Canal in Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, and found the body of the deceased.

The Coroner said deceased was a very sensitive boy, and it was possible that he was himself responsible for his own death. There was a doubt in the case, and he thought it would be advisable to let the deceased have the benefit of it by returning an Open Verdict.

The jury concurred.”

Dudley Mercury 11/1/1890 - Advert

“To Publicans, Brewers, and Others.

GEORGE AND DRAGON Yard, High Street, Blackheath.

Mr. W. Hackett will Sell by Auction, on Wednesday, January 15th, 1890, large Quantity of Excellent Brewing Utensils, removed for convenience of Sale, comprising Brewing Boilers, Mash Tubs, Collecting Tubs, Hogsheads and Half-hogshead Barrels, Puncheon, 36-Gallons and other Barrels, Round Tubs, Wort Sieves, Mash Rules, Vats, Refrigerator, Hop Press, Wort Spouts, and other Effects too numerous to mention.

Sale to commence at Two o'clock.

Auctioneer's Office: 78. High Street, Blackheath, and 303, Oldbury Road, West Smethwick.”

County Express 15/2/1890

“.....*William Ford*, landlord of the YEW TREE HOTEL, Wallheath, said in September last year he kept the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Blackheath.....”

1891 Census

75, High Street – GEORGE AND DRAGON

[1] *George Hadley* (38), licensed victualler, born Halesowen;

[2] *Roseannah Hadley* (37), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *Sarah E. Hadley* (17), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

- [4] Samuel Hadley (15), son, general labourer, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Hannah Hadley (13), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Caroline Hadley (11), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] James Hadley (8), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] Harry Hadley (6), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [9] Harriet Hadley (4), daughter, scholar, born Dudley:

County Advertiser 1/6/1895

“On Thursday night a meeting of the rivet and nut and bolt makers was held at the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, High Street, Blackheath, for the purpose of considering the wages question.....”

Staffordshire Advertiser 8/12/1897

“Staffordshire Autumn Assizes.....

William Sidaway (on bail) was charged with criminally assaulting Kathleen Turner, at Rowley Regis, on the 2nd of November. The prisoner is a pianist, and the prosecutrix a music hall artiste, and on the date in question they were both engaged at the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Blackheath. The road to Old Hill, where they lived, is a lonely one, and she asked the prisoner to accompany her for protection. It was alleged that before they had proceeded far he threw her down and committed the offence with which he was charged. She appealed to a passer-by named Samuel Gould, a miner, for help, but he went on his way, because, as he told the Court, he was frightened. She struggled with the prisoner and succeeded in preventing him accomplishing his purpose. Both the prosecutrix and the prisoner are married. He was found guilty and sentenced to twelve months’ hard labour.”

Dudley Herald 23/7/1898

“The South Wales Coal Strike. A meeting on behalf of the miners of South Wales was held on some land adjoining the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Blackheath, on Monday evening. Mr. B. Winwood presided, and there was a good attendance. Addresses were given by Messrs. W. Evans, J. Davies, J. Kemp, W. P. Poultney, and delegates from South Wales. A collection was taken at the close on behalf of the wives and children of the South Wales miners.”

County Advertiser 24/9/1898

“On Sunday afternoon the annual friendly societies’ Sunday service, on behalf of the hospitals, was held in a field at the back of Mountford House, Siviters Lane, Rowley, kindly lent for the occasion by Dr. J. G. Beasley. The members of various societies met at their headquarters, and were formed into a procession as below. The Blackheath Village Band started from the WHEAT SHEAF INN, Turners Hill at one o’clock, with the Church of England Friendly Society, and proceeded through Portway and Perys Lake, calling at the BULLS HEAD INN for the Sick Club, at the WARD ARMS INN for Court Foresters’ Pride, at the KINGS ARMS INN for Lodge Working Man’s Friend. It then proceeded by way of Ross, Holly Road, Tump Road, and John Street, to the GEORGE AND DRAGON Ground. The Woodgate Brass Band had in the meantime covered its route from the OLD BUSH INN, Powke Lane, with Court Little Band of Hope, calling at the MALT SHOVEL INN for Lodge Lily of the Valley, the VINE INN for Court Mistletoe Bough, proceeding along Station Road to the RAILWAY INN for Court Britannia’s Pride, thence through Halesowen Street, Tump Road, and Hackett Street, meeting the other Courts at the GEORGE AND DRAGON Ground. A united procession was then formed, and marched to Siviters Lane, reaching the ground at three o’clock. The proceedings opened with the hymn ‘All people that on earth do dwell,’ after which the Chairman (Mr. E. Pewtress, CC) delivered a short address. The Rev. C. W. Barnard, MA, Rector of Kings Norton, then addressed the meeting, after which the hymn ‘Lead, kindly light,’ was sung. Addresses were also delivered by the Revs. W. Hall and N. Haigh, of Blackheath. At the close a collection was taken on behalf of the Dudley Dispensary and Birmingham Eye Hospital. It amounted to £11 9s 5d.”

Express and Star 2/1/1900

“This (Tuesday) morning Mr. H. A. Pearson, coroner for South Staffordshire, held an inquiry at the GEORGE AND DRAGON HOTEL, Blackheath, relative to the death of William Bolt (52), brewer, of 44, Ross, Rowley Regis, who was found dying in a field at Ross on Saturday night.

Mr. E. Baker of Siviters Lane, Rowley, deposed that about 7pm on Saturday last, he was crossing Ross Fields, when he heard groans. On going to investigate the noise, he found the deceased, who stated he was dying. With assistance he took Bolt to his home near to, but before medical assistance could be obtained Maria Bolt, widow of deceased stated that her husband had been in poor health for some time Dr. Frear of Rowley stated that death was caused by syncope brought on by his exposure. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.”

County Advertiser 9/3/1901

“On Tuesday night a largely-attended meeting of rivet makers in Blackheath, Rowley, Old Hill, and surrounding districts was held at the GEORGE AND DRAGON, High Street, Blackheath; Mr. J. Bennett presiding. Mr. I. Cashmore (secretary) reported that the employers in the trade were commencing an agitation to force a reduction upon the operatives in the trade. They contended that the increase in the price of fuel was so great that the workmen had not received much benefit from the advance which they succeeded in obtaining some time ago. He advised the men to be united and resist any attempt that was made to force a reduction. A resolution deciding to accept no reduction was carried unanimously.”

1901 Census

126, High Street – GEORGE AND DRAGON

- [1] *Frederick Salt* (58), licensed victualler, born Stone, Staffordshire;
- [2] *Charlotte Salt* (57), wife, born Waterhouse, Staffordshire;
- [3] *Frederick J. Salt* (31), son, basket maker, born Cheddleton, Staffordshire;
- [4] *Hannah Salt* (24), daughter, general servant, born West Bromwich;
- [5] *Esther Salt* (23), daughter, barmaid, born West Bromwich;
- [6] *William Salt* (21), son, clerk in tube works, born Brierley Hill;
- [7] *Herbert Salt* (18), son, wheelwright, born Brierley Hill;
- [8] *Charlotte Salt* (16), daughter, milliner's assistant, born Brierley Hill:

Smethwick Weekly News 11/1/1902

“On Saturday a serious accident occurred at the Yew Tree Colliery at Rowley, belonging to Messrs. Cochrane and Co, which resulted in the death of two miners named Clifford Priest (23), of Darby Street, Blackheath, and Joseph Stringer (33), of Elbow Street, Old Hill. The deceased men had been working in No.6 stall at the colliery with another miner, William Stringer, of High Street, Old Hill, a brother of Joseph Stringer, but he left his fellow workmen for the purpose of obtaining a pick, which was in another part of the workings. He had not proceeded far when he heard a loud noise, and upon going back found that a large quantity of fine slack weighing something like ten tons had fallen from the roof in the vicinity of the place where he left his brother and Priest at work. Stringer searched for the missing men, but was unsuccessful, and, concluding that they were buried under the debris, raised an alarm. Rescue parties were organised by Mr. Meacham, the manager, but the work was fraught with considerable danger in consequence of frequent falls of slack that occurred. A road was cut to a part of the stall where it was thought the deceased men might possibly be alive, but without success, and eventually, after several hours' work, three of the rescue party discovered the dead body of Stringer, and an hour and a half later Priest's body was extricated. They were both found in a position which indicated that they had been buried whilst at work. Death was due to suffocation, for neither of the men had sustained any serious injury. The bodies were removed to Blackheath to await an inquest. Both men are married, and Priest, who was highly respected in the district and held a number of offices in connection with the Blackheath Methodist New Connexion Church, was married only fifteen months ago.

On Tuesday, Mr. H. A. Pearson (Coroner) held the inquest at the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, High Street, Blackheath. Mr. R. H. Makepeace, the Government Inspector of Mines for the district, was present, and the manager (Mr. J. Meacham) represented the owners of the colliery.

William Stringer, a miner, of High Street, Old Hill, stated that on Saturday he was working with his brother, Joseph Stringer, and Priest. They were replacing a tree in No.6 stall, which had fallen during the night. Preparations had been made, and witness left the two deceased men for a few minutes in order to obtain a prop. He had not proceeded far when he heard a loud crash, and upon going back found that a quantity of fine slack had fallen, burying his two fellow workmen. Witness raised an alarm, and the deceased men were recovered, but the miners had to burrow through four yards of coal to reach them.

Thomas Hill, under manager at the colliery, who assisted in the search for the deceased men, said they were both dead when extricated from the debris. Stringer was kneeling down by the side of the road, and Priest was crushed between two trees. He estimated that about 20 tons of slack fell. He examined the place before the men commenced to work, and considered it safe.

Dr. Tebbetts said death was due to suffocation, neither of the men being injured.

Sergeant Bentley deposed to removing the bodies to the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN to await an inquest. As soon as the bodies were brought to the surface the relatives claimed them, whilst a large number of miners who had assembled objected to them being removed to the mortuary, and threatened the police that they would have a rough passage if they had attempted to do so. The miners said it was always a rule in the district for the bodies to be removed to their homes.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and attached no blame to anyone.”

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

County Advertiser 23/7/1904

“On Saturday afternoon the fourth annual brass band contest and sports, promoted by the tradesmen of Blackheath, on behalf of various charitable institutions, was held on the GEORGE AND DRAGON ground, High Street, Blackheath, kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. *J. Haden*. The weather turned out beautifully fine, and there were over 5,000 people present.”

Birmingham Journal 17/10/1906 - Advert

“General Wanted, age about 22, willing to learn bar.
GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Black Heath, near Birmingham.”

County Express 12/12/1908

“At Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, Mr. W. H. Turner (Dudley) made an application on behalf of the North Worcestershire Breweries Co. Ltd. Early in the year the justices approved plans for the rebuilding of the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, High Street, Blackheath. Since that application there had occurred the introduction of the Licensing Bill, and though that Bill was dead, his clients considered they were not justified in spending £900 or £1,000 upon the improvement of the premises. They, however, recognised that something must be done to put the premises in a proper condition and he suggested that his clients should meet Supt. Johnson at the premises and decide what was required to improve the house.

Mr. A. H. Bassano (chairman) said the Bench considered the application should be made at the annual licensing sessions.”

County Express 9/1/1909

“At Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, *John William Beck*, licensee of the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, High Street, Blackheath, was summoned for assaulting Thomas Jones, fruiterer, of High Street, Blackheath, on Thursday week. Mr. R. Bate appeared to defend.

Prosecutor stated that at 9.30pm he went to defendant’s house to have a drink. Whilst he was there defendant came in and fell down. *Beck* then came up to witness, who was standing by the counter, and commenced an argument. Witness said to him, ‘I have not come to have a bother; I have come for a pint of ale, and to be still.’ Defendant said, ‘I will toss you for two glasses of whisky,’ and witness replied, ‘I have not come here for gambling.’ Defendant retorted, ‘You are like all the fruiterers in Blackheath.’ He continued to challenge witness, and at last witness tossed him for two glasses of whisky, and won. Defendant then took up a jug, and poured the contents over witness, afterwards striking him on the head with the jug. *Beck* also seized witness, dragged him into the street, and knocked him down. Witness got up, but defendant knocked him down again, and kicked and punched him, causing blood to flow from his right eye and left ear.

In reply to Mr. Bate, witness said he had no struggle with defendant for possession of the cup. Defendant pushed him out as soon as he had hit him with the cup. Witness was rendered partially unconscious. He denied that he was requested to leave the house, neither had the defendant had cause to get him out previously.

Herbert Parks, bricklayer, of Darby Street, Blackheath, stated that when passing by the public house, he heard a bump, and saw that prosecutor had been knocked to the ground. Prosecutor got up, and *Beck* knocked him down again. In reply to Mr. Bate, the witness said he thought *Beck* was pushing the man out when he heard the first bump. The second blow, however, was ‘no push.’ Benjamin Parkes, another witness stated that after Jones won when tossing for the whisky, defendant bundled him out of the house, and struck him. Defendant was not drunk, but he was under the influence of drink.

Mr. Bate, for the defence, gave a complete denial of the charge. He contended that the prosecutor visited the public house and created a disturbance. The trouble was caused through Jones interfering with an argument which was taking place between *Beck* and a customer. When ordered to leave the house he refused, and defendant put him out with no more force than was necessary. Defendant said that he been engaged at a party to old folks at the HANDEL Assembly Rooms. When he returned Jones was in the house, and soon after he had been in the prosecutor interfered with a conversation upon business between himself and a gentleman. He found it necessary to order Jones out of the house, but he would not go, and he had to put him out. He denied striking him. In reply to Jones, witness said there was no tossing for drinks. It was true that he fell as he entered the public house. He fell over someone’s foot.

Samuel Grove, of Powke Lane, Blackheath, spoke to seeing defendant and prosecutor wrestling for the possession of a pint cup. He did not see any blows struck.

David Rushton, of High Street, Blackheath, and Florence Giles, the barmaid at the public house, gave corroborative evidence. The Bench considered the case proved, and fined defendant 10s and costs, or 14 days’ imprisonment.”

Tipton Herald 16/1/1909

“*John William Beck*, landlord of the GEORGE AND DRAGON, High Street, Blackheath, was summoned before Messrs. A. H. Bassano and J. W. Tilley, at the Old Hill Police Court, for being drunk on his own premises on the night of the 31st December. Mr. Bate appeared for the defence, Superintendent Johnson prosecuting.

Sergeant Bentley deposed that on the 31st December at 10.15pm he saw *Beck* in the passage at his house, the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Blackheath. He was drunk.

The Clerk: How did you happen to be on the premises? – I had received a complaint, and I went to the house.

Mr. Bate: What evidence of drunkenness did you see in *Beck*? – He was leaning on the bar counter and the partition. He also had to steady himself as he walked up the passage.

Proceeding, witness said he called at the house again at eight minutes to 11, when defendant was still drunk.

Mr. Bate: Why did you not state that in your evidence? – I have no answer.

Did you tell him he was drunk? – No; I had told him previously, and it was not necessary to tell him again.

Superintendent Johnson: It is not the duty of a policeman to be continually going into a man’s house and telling him he is drunk, and tantalising him? – No.

Witness went on to state, in answer to the superintendent, that he had no doubt that *Beck* was drunk. His speech was incoherent, and his voice low.

PCs Stevens and Munslow corroborated.

Thomas Jones, greengrocer, High Street, Blackheath, said that on the 31st December when the landlord entered the house he was drunk and fell twice. Asked by Mr. Bate, witness said he did not see anyone trip *Beck*.

Mary Jones, High Street, Blackheath, said that on the date in question she went to the GEORGE AND DRAGON and saw the landlord, who was drunk. She told him he was drunk and not fit to be in the place.

For the defence Mr. Bate said his client was not drunk. He had been assisting as a waiter at the old folks’ treat in the HANDEL Assembly Room, Blackheath, and had gone straight home afterwards.

Defendant said he left the dining hall and went into the HANDEL HOTEL, leaving there at 9.30 and going straight home. There was a disturbance in the house, and he put the witness Jones out. Then he left the house to go to a committee meeting. He saw Sergeant Bentley, PC Stevens, and PC Munslow, and watched them go into his house. He turned back, and some conversation took place on the disturbance. The sergeant then told him he had had enough, but he must keep quiet and he would hear nothing further about the bother. He was not drunk and his speech was not thick. He had held a license six years.

Answering Superintendent Johnson, witness said Mrs. Smets did not tell him to leave the house and that his conduct would not be tolerated there. It was true that he had words with a man named Wilkes, but he was not ordered out. He did not want to ‘toss’ anybody. It was not true to say that he fell twice in his own house. He fell once, when he was tripped. It was not true that a man named Wright had said he would not attend Court as a witness on his behalf as he would not commit perjury for him or anyone

else.

Charles Hadley, Cakemore, said the defendant was sober at 9.00.

Superintendent Johnson: But you don't know what his condition was 10.30? – No.

Emanuel Parsons, of Gorsty Hill, also gave evidence.

John Jones, Powke Lane, Blackheath, said he was with the defendant in the HANDEL, and later he went with him to the DRAGON. There was no bother in the HANDEL, and *Beck* was not asked to leave. He signed a paper that Stevens had told him *Beck* was not drunk.

Mr. Bate: Did you say he was the worse for beer? – Witness: No, I did not.

The Clerk: Do you mean that the words were not in when you signed it? – Witness: I do not know. He did not read it over to me.

Superintendent Johnson: You say he was not drunk. Was he sober? – Yes.

In answer to further questions witness said defendant was not ordered out of the house.

Were you simple-minded enough to sign the paper before you read it? – I signed it – my name is there.

Mr. Bate: The police have not called you as a witness? – No.

The wife of the defendant – Ellen *Beck* – said her husband was not drunk. The sergeant told her husband that he had had enough. He was, in fact, as sober as she was.

Superintendent Johnson: I suppose you know what the sergeant meant when he said your husband had had enough? – No.

Now come along. You don't think he meant that he had had too much supper – He was excited.

He had too much excitement? – Yes.

You, a publican's wife, surely know what is meant when somebody says 'He has had enough.' – We are not supposed to know everything. He should have said what he meant.

Samuel Grove, of Powke Lane, said *Beck* was not drunk. He was perfectly sober, but very much excited. He did not see *Beck* fall, although he was in the room.

Thomas Windsor, High Street, Blackheath, deposed that although he was in the tap-room he did not see *Beck* fall.

PC Stevens, recalled, said Jones read the statement before he signed it. He also read it over to him.

The Chairman said there was no doubt at all about the evidence. Defendant would be fined 10s and costs.”

John William Beck – see also *WONDER, Tividale, Oldbury*.

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

7th March 1909 - Eliza Jane (b. 31/1/1909), daughter of *John* and *Mary Alice Taylor*, publican, GEORGE AND DRAGON, Blackheath.

Tipton Herald 23/1/1909

“At the Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, Mr. W. H. Thompson, of Dudley, appeared, and mentioned the case of the re-building of the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Blackheath. Last year, he explained, the Bench gave them permission to re-build, but owing to the introduction of the Licensing Bill the directors decided that it was not advisable to go on with the work. Later, however, it was agreed that the superintendent should meet the directors on the spot and see what could be done. They had met there, and found that nothing short of re-building would do. He now, therefore, wished to state that the work of re-building would be commenced.

The Clerk: You will refer to the question again at the licensing meeting?

Mr. Thompson: Yes, I will, if necessary.”

[It was granted at the Annual Licensing Meeting in February 1909.]

Tipton Herald 24/7/1909

“*Thomas Taylor*, of the GEORGE AND DRAGON, Blackheath, made an application before the Old Hill magistrates on Wednesday, for an occasional license for the ground behind the house, on the occasion of a brass band contest, &c, on the 31st July. Applicant explained that at present his house was being re-built, and that was the reason he was making the application.

The license was granted from 2.0 till 10.0.”

Renovations (?) costing £859 16s were completed in early 1910.

1911 Census

126, High Street

[1] *Thomas Taylor* (24), publican, born Rowley;

[2] *Mary Alice Taylor* (24), wife, married 2 years, assisting in business, born Rowley;

[3] *Eliza Jane Taylor* (2), daughter, born Rowley;

[4] *John Taylor* (1), son, born Rowley;

[5] *Emma Pratt* (17), general servant, born Rowley:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/8/1911

“The members of the Coombs Wood Football Club have acquired a new football ground at the rear of the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, High Street, Blackheath. The field is centrally situated, and easy of access.”

County Express 2/9/1911

“A meeting of the rivet makers was held on Wednesday morning at the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Blackheath, when it was announced the strike had been settled in favour of the men. Mr. I. Cashmore (secretary) stated that the struggle had been proceeding four weeks, and the whole of the employers had now agreed to pay the 4s list of prices. He expressed satisfaction that the dispute had been settled in such an amicable way, and that the condition of the men would be more prosperous. The advance represented about 25 percent in the men’s wages.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Cashmore for his successful efforts in bringing about a peaceful settlement. It was decided to resume work at once.”

‘Britain In Old Photographs - Blackheath’ by Anthony H. Page

“On most Saturday evenings in the years between 1920 and 1939 a crowd would gather outside the GEORGE AND DRAGON in High Street. Most weeks there would be an ox roast, with visits by entertainers such as jugglers and often a dancing bear.....”

Bilston and Willenhall Times 3/11/1928

“The annual dinner and prize distribution in connection with the Blackheath and District Homing Society, was held at the GEORGE AND DRAGON HOTEL, High Street, Blackheath, on Saturday evening, when there was a good company present. In the absence of the president (Mr. H. Lench), the chair was occupied by Councillor B. Hobbs.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/11/1930

“Norton Canes Fund. Further Subscriptions.

Contributions received yesterday for the *Birmingham Gazette* and *Evening Despatch* Fund for the relief of the dependants of the victims of the Grove Pit disaster are:

Previously acknowledged £2,468, 19s 11d.....

Customers, GEORGE AND DRAGON, Blackheath, per Mr. H. Bennett £1 0s 0d.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/9/1936

“The secretary of Honeybourne Tennis Club, Brierly Hill, and the captain of the women’s section of the club were married at Blackheath Parish Church on Saturday. The bride was Miss Jennie *Taylor*, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. *T. Taylor*, of the GEORGE AND DRAGON INN, Blackheath, and the bridegroom Mr. Donald Percival Southall, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. *T. W. Southall*, of Claremont Villa, William Street, Brierley Hill. The bride, who wore a dress of beige angel skin lace over parchment satin, with hat to tone, had her sister, Miss *Eva Taylor*, and Miss *Irene Southall*, sister of the bridegroom, as bridesmaids. Mr. *R. Southall* accompanied his brother as best man.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/10/1951

“Midland Wills. Mrs. *Mary Taylor*, GEORGE AND DRAGON, High Street, Blackheath, £3,500 (£2,498 net).”

Midland Chronicle 12/6/1965

“More than 100 fanciers from the Black Country attended an auction of pigeons on Tuesday at the GEORGE AND DRAGON public house, High Street, Blackheath, headquarters of the Blackheath and District Homing Society. The 40 birds sold belonged to Mr. *John Willetts*, a member of the club for many years, who died recently at the age of 82. Mr. *Willetts*, who had raced pigeons for about 70 years, had often visited the room where the sale took place to clock in his birds after a race.

The auctioneer, Mr. *Larry Parkes*, Secretary of the Club, reminded prospective bidders that he was selling wonderful birds. A few were sold for £1 each, but others fetched £8. The top price paid was over £10 for a bird born last year.”

It was refurbished in 1988.

Dave Payton was married to Jan.

Sandwell Evening Mail 17/2/1990

“The memory of a Blackheath hairdresser who died after a heart attack is to live on – through a charity fund started by drinking pals. Eight friends of High Street hairdresser Mr. *Malcolm Jones*, who died in his 40s last autumn, have formed a charity committee at the GEORGE AND DRAGON public house opposite his salon and already raised £154 in a week.

Mr. *Jones* was a leading official of the Sandwell Whippet Club which is based at the public house.

The committee, who raised the cash by a pool knock-out, a collection in memory of road accident victim *Angela Knock*, donations and other activities, will keep the *Malcolm Jones Charity Memorial Fund* going indefinitely to aid hospitals, handicapped people and other local causes. Licensee and committee chairman Mr. *Phil Preston* said other events were planned – including a 12½ ton coach-pull by strongmen brothers *Roy* and *Dave Taylor* on February 24. A presentation would be made as soon as the first £500 was raised.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 8/6/1994 - Advert

“Get Out & Do It!

Ballooning; 4x4 off-road driving; powerboating; helicopter flying; formula Renault motor racing; microlighting.

10 Free Adventure Weekends To Be Won.

Banks’s. Est 1875. Unspoilt by Progress. British Pubs Week 12th – 19th June 1994.

Visit any one of the following outlets between 12th – 19th June to collect your free entry form. Only those aged 18 or over may

apply.....

GEORGE AND DRAGON, Rowley Regis.”

Wendi Hannon was sentenced to 120 hours of community punishment after being found guilty to theft in January 2004. She sold equipment she was leasing to help pay off a £16,000 debt.

Gerard Lloyd was born c.1952.

He was married to *Jane* (born c.1958).

It was renamed KNIGHTS QUEST [2004]

Halesowen News 25/9/2007

“Officials have recommended approval of a revised application to build a beer garden at the rear of the KNIGHTS QUEST public house on High Street, Blackheath. A similar proposal was rejected in April on the grounds of the noise and disturbance it would cause to nearby residents.”

Halesowen News 18/10/2007

“A Blackheath pub, which has undergone redevelopment, is being officially opened by American group The Drifters. The KNIGHTS QUEST in High Street will be open from 7pm on Saturday (October 20). The Drifters, who are currently on tour in the UK, will be performing live on stage from 9pm.”

Express & Star 26/4/2010

“Tribute acts from across the Midlands will be singing for supper at a charity night at a Blackheath pub. On Monday the KNIGHTS QUEST in the High Street is hosting a charity night for Macmillan Cancer that will play host to some of the region’s best acts. Starting at 7pm guests will be able to enjoy samples from the pub’s new menu as well as a quiz and a raffle with prizes donated by local firms, followed by six live acts including Stacey Maslin Green as Pink and Tyler Jon as Gary Barlow.”

Express & Star 12/6/2017

“A troubled pub has been ordered to tighten security after police said it has become a hotbed for crime and disorder over the last two years. Officers were called to 35 incidents at the KNIGHTS QUEST in Blackheath High Street, including ‘mass disorder’ which saw a man knocked unconscious when his head was stamped on during a brawl in the road outside the pub. West Midlands Police moved to take action against the venue over concerns young people were ‘drinking to excess’ into the early hours, often sparking violence. It must now close an hour earlier on Friday and Saturday nights, install more CCTV and have door staff wearing body cameras on duty from 9pm on Fridays and Saturdays.

The KNIGHTS QUEST was described as the ‘most problematic’ pub in Sandwell and was being monitored on a police watchlist. Ambulances were called to the Marston’s pub 12 times in the year to April 2017, 10 of those resulting in someone being taken to A&E.

Violence in March involving ‘20 or 30’ people, when the man was attacked and left unconscious having left the KNIGHTS QUEST, proved the final straw for the force which ordered a review of the licence.

Police licensing officer Mick Boyd told a Sandwell Council hearing there had been incidents inside and outside the pub and that police had been called more times to the KNIGHTS QUEST than eight other pubs in the area combined. He said the number of officers sent to the pub since 2015 was equivalent to that which would police a Premiership football match.....

Sandwell Council’s licensing panel was asked to consider removing the landlord *Thomas Lloyd* and suspend the licence for three months so new management could be arranged, but decided against this. But they did cut the opening hours to 1.30am on Fridays and Saturdays. It has previously been allowed to stay open until 2.30am, which police said meant young people could drink for longer, with a greater likelihood of trouble.

Ben Williams, a lawyer acting on behalf of Mr. *Lloyd*, who has run the pub with his wife for 14 years, argued changing the running of the pub would have made the situation worse. He said problems had only started over the last couple of years and that it had previously been trouble free. He said, ‘They have been there a heck of a long time. The problems are more recent. A lot of good has been done. More recently perhaps it is not as it ought to have been but it can get back to that.’

Michelle Hazelwood, representing Marston’s, said the pub had operated well but needed ‘a little bit of guidance at this time.’ She added, ‘This site is not a fundamental broken premises and operation.’”

Express & Star 28/11/2017

“A serious alleged attack in the toilets at the KNIGHTS QUEST and a mass brawl in the street outside are among the ugly incidents West Midlands Police say are plaguing the pub in Blackheath. Pub bosses are now due to appear before a Sandwell Council licensing panel following a customer’s claim he was set upon by a gang of up to 15 people in the toilets last month.

The High Street pub had been due to appeal tightened security measures enforced by the police but are now thought to have backed down. It means the pub will have to close an hour earlier on Friday and Saturdays and have two door staff wearing body cameras on duty from 9.30pm on weekends. Senior officers said they will continue to monitor events at the pub and have threatened tougher action if the trouble does not stop.

The KNIGHTS QUEST has been on a police watchlist this year. Officers were called to 35 incidents over two years, including ‘mass disorder’ involving up to 30 people which saw a man knocked unconscious when his head was stamped on during a brawl in the road outside the pub.

A report from West Midlands Police to Sandwell Council ahead of next week's hearing said, 'They did not want the licensed hours reduced, they thought one not two door staff were required on a Friday and Saturday and thought the requirement that a personal licence holder be physically on the premises during all times the premises be open was too onerous.' It continued, 'Unfortunately, there was a further significant incident on October 7, 2017. There was also another incident on October 16, 2017. Should future incidents happen the responsible authorities can re-engage the review process with all possible sanctions open for consideration.' Licensee *Gerald Lloyd* said, 'Although we do not accept the detail of all the allegations levelled by the police, we have decided to effectively withdraw our appeal and to concentrate on working with the relevant authorities to ensure the safest possible environment for all of our staff and guests.'"

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.....

Gerald Lloyd, joint licensee of runner-up pub the KNIGHTS QUEST on High Street, Rowley Regis, said, 'We're absolutely delighted. We realised that out of the number of pubs that compete and the standard of the pubs that compete, it means something to become runner up to them. The winner is very well run and a prominent business and we feel honoured to have come second to them.'

Mr. *Lloyd* has been involved with the pub for 15 years, ever since he and his wife saved it from demolition. 'We were both born locally and so we're returning to our roots. We took on a pub that was very run down and was near demolition – they had planning permission to knock it down. We persuaded them to let us convert it into The KNIGHTS QUEST.'

Mr. *Lloyd's* uncle, Charlie, was manager for 24 years at pubs predecessor, the GEORGE AND DRAGON, and was an inspiration."

Express & Star 7/11/2019

"A corrupt police worker from the Black Country who leaked confidential information to her family and a pub landlady has been locked up gossiped to a pub landlady on incidents reported at other pubs 61-year-old Jayne *Lloyd*, landlady of the KNIGHTS QUEST pub in Rowley Regis, found guilty of conspiracy to commit misconduct in a public office at a trial in September.....

Jayne *Lloyd*, who lived at and ran the KNIGHTS QUEST pub, was handed a nine-month sentence suspended for two years and 200 hours of community service."

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..... KNIGHTS QUEST, High Street, Blackheath."

[2020]

LIGHTHOUSE

153, Coombes Road / Gorsty Hill Road, OLD HILL

OWNERS

John Joule & Sons

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

Les Douce (acquired in 1993)

S. A. Brain and Co. Ltd. [1997], [2006]

LICENSEES

Jethro Hemp [18th century] ?

John Adams [1834]

James Adams [1845] – [1880]

Thomas Hodgetts []

Samuel Lowe [1881]

John Lowe [1881] – [1884]
Mrs. Elizabeth Lowe [1888] – [1896]
Edward Lowe [1901] – [1921]
James N Yates [1939]
Gordon Fenn [1979]
Les Douce (1991 – [1994]
Angela Pepperell [2001] – [2002]

NOTES

It was originally the ANCHOR.

Chainmakers gathered here to be paid by the chainsmith.

It was known locally as “The Throttler”

Jethro Hemp was the local hangman.

Jethro Windsor (Jed Black), the workhouse master, was born here.

John Adams, beer house keeper [1834]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 29/9/1834 - Letter

“Bull-Baiting. To the Editor of *Aris's Gazette*.

Sir. Let me once more solicit your assistance in holding up to public view the conduct of the only two among the three score ale-sellers in this place who have dared openly to outrage humanity, and disturb the peace of the neighbourhood by having recourse to Bull-baiting.

First, *James Adams*, keeper of the ANCHOR public house, Gosty Hill. This man's premises stand on the boundary line between the counties of Salop and Stafford, and of this and the adjoining parish of Hales Owen, part being situate in both. *Adams* is the same individual who last year was noticed for having had a bull baited at his house. On Saturday the 13th inst he had one baited on the turnpike road, and also on the public highway in front of his house. Late in the evening one of this poor animal's horns was broken off, and next day he procured a fresh bull ready for Monday morning. The poor animal was then chained by the head to a stake fixed in the ground, and any miscreant, for the sum of sixpence, was allowed to set his dog to tear the skin and flesh off his head and face for the diversion of the mob.

The other Christian who afforded his customers the same amusement, was Thomas Darby, keeper of one of those public nuisances called Beer Shops, within a hundred yards of *Adams's* house. He also had a bull fastened in a similar way to a stake in one of his own fields; and throughout the whole of Monday and Tuesday the beast was worried and abused in a manner too shocking to describe, three, if not four dogs being turned upon him at once.

Many hundreds of the very lowest reprobates for miles round were collected, and their yells and roaring, together with the bellowing and groans of the two bulls whenever a dog more savage than ordinary could fix its teeth in their lips or faces and tear away the flesh, were most horrible and appalling. How long will such barbarity be tolerated by a Christian Government? I make no further observation, but thanking you for the attention you have paid to my communications, beg to subscribe myself

Very respectfully your's, The Inhabitant.

Rowley Regis, Sept. 20, 1834.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 14/2/1842 - Advert

“Wonderful Pig.

To be Sold, a Sow Pig, supposed by good judges to be the Largest in England; she gets up easy and takes her feed well without assistance.

Apply to Mr. *James Adams*, ANCHOR INN, Gosty Hill, near Hales Owen.”

Black Country Bugle (June 1993) - Pub of the Month

“....Extensive grounds at the rear of the ANCHOR operated as a market garden with *John Adams* being noted in the 1851 directory as a ‘seedsman’ whilst his son *James* had taken over the license of the public house.”

1851 Census

Gorsty Hill

[1] *James Adams* (57), widower, licensed victualler, born Bleak Heath;

[2] Hannah Adams (49), widow, sister-in-law, housekeeper, born Bocking, Essex:

1861 Census

Gorsty Hill

[1] *James Adams* (68), widower, victualler and shopkeeper, born Rowley;

[2] Hannah Tracey (63), married, servant, born Bocking, Essex:

James Adams, beer retailer, Gorsty Hill [1864]

County Advertiser 21/7/1866

“The members of the Independent Order of United Brothers held their anniversary on Monday last, and, headed by the South Staffordshire Sax-horn Band, walked from their meeting house, the ANCHOR INN, Gorsty Hill, to the Wesleyan Chapel, Rowley, where they were exhorted by the Rev. Mr. Roberts. After the service the members, to the number of 120, returned to their club-house, where they had a good dinner, and, with the assistance of the band, they spent a very pleasant evening.”

1871 Census

Gosty Hill

- [1] *James Adams* (78), widower, licensed victualler, born Rowley;
- [2] Mary Green (50), widow, servant, born Little Wenlock, Shropshire;
- [3] Elizabeth Gallien (26), general servant, born Princes End;
- [4] James Willetts (65), brewer's assistant, born Rowley:

County Advertiser 14/4/1877

“Mr. Docker, coroner, held an inquest on Saturday night, at the ANCHOR INN, Gorsty Hill, on the body of James Willetts (71), a brewer. The evidence went to show that on the 3rd inst the deceased was engaged in drawing some water from a well, and by some means undiscovered, got into it. His body was not recovered until twenty minutes after he got in, and he was of course dead. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.

At the same place, Mr. Docker, afterwards held an inquiry touching the decease of William Goode (52), nailer, who resided at Causeway Green, Halesowen. At six o'clock in the morning of the 28th ult the body of deceased was found floating in the basin of the canal at Causeway Green. His hat and muffler, with a stone placed upon them were found on the bank nearby. The jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned.”

Joseph Harris was arrested here for triple murder, on 5th February 1878.

County Express 13/3/1880

“*James Adams*, ANCHOR INN, Gorsty Hill, was charged with keeping his house open during prohibited hours. Police-sergeant Raybould stated that on the 16th ult he was on duty at Gorsty Hill in company with Police-constable Barley. He saw the defendant's house open. The house ought to have been closed at ten o'clock, and at that time it was twenty minutes past ten. Witness went into the tap room, and found five men sitting there, one of them very drunk. He mentioned the time to the landlady, and she replied that no drink had been filled since ten o'clock. The men were then got out of the house. Mr. Hayes, who defended, said it was not the defendant's fault that the house was open so late. He was eighty-seven years of age, and had been bedridden for a long time. Some time ago an ejectment order was made against him, and it was found impossible to execute it in consequence of the state of the defendant. The Bench imposed a fine of 1s and costs.”

1881 Census

Gorsty Hill – ANCHOR INN

- [1] *Samuel Lowe* (22), unmarried, carpenter and joiner, born Waterfall Lane, Rowley;
- [2] John George Lowe (19), brother, unmarried, assistant carpenter and joiner, born Waterfall Lane, Rowley:

Samuel Lowe – check also BELL AND BEAR.

County Advertiser 27/8/1881

“Court Bold Robin Hood, No.5595, of the Ancient Order of Foresters, held their anniversary on Monday last, at the ANCHOR INN, Gorsty Hill, when the members sat down to an excellent repast, provided by the host, Bro. *John Lowe*.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 16/7/1890

“Last night a meeting of fitting and socket makers connected with the tube trade in the Old Hill and Hales Owen districts was held at the ANCHOR INN, Gosty Hill, and operative presiding. It was reported that a deputation from the Wednesbury Amalgamated Tubemakers' Association had waited upon the employers at the Coombs Wood Works. The employers contended that they could not make any different arrangements to those that were in force, as they had had no notice of any reduction in wages. This was considered satisfactory, and the operatives would remain at work. The men employed at the Lion Tubeworks had turned out on strike, no settlement having been arrived at. An operative said the men who were engaged in the trade and that were at work were anxious to give all possible assistance to those on strike. A resolution was passed deciding to remain out on strike until the demands were conceded. A further resolution was carried pledging the men at work to make weekly contributions for the support of the operatives on strike.”

County Express 19/7/1890

“Mr. A. H. Hebbert (deputy coroner) held an inquest at the ANCHOR INN, Coombs Wood, Halesowen, on Wednesday, relative to

the death of Walter Poole (8), whose parents reside at Halesowen Street, Blackheath, who was drowned in the Birmingham Canal, near Coombs Wood Works, on Monday.

Selina Poole, mother, deposed to having sent the deceased to school on the date in question.

Hannah Crumpton said she was walking along the canal side, when she heard cries for help, and saw a lad struggling in the water. Witness went for the assistance of a man named Wood, who recovered the body.

Caleb Wood said he was fetched to the canal by the last witness, and, after undressing himself, jumped into the water and brought the body to the surface, life was apparently extinct.

John Edward Broome said he endeavoured to restore animation by artificial respiration, but failed to do so.

Police-constable Harrison said the canal where the body was found was 4ft deep.

Dr. B. Young said he was called to attend the deceased, but upon arriving he found life had been extinct about half an hour. Death was due to drowning.

The foreman of the jury said he was of opinion that Wood ought to have jumped into the water before undressing himself, and a juror said he knew that Crumpton was getting coal out of the canal at the spot where the body was found, and she must have known the water was shallow, and ought to have endeavoured to recover the body.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Drowning, and requested the coroner to disallow the expenses of Wood and Crumpton. This was done."

1891 Census

Gorsty Hill – ANCHOR INN

[1] *Elizabeth Lowe* (46), widow, licensed victualler, born Rowley;

[2] *Mary Lowe* (20), daughter, born Rowley;

[3] *Edward Lowe* (17), son, born Rowley;

[4] *Amy Lowe* (16), daughter, born Rowley;

[5] *Lucy Lowe* (14), daughter, scholar, born Rowley;

[6] *Sarah A. Lowe* (11), daughter, scholar, born Rowley;

[7] *Thomas Lowe* (10), son, scholar, born Rowley;

Birmingham Daily Post 18/4/1894

"A meeting of tube makers was held last night at the ANCHOR INN, Gorsty Hill, Blackheath. A workman presided. Speeches were delivered by Mr. R. Juggins, Mr. T. Jones, and others. The men were urged to join the Tubemakers' Association and the Midland Counties Trade Federation, also to strive to maintain a uniform rate of wages."

County Express 7/7/1900

"An inquest was held at the ANCHOR INN, on Thursday week, on Sarah Holloway, aged 50, of Coombs Road, Gorsty Hill, who died somewhat suddenly on Wednesday. Mr. A. H. Herbert, deputy coroner, conducted the enquiry. A post-mortem examination had been made by Dr. Arkwright, who said that death was caused by heart disease. A verdict was returned accordingly."

1901 Census

Coombs Road – ANCHOR INN

[1] *Edward Lowe* (27), licensed victualler, born Blackheath;

[2] *Mary A. Lowe* (24), wife, born Halesowen;

[3] *Lucy Lowe* (22), sister, born Blackheath;

[4] *Sarah A. Lowe* (21), sister, born Blackheath;

[5] *Thomas Lowe* (19), brother, born Blackheath;

[6] *Hannah Dingley* (15), domestic servant, born Blackheath;

County Advertiser 14/3/1903

"The second annual smoking concert arranged under the auspices of the Coombs Wood Tube Works Football Club, was held on Monday night at the ANCHOR INN, Gorsty Hill. Mr. W. Darby presided over a large attendance. A capital musical programme was gone through during the evening, to which the following contributed: Messrs. S. Bradshaw, W. Davis, A. Guest, S. Fletcher, B. McCulloch, J. Smart, W. Hadley, E. Strickland, and the Morgan Brothers. Mr. T. Lowe accompanied."

County Advertiser 14/5/1904

"Forestry. On Monday evening the members of court Bold Robin Hood, No.5593, held their annual meeting at the ANCHOR INN, Gorsty Hill. Dr. T. Brett Young, of Halesowen, attended, and gave an interesting address. He was heartily thanked by the members. The secretary stated in the course of the evening that the court was in a prosperous condition."

County Express 1/8/1908 - Advert

"The ANCHOR INN, Gorsty Hill, Midway between Blackheath and Halesowen and half-a-mile from Old Hill station, G.W.R. To Cab Proprietors, Builders, and Others.

Alfred Hill has been instructed by Mr. Edward Lowe (on account of Mrs. S. A. Winfield) to Sell By Auction, on the Premises as above, on Monday, August 10th, 1908.

Two Excellent Hansom Cabs, Rubber Tyred (equal to new).

One Capital Strong Brake, with Top, to carry 30 (in good condition).

One Dennet Gig, Rubber Tyred (equal to new).

One Good Spring Trap.

A well-known Grey Cob, about 15-2, 8 years old.

14 Panel Doors, Ledge Door and Door Case, two Venetian Sash Frames, 13 Sash Frames, 26/28 Scaffold Poles, Elm and Oak Coffin Boards, two 24-round ladders, two 16-round ditto, Quantity of odd Harness and Timber.

Sale to commence at Two o'clock sharp.

Auctioneers Offices: Halesowen."

1911 Census

Gorsty Hill – ANCHOR INN

[1] *Edward Lowe* (37), licensed victualler, born Halesowen;

[2] *Mary Ann Lowe* (34), wife, married 10 years, born Halesowen;

[3] *Arthur Edward Lowe* (9), son, born Halesowen;

[4] *George Wallace Lowe* (6), son, born Halesowen;

[5] *Nancy Field* (20), general servant (domestic), born Halesowen;

[6] *Elizabeth Jones* (22), general servant (domestic), born Coseley:

County Express 26/8/1911

"Quite a sensation was created in Halesowen district on Tuesday when it became known that the body of a newly-born female child had been discovered in the Birmingham Canal at Wells Bridge, Coombs Wood. It appears that a boatman named Wm. Rawlings, of Cole Street, Darby End, Netherton, was proceeding with a boat in the direction of Coombs Wood Tube Works, when his attention was attracted by something in the water, which subsequently proved to be a baby's body. George Shaw recovered the body, which was removed to the ANCHOR HOTEL, Gorsty Hill, by PC Emms, to await an inquest.

The inquest was held on Wednesday evening at the ANCHOR HOTEL, Gorsty Hill, by the deputy coroner (Mr. A. H. Hebbert). Mr. Lewis was foreman of the jury.

W. Rawlings, of Cole Street, Darby End, said he was going with a boat in the direction of Coombs Wood Works, when he saw something floating in the water. When witness got nearer he could see that it was a child's head. He tried to recover the body, but the water washed it away. It was not wrapped in anything and was quite naked.

George Shaw, of Halesowen Street, Blackheath, said the last witness called his attention to the child in the water. Witness got his shovel and lifted the body out. It was placed on the side of the canal and removed by PC Emms.

Dr. W. L. Freer said he had made that afternoon a post mortem examination of the body. It was a fully developed child. There was a wound partly incised and partly lacerated, two inches in length and one-eighth to one-quarter of an inch in depth, commencing in the centre of the neck and running just above the collar bone. There was no bruising or other mark of violence.

The Deputy Coroner: Do you think that wound was caused before or after death? – I think it was caused after death.

Continuing, Dr. Freer said the internal organs were more or less decomposed. The body had been in the water at least seven days, but he could not say how much longer. It was in his opinion put into the water after death. He considered death was due to hemorrhage, as a result of inattention at birth.

Inspector Pass said, in company with PC Emms, he carefully examined the body. There were some pieces of paper adhering to it, and on drying them witness found that they were portions of a Redditch paper for April 8th. There was nothing to lead to the identity of the child.

The jury returned a verdict of Found Dead in the canal."

Edward Lowe was the brother of Tom.

1939 Register

153, Coombs Road

[1] *James N. Yates*, date of birth 15/10/1893, licensed victualler, married;

[2] *Esther M. Yates*, dob 4/5/1898, domestic duties, married;

[3] *James L. Yates*, dob 13/10/1927, at school, single;

[4] *John E. Yates*, dob 31/1/1936, under school age, single:

Evening Despatch 10/1/1940 - Advert

"Lost, Black Spaniel Bitch, young, January 4th. Reward.

ANCHOR INN, Gorsty Hill, Halesowen."

Gordon Fenn was married to Betty.

It opened in March 1992, after a total refurbishment, as the LIGHTHOUSE.

Les Douce was married to Shirley.

Halesowen News 17/6/1999

"Three bands have been lined up to play the sixth gig in association with Red Ice Music and the LIGHTHOUSE in Halesowen. Headlining the event on Saturday June 26 will be Flaming June and the two support acts are After Eden and Adrenalin Kick.

The monthly gigs, organised by Red Ice Music, Blackheath, and staged at the LIGHTHOUSE, Coombs Road, Halesowen, have raised £270 for MENCAP.....”

Halesowen News 24/6/1999 - Advert

“At the LIGHTHOUSE, Coombs Road, Halesowen.

Saturday Night Special. 20oz Steak with all the Trimmings £6.75.

Sunday Sizzlers. Choice of Steak, Gammon & Egg or Lemon Chicken plus free pudding £3.50.

Saturday 26th June. Band night with 3 Live Bands. Tickets £3.

Beer Garden – Families Welcome.

Skittles Night. £10 off on production of this advert if booked before end of July.”

Halesowen News 14/7/2006

“While most children want the latest Play Station Jake Nicholls has a simple dream – being able to play football with his dad.

Jake has started an appeal to help his father, wheelchair-bound multiple sclerosis sufferer Ian Nicholls, raise £20,000 for revolutionary stem cell treatment. The 11-year-old has created a computer presentation asking schools to hold mufti-days to pull in funds in a race against time. Ian must raise the money by December to have the treatment, which has seen several patients walking again within hours, at a clinic in Holland. Titled My Dad’s Life, the presentation shows the days when Ian was able to walk in the park, and then charts how his condition deteriorated and he became confined to a wheelchair.

Ian, aged 48, said, ‘Jake did the Powerpoint presentation and sent it to schools so they might run a mufti day to help the appeal. I was absolutely touched. I didn’t know he was putting it together until he asked me to pose for a photo. It was awesome to see when he had finished it.’

Jake’s school, Newfield Park Primary, has already responded and is holding a dress-down week. So far the cash has been flooding in, with an array of fundraising events pulling in £5,100. Ian, of Radbourne Drive, has raised millions of pounds for charity through his role as an appeal organiser for the County Air Ambulance and was awarded an NHS Heroes Award for his efforts. He is married to Wendy and has another son, Todd, aged 12.

There are a string of fundraisers in the pipeline. Tonight (Thursday) there will be a musical evening at Cradley Heath Labour Club, entrance costs £2. This Saturday, July 15, there will be a quiz night at the LIGHTHOUSE pub, Gorsty Hill, Halesowen. Entrance costs £2 per person, for teams of four. On Saturday July 22 there will be a musical picnic in Hartlebury. Tickets cost £10 for adults and £5 for children. On Sunday July 23 there will be a five-a-side football match at the Powerleague ground on Stourbridge Road, Halesowen.

Ian is appealing for people to help organise events and needs someone to donate a hall with a bar for an evening so a band can perform.”

A fire caused £116,000 worth of damage on 23rd May 2007.

Halesowen News 24/5/2007

“A pub worker was helped to safety by two passers by as a fire ripped through the LIGHTHOUSE pub in Halesowen. Police are appealing for information following the suspected arson attack. Fire crews alerted officers to the incident at the LIGHTHOUSE public house in Coombs Road, which is believed to have started between 1.15am and 2.10am on Wednesday May 23. A member of staff was in the premises at the time but managed to escape from the first floor, with the help of two passers by.

Police are appealing for witnesses and would particularly like to speak to the two men who assisted the member of staff.”

Dudley News 23/10/2007

“A ‘troubled’ 27-year-old man who set fire to the Halesowen pub where he was assistant manager causing more than £116,000 damage has been jailed for 15 months. John Woolley wore a hood when he poured petrol through the letterbox at the LIGHTHOUSE pub in Coombs Road – an incident caught on CCTV. He then disappeared only to return moments later and put a match to the petrol causing a fire that seriously damaged the ground floor area of the pub which had to close for more than two months. Recorder Simon Drew told Woolley, of Thorne Road, Rowley Regis, ‘I am none the wiser as to why you did it. It is suggested you were extremely upset and depressed and it might have been a suicide attempt. What I am more inclined to think is that it was a cry for help – a cry for attention. It could also have been a way for you not to continue working there in a job that was causing you stress.’ But he ruled it was a serious arson attack on the pub causing major damage and only a substantial prison sentence was appropriate.

Woolley, in an earlier incident, cut the fuel, brake and speedometer cables on his former partner’s car after he had left him rendering the vehicle immobile and preventing him from driving away. ‘This was rather silly and impetuous,’ added the Recorder at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Monday October 22 as he said he accepted it was never his intention to cause any danger to his ex-partner.

Woolley admitted criminal damage and arson at a time when, said Miss Elizabeth Power defending, he was in an emotional state. Miss Power said, ‘He cannot really explain why he set fire to the pub. He was in a troubled state and he accepts he needs some counselling.’ Miss Power said Woolley enjoyed his job but things had got on top of him. She said, ‘It was he who called the police when he saw smoke coming through the door of the pub.’

The Recorder told Woolley he had been trusted to look after the LIGHTHOUSE but stressed he accepted the arson was completely out of character.”

Stourbridge News 8/9/2009

“Here’s your chance to shout about your local. The *News* is looking for the best pubs in Stourbridge, Halesowen and Dudley – and we want you, the regulars, to make yours an award-winner by voting in our Best Local Pub competition. It could be the friendly welcome from the landlord, traditional pub grub, sparkling barmaids who never forget your favourite drink, or maybe it’s somewhere the family is always welcome. Or maybe your local goes that extra mile, throwing a surprise birthday party for you or raising money for charity. All you have to do is vote for one of the locals featured in our Pub Awards to say thank-you for all that they have given to your community....

The shortlist of pubs is Halesowen: LIGHTHOUSE, BELL & BEAR, OLD CROWN, WAGON & HORSES.”

Halesowen News 16/12/2014

“Struggling traders face a bleak New Year after bombshell news that a Rowley Regis road is to be dug up for the second time in two years. Businesses are still recovering from 11 months of road works when water and gas pipes were replaced in Gorsty Hill Road. They were left reeling from the news of several weeks of disruption starting in January when National Grid will replace more pipes between the junctions of Coombe Hill and Cocksheds Lane. Jayne Leeson, of Fantasia Party Shop, who was forced to shed a full-time and two part-time assistants as trade was decimated during the earlier road works, said the news was ‘devastating.’ Initially, businesses were told the work to replace a low pressure main would start on December 11, but the date has been pushed back to January 19 at the request of Sandwell Council. Mrs Leeson said she and neighbouring businesses, including the Evergreen Pharmacy, Apex Wines and LIGHTHOUSE pub, were relieved disruption to the peak Christmas trading period had been avoided. But they are questioning why the work could not have been combined with the previous pipe relaying.

Mrs. Leeson said, ‘National Grid replaced medium pressure pipes two years ago and they want to replace low pressure pipes. We are still recovering from the devastating impact of the last lot of road works, although we got some compensation, it no where nearly made up for what we lost. It’s absolutely disgraceful and a waste of money digging up the road for a second time, so soon. Someone didn’t do their job properly and this needs addressing.’

A National Grid spokeswoman said when the work was done in 2012 it was not considered necessary to renew the low pressure main. She added, ‘However, since that time, there has been an increase in the number of gas escapes found on the pipe and so it has now become a priority to replace it. The new pipe will be made of hard wearing plastic which, once in the ground will need little or no maintenance and will keep the area’s gas supply safe and reliable for many years.’”

Halesowen News 23/7/2015

“An England international chess player lost her first ever game played in a simultaneous display to a Halesowen player when she visited the town’s club. Sabrina Chevannes, who will play in the British Chess Championships at Warwick University, lost to Adrian Priest, won 11 and drew three games as she played against 15 club members. Halesowen member John Edge has also qualified to play in the championships, which start on Saturday, whilst Peter Banks and Malcolm Hunt will tackle the over 50s event. Chess club members play social chess and in the competitive Birmingham and District, Dudley, Worcester County and Wolverhampton leagues. The club meets every Tuesday at the LIGHTHOUSE, Coombs Road, at 7.30pm and welcomes new members.”

[2019]

LORD DUDLEY’S COURT HOUSE

Rowley Village, ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Hadley [1818] – [1834]

NOTES

Check SIR ROBERT PEEL.

MALT SHOVEL

61, (45), High Street, BLACKHEATH

OWNERS

Benjamin Darby (acquired in October 1887 for £870) [1890]
Showells Brewery Co. Ltd. [1904]
Ind Coope and Allsopp Ltd. (leased) (acquired on 3rd July 1935)
Ansells Ltd. (acquired on 4th May 1960)
Holt, Plant and Deakin [1989]
Susan Whittall (acquired in 1992)
S. A. Brain and Co. Ltd. (acquired in 1996) [1999]
Sharon Parkinson (leased from 2006)
Rowley Bar and Grill [2017]

LICENSEES

John Darby [1871] – [1887]
Reuben Davies [1889] – [1891]
Mrs. Julianna Hipkiss [1901] – [1916]
Mrs. Eliza Hipkiss [1919] – **1922**);
Thomas Machin (**1922 – 1923**);
Thomas Goode (**1923**);
William Henry Passey (**1923**);
Josiah Hill (**1923 – 1933**);
Ernest Reuben Ingram (**1933 – 1934**);
James Edward Taylor (**1934 – 1937**);
Lawrence Nelson Dingley (**1937 – 1949**);
John Edward James (**1949 – 1959**);
Barry Nock (**1959 – 1962**);
Sidney Alfred Hemming (**1962 – 1963**);
Arthur Priest (**1963 – 1964**);
Maurice Denis Lockwood (**1964**);
Alfred Claude Thorn (**1964**);
Henry Astley Beeston (**1964 – 1965**);
Gladys Irene Nicholls (**1965 – []**)
David Richard Maskell [1988]
Susan Whittall (**1992 – [1993]**)
Michael Gallagher [] – **1996**)
Jeff Innes-Preece [1997]
Sharon Parkinson and K A Thorne [2000]
H L Cartwright-Harwood [2002]
Sharon (Parkinson) Tuohy (**2006 – 2012**)
Helen Ball [2013] manager
Marisa Doogan [2017]

NOTES

45, High Street [1881], [1891]
61, High Street [1901], [1911], [1939], [1940]

MALT HOUSE [1940]

It had an ante '69 beerhouse license.

1871 Census

High Street

[1] *John Darby* (31), maltster and beerseller, born Rowley Regis;
[2] Martha Darby (27), wife, born Rowley Regis;
[3] James Darby (9), son, born Rowley Regis;
[4] Mary Darby (8), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
[5] Eliza Darby (6), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
[6] Edwin Darby (4), son, born Rowley Regis;
[7] Samuel Darby (3), son, born Rowley Regis;

[8] Martha Darby (1), daughter, born Rowley Regis:

Stourbridge Observer 4/1/1872

“Joseph Fletcher was charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the MALT SHOVEL beerhouse, when requested by the landlord, *John Darby*, at Blackheath; and further charged with riotous conduct, and assaulting Police-sergeant Davis, on the 26th ult. After hearing the evidence, defendant was sentenced to 14 days hard labour for the assault, and the other charges were dismissed.”

County Advertiser 13/1/1872

“*John Darby*, landlord of the MALT SHOVEL, Black Heath, was summoned for unlawfully and knowingly permitting drunkenness in his house. Mr. Hayes defended.

Sergeant Davies said that on the evening of the 26th ult he was called to defendant’s house to eject a drunken man named Fletcher, who was subsequently fined for the offence.

Benjamin Worton was also called for the prosecution. He swore that he was drinking in defendant’s house with Fletcher for four or five hours; and added that Fletcher created a disturbance, defendant asked him several times to desist, and eventually sent for the police.

The Bench said they did not consider defendant in fault, and accordingly dismissed the case.”

1881 Census

45, High Street

[1] *John Darby* (41), maltster and farmer, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Martha Darby (37), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Mary Darby (18), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Samuel Darby (13), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Annie Darby (8), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Fred Darby (4), son, born Rowley Regis;

[7] Miriam Darby (2), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[8] Beatrice Darby (6 months), daughter, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 19/1/1884

“*John Darby*, landlord of the MALT SHOVEL INN, High Street, Blackheath, was summoned for selling during prohibited hours on the 25th December last. Mr. Waldron prosecuted on behalf of the police, and Mr. Wright defended. Mr. Waldron said he was willing for the charge to be withdrawn on payments of the costs, and Mr. Wright expressing his willingness to this course the charge was withdrawn.”

County Advertiser 10/9/1887 - Advert

“Important Sale of Freehold Brewery, Malthouse, Public House, and Premises, High Street, Blackheath, Rowley Regis.

Messrs. Rollinson and Beckley are instructed to Offer by Auction, on Tuesday, October 4th, 1887, at the house of Mrs. Wm. Darby, ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, at Six o’clock in the Evening, and subject to Conditions to be then read, embodying the Common Form Conditions of the Birmingham Law Society.

All that capital Freehold Brewery, called the Bleak Heath Brewery, situate in High Street, Blackheath, aforesaid, comprising Modern Brewery, 40ft by 25ft, fitted with Two 250-gallon Copper Boilers, and One 100-gallon ditto, superior 8-horse power Beam Engine and Boiler, with Fly Wheel, Driving and Pumping Apparatus complete, having Cellars in the basement. Adjoining is a large Malt and Store Room, with Cart Shed under, also Stabling for four horses. There is a 16-Quarter Malthouse adjoining, with Working Floor and Store Room, Kiln, Cistern, &c, the whole in good working condition; large Yard, Three Sheds, and large Water Tank, together with the well-situated Public House and Premises, called the MALT SHOVEL INN, having a frontage to the High Street aforesaid, and containing large Tap Room, Bar, Parlour, Kitchen, Club Room, Chambers, Three Cellars, Brewhouse, and necessary Outbuildings, the whole being in the occupation of Mr. *John Darby*.

The Property has a frontage of 22 yards to High Street, and contains an area of 968 square yards or thereabouts, is well supplied with good Water, and offers an excellent opportunity for anyone wishing to embark in the Brewery Business.

For particulars apply to Messrs. Sanders, Smith, and Parish, Solicitors, Dudley, or the Auctioneers, Brierley Hill.”

County Express 8/10/1887

“A very successful sale by auction was held on Tuesday evening last by Messrs. Rollinson and Beckley, auctioneers, Brierley Hill, at the ROYAL OAK, Blackheath. The property offered for sale was the MALT SHOVEL INN, and brewery adjoining. There was a large assemblage of bidders, and the lot was purchased, after a keen competition, by Mr. Benjamin Darby for the sum of £870.”

County Advertiser 16/3/1889

“On Saturday night the miners of the lodge held at the MALT SHOVEL INN, Blackheath, in connection with the Old Hill Miners’ Association, celebrated the anniversary of its formation by a supper. An address was delivered by the local agent (Mr. B. Winwood), who directed attention to the alteration in thin coal and stone miners’ wages effected at the last Wages Board meeting, and to the notice they had given for a re-consideration of the basis of wages. He concluded by urging them to induce all miners they possible could to join the lodge, as the special advantages of co-operation had been very effectually demonstrated by the work of the Midland Counties Trades Federation, of which the Old Hill district is a branch, during the last two years. The remainder of the evening was spent in a very enjoyable manner, the programme consisting of songs, recitations, &c.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/12/1889 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Inns, Brewery, Malthouses and Premises, at Blackheath and Haden Cross, near Dudley.

Oates, Perrens, & Wooldridge are favoured with instructions from the proprietor, Mr. B. Darby, to Sell by Auction, at the CROSS INN, Old Hill, on Tuesday, the 7th day of January, 1890, at Five o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be produced, the highly-important and Valuable Freehold Public Houses, Malthouses, Brewery, &c, following, namely.

Lot 1. That most Desirable Freehold Property, the Blackheath Brewery, together with the MALT SHOVEL INN, in the occupation of Mr. *Reuben Davies*, and the Ten-quarter Malthouse in the occupation of Mr. John Thomas Dixon, with a large yard, extensive stabling, and appurtenances, situate in High Street, Blackheath, a thickly-populated district, on the main road from Cradley Heath and Old Hill to Birmingham.

Lot 2. That very Desirable Freehold Public House, HADEN CROSS INN, with Butcher’s Shop and Slaughterhouse; also the Ten-quarter Malthouse, together with the enclosed yard, with double-door entrance, Stable, Piggeries, Garden, piece of Turf Land, and Premises, containing an area of 2,710 square yards, situate at Haden Cross, on the main road from Hales Owen to Old Hill, Netherton, and Dudley, and a short distance from Old Hill Railway Station, a junction of three lines of railways.

For further information apply to Messrs. Wright and Tanfield, Solicitors, Cradley Heath; or to the Auctioneers, Stourbridge and Droitwich.”

County Express 12/4/1890

“*Reuben Davies*, landlord of the MALT SHOVEL INN, Blackheath, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises, on the 24th ult. Mr. W. Waldron prosecuted, and Mr. H. Jackson defended.

In opening the case, Mr. Waldron said he prosecuted on behalf of the police. On the 24th ult, Police-constable Jewson heard quarrelling in the yard attached to the defendant’s public house. The officer went into the yard and saw eight men quarrelling, amongst them being a man named Bateman, who was drunk. He went into the house and told the landlord about this. In the kitchen he found a man named Adams, who was drunk, and had a pint cup containing ale, out of which he drank. Adams got up and staggered about. This was at 5.30. Jewson came to the conclusion that the man was drunk, and he went in search of another officer. At 6.30 he again visited the house, in company with Police-sergeant Salt, and they again saw Adams in the house with beer before him. Adams asked them to drink, but they refused. Salt called the landlord’s attention to Adams, and he said, ‘If the man is drunk, he is quiet.’ This clearly showed knowledge on the part of the defendant that he was drunk. He was instructed by the police to say that since there had been an increase of good trade, there was a corresponding increase of drunkenness in that and other parts of the country, to the extent of fifty per cent.

Police-constable Jewson bore out these remarks, and added that when the man was got out of the house he staggered along the street.

Police-sergeant Salt gave evidence as to visiting the house at half-past six, and finding Adams there in an intoxicated condition, with ale before him.

For the defence, Mr. Jackson said the Bench must dismiss from their minds the evidence as far as Bateman was concerned as there was no evidence that he was supplied with ale on the premises. With regard to Adams, a witness would state that Adams did not stagger, and he was sent to a doctor’s, but he was not in.

Defendant was called, and said Adams was not drunk, and did not make a noise. When the officers called his attention to Adams, he got him outside, and he walked off down the street.

Matthias Adams said he was not drunk, and did not stagger down the street.

Thomas Armstrong gave similar evidence.

Mr. Beach, Halesowen, said he saw Adams walk down the street, and did not stagger like a drunken man.

The Bench considered the case proved, but said it was not a bad one, and defendant would be fined 2s 6d and costs. Adams and Bateman were each fined 5s and costs.”

County Express 27/9/1890

“Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Reuben Davies, of Blackheath, who had been fined for permitting drunkenness, was warned that if he committed another offence his license would not be renewed.”

County Express 6/12/1890

“Matthias Adams, miner, Tory Street, Black Heath, was charged with being disorderly on the licensed premises of *Reuben Davies*, and with refusing to leave, on the 29th ult. Defendant created a disturbance in the complainant’s house, and was turned out three times. Fined 10s and costs.”

1891 Census

45, High Street – MALT SHOVEL INN

[1] *Reuben Davies* (31), publican, born Dudley;

[2] Martha Davies (31), wife, born Donnington, Shropshire;

[3] Mary E. Davies (7), daughter, scholar, born Clowne, Derbyshire;

[4] William B. L. Davies (3), son, born Glapwell, Derbyshire;

[5] Eliza Bate (16), general servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 11/11/1893 - Advert

“MALT SHOVEL INN, High Street, Blackheath.

To Furniture Dealers, House Furnishers, Dealers, and Others.

Mr. Wm. Hackett will Sell by Auction on Monday Next, November 13th, 1893, a large quantity of Household Furniture of every description, Fine-toned Pianoforte, in walnut case; Harmonium, in oak case, with two knee swells; Wringing Machines, capital Brown Horse, 15 hands, quiet and good worker in all kinds of harness, and will face trams; excellent Four-wheel Dog Cart with lamps and cushions, Spring Trap, Three Narrow-wheel Carts, Silver and Brass-mounted Harness, Four Sets of Cart Tackle, Cushion-tyre Bicycle, Tricycle, nearly new Sausage Machine, Sausage Filler, small Baking Trough, quantity of Clothing, and numerous other Effects.

Removed to the above premises for convenience of Sale.

The whole on view the Morning of Sale.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.

Auctioneer's Offices, Midland Chambers, Oldbury, and Oldbury Road, West Smethwick.”

Birmingham Daily Post 13/11/1894

“Last night a largely-attended meeting of rivetmakers was held at the MALT SHOVEL INN, Blackheath, for the purpose of considering the wages question. Mr. Thomas Brookes presided, and explained that a dispute had arisen at the works of Messrs. Willits Brothers, and as a consequence the operatives had been called out. The firm had signed the agreement to pay the recognised list price, which was made five weeks ago, but they had not done so. (Shame.) It was decided support the men on strike until the employers conceded the proper prices.”

County Advertiser 24/11/1894

“On Monday night a meeting of rivet makers was held at the MALT SHOVEL INN, Blackheath, for the purpose of considering the wages question. A workman presided and stated that they had met together under very unfavourable circumstances. Through the action of some of the weak minded persons a portion of the operatives had been compelled to submit to a reduction in their wages. (Shame.) He mentioned that the wages of some of the rivet makers had been reduced to 4s per cwt. (Shame.) Mr. I. Cashmore addressed the meeting and said they were in very serious difficulty. The employers had signed the list agreeing to pay the price and after having kept their promise for six weeks they were endeavouring to reduce the operatives and thus bring about the old state of things. (Shame.) It was suggested that the only course to take to stop such practices was to declare a general reduction in wages. (Hear, hear.) Ultimately a deputation was appointed to wait upon those operatives who were working at a reduction, and request them to desist, but failing this, other steps should be taken.”

County Advertiser 16/3/1895 - Advert

“Preliminary. High Street, Blackheath.

Mr. A. H. Sidaway has received instructions to Sell by Auction, at the MALT SHOVEL INN, Blackheath, Capital Steam Engine, with Boiler, Complete; Copper Boiler, Wrought and Cast-iron Boilers, and numerous other Effects.

Further particulars next week.

Auctioneer's Office, High Street, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 30/3/1895 - Advert

“Sale at the MALT SHOVEL INN, High Street, Blackheath.

Steam Engine, Boiler, Wrought-Iron Brewing Boilers, Copper Boiler, Malt Crushers, and a Quantity of Household Furniture. Mr. A. H. Sidaway has received instructions to Sell by Auction, at the MALT SHOVEL INN, High Street, Blackheath, on Monday, April 1st, 1895, Capital Beam Engine, about 12HP, with Shafting, Pipes and Pulleys complete; Egg-shaped Boiler, 12 feet by 3 feet, with fittings; Two Wrought Iron Boilers, about 300 gallons, with taps and settings; Copper Boiler, about 100 gallons, with tap and setting; Two-Knife Chaff Engine, for steam power; Two-knife Chaff Engine, Malt Crushers, with shaft and pulley; Socket Pipe, nine feet long; quantity of Old Iron, &c, quantity of Household Furniture, including Sets of Iron Bedsteads, Feather Beds, Mattresses, Cane-seated Chairs, Arm Chairs, Sofas, Deal Tables and Wash Stands, Medium Singer Sewing Machine, Pictures, Two Trunks, Fenders and Fire-irons and numerous other Effects.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.

Auctioneer's Office, High Street, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 9/1/1897

“On Monday night a meeting of rivet makers in the Blackheath, Rowley and Old Hill districts was held at the MALT SHOVEL INN, Blackheath, for the purpose of considering the new Truck Act. Mr. I. Cashmore said the Act came into operation last Friday. Several of the employers in the rivet trade were willing not to deduct any money for blast. The others, however, seemed to think the Act was a failure, and they appeared determined to adhere to the old arrangement. The Act, however, stipulated that no money must be deducted from the workmen's wages for blast unless they signed an agreement to allow it. He urged them not to sign any agreement with the masters, and if money was deducted from their wages they could recover it. A resolution deciding to adhere to the Act was passed. It was also decided that where masters would not provide the blast the men should remain out on strike.”

Dudley Herald 15/1/1898

“The half-yearly meeting of the Dudley and Netherton District [Free Gardeners] was held at the MALT SHOVEL INN, Blackheath, last week, Bro. James Taylor presiding. Twenty-seven delegates attended.....”

County Advertiser 24/9/1898

“On Sunday afternoon the annual friendly societies’ Sunday service, on behalf of the hospitals, was held in a field at the back of Mountford House, Siviters Lane, Rowley, kindly lent for the occasion by Dr. J. G. Beasley. The members of various societies met at their headquarters, and were formed into a procession as below. The Blackheath Village Band started from the WHEAT SHEAF INN, Turners Hill at one o’clock, with the Church of England Friendly Society, and proceeded through Portway and Perys Lake, calling at the BULLS HEAD INN for the Sick Club, at the WARD ARMS INN for Court Foresters’ Pride, at the KINGS ARMS INN for Lodge Working Man’s Friend. It then proceeded by way of Ross, Holly Road, Tump Road, and John Street, to the GEORGE AND DRAGON Ground. The Woodgate Brass Band had in the meantime covered its route from the OLD BUSH INN, Powke Lane, with Court Little Band of Hope, calling at the MALT SHOVEL INN for Lodge Lily of the Valley, the VINE INN for Court Mistletoe Bough, proceeding along Station Road to the RAILWAY INN for Court Britannia’s Pride, thence through Halesowen Street, Tump Road, and Hackett Street, meeting the other Courts at the GEORGE AND DRAGON Ground. A united procession was then formed, and marched to Siviters Lane, reaching the ground at three o’clock. The proceedings opened with the hymn ‘All people that on earth do dwell,’ after which the Chairman (Mr. E. Pewtress, CC) delivered a short address. The Rev. C. W. Barnard, MA, Rector of Kings Norton, then addressed the meeting, after which the hymn ‘Lead, kindly light,’ was sung. Addresses were also delivered by the Revs. W. Hall and N. Haigh, of Blackheath. At the close a collection was taken on behalf of the Dudley Dispensary and Birmingham Eye Hospital. It amounted to £11 9s 5d.”

County Advertiser 31/1/1900

“On Monday evening the rivet makers in the Blackheath, Rowley, Old Hill, and surrounding districts commenced the fifth week of the strike, and a largely-attended meeting was held at the MALT SHOVEL INN, Blackheath, no arrangement having then been come to. Since Monday the leaders of the operatives made another visit to the employers, and when the men assembled for another meeting at the MALT SHOVEL INN, on Thursday morning, the Chairman (Mr. J. Bennett) said they had better news for them, although one employer had refused to concede the advance.

Mr. I. Cashmore addressed the men and said in accordance with the desire of some of the masters they had slightly modified the list, and then submitted it for consideration. The result of their visit to the masters during the week was that the whole of the employers, numbering over twenty, with the exception of Mr. T. Williams, of Halesowen, had consented to give an increase of 12½ per cent. He hoped that now they had bettered their position the workmen would form themselves into a strong organisation.”

1901 Census

61, High Street – MALT SHOVEL INN

- [1] *Juliana Hipkiss* (59), widow, retail publican, born Brierley Hill;
- [2] *Eliza Hipkiss* (23), daughter, married, born Halesowen;
- [3] William Hipkiss (26), son in law, moulder (sanitary ware), born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Albert W. Hipkiss (2), grandson, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 26/11/1904

“George Gadd (26), labourer, of Mott Street, Blackheath, was charged with stealing 144 cigars and 13 boxes of cigarettes, of the value of 13s 1d, from the MALT SHOVEL INN, High Street, Blackheath, belonging to Messrs. Showells Brewery Company Limited, on the 18th inst; and George Hingley (29), Oldbury Road, Blackheath, was charged with receiving the goods knowing them to have been stolen. It was alleged that on the date in question the prisoner Gadd went into the public house, and after he had left the articles were missed. He was subsequently arrested by Police-sergeant Bentley, and at first denied the charge but ultimately said, ‘I will tell the truth. I had them.’ Hingley, when arrested, denied the charge, but afterwards admitted that he had bought them for 6d. The Bench committed Gadd for three months with hard labour, and Hingley for two months.”

County Advertiser 21/7/1906

“On Tuesday night a well-attended meeting in connection with the Blackheath nut, bolt, rivet makers’ branch of the National Union of gasworkers and general labourers, was held at the MALT SHOVEL INN, High Street, Blackheath, for the purpose of considering important business in connection with the new price list for rivet makers. Mr. I. Cashmore presided, and said they had met to receive a report from Mr. S. Lakin, the district secretary, with reference to his interviews with the leading masters in the trade. Since August last reductions in wages had been enforced amounting to between 10 per cent and 15 per cent. He felt that the time had come when they must make an effort to secure a return to the list of prices granted to them nearly twelve months ago. Mr. Lakin delivered an address. He explained that he had waited upon the principal employers in the trade, and all of them, with the exception of three, were in favour of paying the list prices adopted last August. There was no doubt that the operatives were entitled to an advance. It was decided to refer the matter to the Executive Council of the Union, with a view to an amicable settlement being arrived at.”

Tipton Herald 14/8/1909

“The rivet and stud makers of the district held a meeting on Monday in the MALT SHOVEL INN, Blackheath, to consider what action should be taken to secure an advance of wages. It was stated that in consequence of the wages having been reduced the majority of the operatives turned out on strike last week, and it was thought the remainder would cease work that morning. A number of the hands in Dudley and Halesowen, however, had gone to work as usual, and that had created an unfortunate and unpleasant difficulty. The situation was a serious one, and the meeting had to decide what was to be done.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr. Cashmore) said the trade had not occupied a worse position for 40 years than it did today. The men were paid the lowest wages in the history of the trade, and a fortnight’s notice had been given in order to secure a restoration of the 4s

list. Some of the employees had expressed their approval of the men's action, but they were unable to grant the concessions unless the others did so also. He was surprised that the Dudley and Halesowen men had resumed work, though they were prepared to support the Blackheath men on strike. In other words they wanted the Blackheath men to fight the battle, and that was unjust and unreasonable. If the men had been united an increase of wages would have been granted.

A delegate reported that one rivet maker had had to go to the workhouse because he could not earn sufficient money at his trade. It was agreed that it was useless to continue the strike unless the whole of the hands were prepared to drop their tools."

1911 Census

61, High Street

[1] *Julianna Hipkiss* (69), widow, beerhouse manageress, born Brettle Lane;

[2] *Eliza Hipkiss* (33), daughter, married 12 years, born Coombs Wood;

[3] *Albert Hipkiss* (12), grandson, school, born Blackheath:

Mrs. *Julianna Hipkiss*, beer retailer, 61, High Street. [1912], [1916]

Mrs. *Eliza Hipkiss*, beer retailer, 61, High Street. [1921]

Josiah Hill, beer retailer, 61, High Street. [1924]

1939 Register

61, High Street

[1] *Lawrence N. Dingley*, date of birth 24/7/1885, licensed victualler, married;

[2] *May Dingley*, dob 14/4/1894, licensed victualler, married;

[3] *Kenneth I. Dingley*, dob 08/2/1917, optician, single;

A Publican's license was granted on 2nd February 1949.

It was transferred to a full license on 27th April 1949.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/5/1953

"Three cakes which are lifesize replicas of Royal crowns and a fourth which is a model of the throne used for the crowning ceremony will be Coronation gifts from a Black Country woman to 100 children. The cakes – each weighing 10lb – took Miss May Cox (39), of The Crescent, Blackheath, several months to complete. She is to give them to two Coronation children's parties in the district.

The three crowns, finished in gold, white and purple and studded with coloured sequins, will be eaten at a party at the MALT SHOVEL HOTEL, Blackheath, on June 2.

Miss Cox's baking will also be a delight for the children of Clement Road, Blackheath, when the fare at their party on May 30 includes the 'throne', complete with a 'Stone of Scone.'

Each cake with its intricate decoration cost 13s. Miss Cox's baking has won her local fame, but her Coronation cakes recently drew criticism from Mr. Philip Harben, the television cook, when he was judging a competition at Birmingham's Bingley Hall. He said that because they were so elaborately decorated the 'crown' cakes 'did not look as though they had been made to be eaten,' but Blackheath children are hardly likely to agree with his verdict. Miss Cox's cookery received official recognition during the war. Because she was keeping house for her father and family of 10 after her mother's death, she was exempted from war work."

Arthur Priest – see also ROYAL EXCHANGE.

It was renamed RAILMAKERS in 1997.

Jeff Innes-Preece was married to Liz.

[2002]

It was renamed MALT SHOVEL. [2006]

Sharon Parkinson was married to Mick Tuohy.

Mick Tuohy was an ex professional footballer.

Halesowen News 19/5/2009

"A gambler who is thought to have enjoyed a £1,000 win at the betting office is believed to have fallen into a Cradley Heath brook and drowned whilst attempting to urinate. Alan Chapman, aged 64, had about £1,000 in cash in his pocket when his body was found in the brook off Bellevalle on December 29 last year. An inquest in Dudley today (Tuesday) heard that Mr. Chapman, described as a loner with no family or friends who liked to gamble, was found by a member of the public partially submerged in the water. PC Jo Morgan, from Halesowen CID, said his trousers were undone and there were slip marks on the bank, indicating that he may have been going to urinate. Mr. Chapman lived in a sparsely furnished ground floor flat in Victoria Road, Cradley Heath.

A neighbour told police that he had not been seen for a couple of days prior to his body being found.

In a statement, *Sharon Tuohy*, landlady at the MALT SHOVEL, High Street, Rowley Regis, said Mr. Chapman had been a regular for two years and had visited the pub every day for the previous ten months up until Christmas Eve. She described him as ‘a pleasant man’ who often fell asleep in the pub, because his bad back and legs kept him awake at night.

Black Country Coroner Robin Balmain recorded a verdict of Accidental Death, saying it was likely that he slipped and fell into the water and was unable to get out.”

[2014]

Closed [2015]

It reopened on 11th March, 2016.

[2019]

MALT SHOVEL

1, Siviters Lane / High Street, ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

Walter Showell and Son (leased) [1884]

LICENSEES

John Thomas Dixon [1869] – **1872**;

Job Taylor (**1872** – []

Ann Cooper [1873]

John Morris [] – **1876**;

Mrs. Tamar Morris (**1876** – [1878]

John Thomas Dixon [1880] – [1881]

Benjamin Oakley [1900] – [1901]

Mrs. Eliza Oakley [1904] – **1909**;

Elizabeth Cox (**1909** – [1910]

NOTES

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

It had a beer and wine license.

County Express 30/1/1869

“A new court Foresters Pride, No.5305 was opened on Monday last, at the house of Mr. *Dixon*, MALT SHOVEL INN, Rowley. The members of the opening of court No.4598 met at their court house Mr. Thomas Ganner, Powke Lane, at 2 o’clock in the afternoon, and walked in procession headed by the South Staffordshire Sax Horn band, to the new court house, where the opening ceremony was performed by Brother Homer, DCR, assisted by Brother Holyoak, PDCR of the Dudley and Cradley Heath District, Brother Dingley, CR, Brother Bennett, SCR, and Brother Cashmon, PCR, officers of the opening court, when twenty members were initiated, to form the new court, after which ample justice was done to a good supper which had been provided for them by the host. When the cloth was withdrawn, Mr. Phillips, surgeon, of Rowley, was called to the chair, and DCR Homer to the vice-chair. The Chairman said it afforded him great pleasure as a Forester to come amongst them that evening, he had known that an institution, such as had been opened that day, had long been needed in Rowley, and went on to speak of the great advantages that were to be derived by joining the Ancient Order of Foresters, and called on all present to work together in the bonds of Forestry, in unity, benevolence, and concord, which if they would, success would be sure to crown their efforts, and sat down after proposing the health of the Queen, which was responded to by the Band playing God Save the Queen, the chairman next proposed the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Band playing God Bless the Prince of Wales.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/8/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for Rowley Regis division was held on Friday, at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill.....
The following applications were made for alehouse licenses.....”

John Thomas Dixon, MALT SHOVEL INN, Rowley. Application refused.”

1871 Census

Rowley Village – Holly House

[1] *John Thomas Dixon* (40), maltster and retail brewer, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Eliza Dixon (40), wife, born Dudley;

[3] Anne Henrietta Dixon (17), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Eliza Dixon (16), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Helen Dixon (15), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[6] *John Thomas Dixon* (11), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[7] Frederick W. Dixon (10), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[8] Horace H. Dixon (6), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[9] Ernest E. Dixon (4), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[10] Hannah Taylor (17), general servant, born Rowley Regis:

AND (next entry)

Rowley Village – MALT SHOVEL INN

[1] Emma George (17), barmaid, born Pensnett:

Stourbridge Observer 22/4/1871

“*John Thomas Dixon*, landlord of the MALT SHOVEL, at Rowley, was charged by Superintendent Mills with permitting drunkenness in his house, on the 12th inst. Mr. Hayes defended.

Police-constable Hume said he visited the defendant’s house at twenty minutes past four. He found from fifteen to twenty men in the kitchen, all of whom were drunk, making a great disturbance, and quarrelling. Defendant was not there at the time. Saw a female, and told her to get them out as soon as possible. He then went to the bar. Could not see defendant.

Cross-examined: I saw Police-constables Slinn and Jackson higher in the village. Did not ask for the defendant. One of the men named Smith asked me to drink out of a quart jug of ale. I refused.

Police-constable Slinn said he visited defendant’s house at 5.40, and again at half past six. Found a number of drunken men in the house. Told the barmaid he thought they had had sufficient drink, and asked for the master. She said he was not in. The last time he visited the house saw defendant, who, in answer to him said he did not see the men were drunk.

Cross-examined: I did see a number of men, from fifteen to twenty. I saw a man named Smith who was drunk. I did have a glass of ale with him. I did order the tap to be stopped.

Police-constable Jackson was in plain clothes. Police-constable Jackson said there were about twenty men in the house, and some women. They were causing a great disturbance in the house.

Mr. Hayes addressed the Bench for the defence, and contended that it had not been proved that the persons in the house were drunk, and called Emma George, barmaid, who said that the first time the police came in they said nothing; the second time there were about 12 in the kitchen. Slinn ordered me to stop the tap. I did so. None of the men were drunk. After the tap was ordered to be stopped Smith ordered a glass of ale for Slinn, and he paid for it.

Henry Smith, Joseph Churchill, and Isaac Cashmore were called to prove there were no men drunk, and that all were peaceable.

Mr. Barrs said he could not reconcile the conduct of Police-constable Slinn, who had stopped the tap because men were drunk and making a noise, and yet he accepts of a glass of ale from a man who is said to be drunk. The Bench thought such conduct bad, and should dismiss the case.”

Stourbridge Observer 19/4/1873

“Joseph Westwood, James Fisher, Robert Jones, and Thomas Batty, were charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the house of *Ann Cooper*, landlady of the MALT SHOVEL INN, Rowley, on the 7th. Mr. Addison appeared to prosecute.

Complainant said that there was a dispute between two men, named Troman and Westwood, and they began to fight. Another man tried to part them, when the defendant began to beat that man, and became very abusive, and refused to leave the house. She stopped the tap. They still refused to go. Fined 1s each and costs; in default 14 days.”

John Morris was married to *Tamar*.

County Advertiser 28/4/1876

“John Siviter, a youth, was charged with being disorderly on the 11th inst, at the MALT SHOVEL INN, Rowley, which he refused to quit when ordered to do so by the proprietor. *Tamar Morris*, the landlady, and her son proved the case, and defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs.”

John Morris died in the 4th quarter of 1876.

County Advertiser 12/1/1878

“Henry Tromans, labourer, and Joyce Hackett, a young woman, were charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of *Tamar Morris*, at Rowley, on 26th ult. Mr. Hayes was for the prosecution.

It was alleged that at about nine o’clock on the night of the date mentioned, the two defendants, with others, entered Mrs. *Morris*’s house and asked for ale, which she refused to supply in consequence of the disturbance they created. They then became disorderly, and would not leave when she ordered them. Police-constable Stiles came in and assisted in getting them out. A charge was

preferred against the male prisoner of having assaulted the officer outside the house, in support of which Stiles said he was struck, knocked down, and kicked. Mr. Addison, who prosecuted in this case, called witnesses to corroborate the officer's evidence. The Bench decided to fine the woman 2s 6d and costs (or seven days) for the offence with which she was charged; and Tromans, for refusing to quit, 10s and costs, in default, a month; and for the assault on the policeman to send him to prison for another month's hard labour, without the option of a fine."

County Advertiser 16/11/1878

"David Tromans was charged by *John Thomas Dixon* with unlawfully withholding the sum of £30 15s 11d belonging to a Foresters' lodge of which he (Mr. *Dixon*) was the treasurer. Mr. Addison appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. W. S. Hayes for the defence.

It appeared that William Bennett, a member of the Foresters' Pride Lodge, No.5305, held at the MALT SHOVEL INN, Rowley, became disabled by accidentally breaking his arm in an ironwork, and the lodge started a subscription for his benefit in order to secure him a livelihood. Defendant and another man were deputed to attend the various courts and solicit help, and Tromans collected £42 0s 11d, which he refused to give up unless he was paid £9 for his work, the lodge being only willing that he should have £5.

Mr. Addison said he had collected £47 8s, but this was afterwards corrected, the proper amount being that stated above. He quoted the law to show that defendant had committed an offence by withholding the money.

Mr. Hayes said the whole matter of the dispute was £4, the question being whether defendant should have £5 or £9 for his trouble. He had 57 journeys, so that the latter amount would not over remunerate him.

Mr. Addison said that out of the £42 0s 11d collected, the lodge had agreed to allow to defendant's credit £8 for a cart; £5 for a set of harness (both for Bennett); £5 for his own trouble; and £3 5s he had paid over to the treasurer. The balance of £20 15s 11d they claimed from the defendant.

Mr. Bassano said he thought the best thing the defendant could do was to pay over the whole amount, and sue the lodge for the compensation for his trouble, if he thought he was entitled to more than the £5.

Mr. *Dixon*, who was the treasurer of the lodge in question, was then examined by Mr. Addison, and read from the court book minutes of resolutions starting the subscription for Bennett, and appointing Tromans and Edward Foster to solicit and collect subscriptions from other lodges in the district; also decreeing that Tromans should receive £5 for his work. The lodge advanced Bennett £20 on account of the fund, but Tromans refused to give up the money he had collected till he had £9.

In cross-examination he said there were about forty courts in the district, and defendant would have to visit each.

Isaac Cashmore, secretary to the court, was called to prove the resolution read by *Dixon*, and stated Tromans was present when they were passed.

Under cross-examination he admitted that there had been a difficulty at first in getting men to go round.

Mr. Hayes, on the Bench again saying they thought defendant must give up the money and get his commission how he could, submitted that the lodge was not concerned in the affair at all. The subscription was for Bennett, and not for the lodge, and the money was to be paid to Bennett.

The magistrates said there could be no question after the evidence of the starting of the fund and the resolutions passed, that the defendant was acting under the lodge.

Mr. Hayes then agreed to pay the £20 15s 11d, and the case so ended."

John Thomas Dixon was the son of *John Thomas* and Eliza.

County Express 9/10/1880

"The District Meeting of the Dudley and Cradley Heath District of Ancient Order of Foresters was held at the MALT SHOVEL INN, Rowley, on Monday last, Bro. Shinner, DCR, in the chair. The usual business of district meetings having been done, Bro. T. H. Smith of court Royal Alma, was elected DCR, Bro. Homer re-elected District Secretary, and Bro. B. Pearson re-elected District Treasurer. The District Arbitrators and County Arbitrators were also elected. A long discussion took place with reference to a District Auditor, but the question was deferred to next meeting. The District numbers between three and four thousand members, and is altogether in a satisfactory position."

Dudley Herald 16/10/1880

"Shadrach Hackett was charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of *John Thomas Dixon*, MALT SHOVEL INN, Rowley, on the 5th inst. He was further charged with damaging the door and window.

The landlord proved the charges, and defendant was fined 20s and costs and 4s 6d damage, or in default 28 days."

1881 Census

1, Siviters Lane – MALT SHOVEL

[1] *John Thomas Dixon* (22), unmarried, retailer of beer and wine, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Anne Henrietta Dixon (27), sister, housekeeper, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Eliza Siviter (16), general servant, born Rowley Regis:

Smethwick Telephone 18/10/1884

"Mr. Thomas Cooksey is instructed to sell by Public Auction at the MALT SHOVEL INN, Rowley Regis on 22nd October. Freehold licensed inn known as the MALT SHOVEL INN. Fronting High Street and Siviters Lane in the centre of the town of Rowley and commands a good position for doing an extensive and lucrative business. The house and premises comprise Bar, Tap Room,

Parlour, Sitting Room, Entrance Hall, Club Room (16' x 13'), Bed Rooms, Capital Brewhouse, good Cellaring and every description of outhouses. There is a side entrance (with lock up doors) to stable yard and rear of the premises and an abundant supply of pure water. These premises are now in the occupation of Messrs. Walter Showell and Son at the very moderate rental of £40 per year and all that exceedingly substantial Freehold Malthouse, adjacent to the last lot with frontage to Siviters Lane, 65' x 20'."

Dudley and District News 9/7/1881

"A petition in liquidation has been filed in Dudley County Court on behalf of *John Thomas Dixon*, Rowley Village, maltster, liabilities £2,900; Mr. Shakespeare, Oldbury, solicitor to the debtor; Mr. Spencer Dominy, receiver."

London Gazette 12/6/1881

"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 *John Thomas Dixon*, of No.41, Rowley-village, Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, Maltster.

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 29th day of July, 1881, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 5th day of July, 1881.

Wm. Shakespeare, Church-street, Oldbury, in Birmingham, Solicitor for the Debtor."

Benjamin Oakley, beer and wine retailer, 1, Siviters Lane. [1900]

County Advertiser 10/11/1900

"On Monday morning Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest at the MALT SHOVEL INN, Rowley, concerning the death of Ann Heath (45), formerly residing at Siviters Lane, Rowley, and who died suddenly on the 2nd inst.

The husband, John Heath, stated that his wife, who was deaf and dumb, had enjoyed very good health. On the 1st and 2nd insts she had been engaged washing, and at seven o'clock on the night of the latter date his daughter called his attention to her mother. Witness saw his wife reel on to a chair, and immediately afterwards began twitching at the mouth. Dr. Beasley was called in, but found deceased unconcious. She died an hour later. Dr. Beasley deposed to make a post mortem examination of the body, and attributed death to apoplexy. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes."

County Advertiser 29/12/1900 - Advert

"Rowley, Windmill End, Netherton, and Bilston.

Large and Very Important Sale of Freehold Licensed Houses, the value of which cannot be over-estimated, situate in the midst of the above great Industrial Centres, and necessarily surrounded by a large Working Class Population.

To Brewers, Wine and Spirit Merchants, Maltsters, and Others.

Herbert Humphries, FAI, has the privilege of announcing that he has been especially instructed to Offer by Public Auction, at the DUDLEY ARMS HOTEL, Dudley, on Tuesday, January 15th, 1901, at 6.30 o'clock, subject to Conditions of Sale then to be then read.

All those Nine Valuable Freehold Licensed Properties, which will be Sold with early possession and absolutely Free from all Trade Ties, and Two Freehold Shops and Premises, as fully set out in the following details.....

Lot 2 Comprises the Splendidly-situated, Double-fronted Inn, the MALT SHOVEL, Rowley Regis, in the occupation of Mr. *B. Oakley*, Licensed for Beer and Wine. This Lot has a most commanding Corner Position on the main road, and is undoubtedly the best and most compact Inn in the district.

The Accommodation comprises Vaults, with Out-door Window; Tap Room, comfortable Smoke Room, Private Kitchen, Scullery, Wash-house, excellent Cellaring, with Rolling Way; Three Bed Chambers, Club Room, 24ft 6in by 13ft; Two w.c.s, Stable, with Room over; Private Yard, with Gateway Entrance.

The Situation is a remarkably good one, having a frontage to Siviters Lane of 40ft 10in, and to High Street of 54ft 8in.....

Remarks. This Sale offers a most exceptional opportunity to Brewers and others of acquiring Most Valuable Licensed Properties. Each lot occupies a fine trading position, being surrounded by Large Works, Blast Furnaces, Collieries, Brickworks, &c, &c, which gives employment to a dense population.

For further particulars, and to inspect conditions of sale, apply to the Auctioneer.

Offices: Brierley Hill and Stourbridge."

1901 Census

1, Siviters Lane

[1] *Benjamin Oakley* (59), publican, born Sedgley;

[2] *Eliza Oakley* (59), wife, born Sedgley;

[3] *Joseph Oakley* (21), son, coal miner (loader), born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Lucy Oakley* (18), daughter, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 24/11/1906

"On Tuesday evening Mr. W. L. Lewis (deputy coroner) held an inquest at the MALT SHOVEL INN, Rowley Regis, concerning the death of Randolph Skitt, aged eleven months, whose parents reside at Siviters Lane, Rowley, and who died on the 18th inst from the effects of severe scalds sustained on the 4th. The evidence showed that on the latter date the deceased was standing by a

screen when he upset a cup of tea the contents of which fell upon him. He was badly scalded about the chest, and death ensued on the 18th inst, from shock. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Leeds Mercury 1/6/1909 - Advert

“To Let, George Hotel, Bromsgrove; best position in the town; ingoing about £500 to £600; possession June 27th. Also MALT SHOVEL, Rowley Regis, Beerhouse; ingoing say about £50; possession this month. Personal application preferable. Apply Thomas Salt and Co. Ltd., Brewers, Burton-on-Trent.”

County Express 12/2/1910

“On Wednesday the annual general licensing sessions for the Old Hill petty sessional division were held at the Police Office..... Supt. Johnson read his annual report, which stated that the number of licenses for renewal in the division was 152..... The Bench decided to defer the renewal of the licenses of MALT SHOVEL INN, Rowley Regis, kept by *Elizabeth Cox* to the adjourned licensing sessions, in order that notices 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..... MALT SHOVEL, Rowley Regis, ante-1869 beerhouse.”

County Express 8/7/1910

“At Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, the application which was made by Mr. Plant the previous week for the transfer of the license of the MALT SHOVEL, Rowley, in which an important point was made, was not proceed with. Mr. W. Waldron appeared to oppose the application.”

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..... MALT SHOVEL, Rowley Regis 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. Annual report of the County Licensing Committee..... 1910 Cases. The Commissioners of Inland Revenue gave their decisions..... MALT SHOVEL, Rowley Regis, £654.”

Closed

MANCHESTER HOUSE

15, High Street / Heath Street, BLACKHEATH

OWNERS

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1937]
Enterprise Inns [2002]

LICENSEES

Henry Targett [1871] – [1896]
George Evans [1901] – 1903;
Thomas ‘Tom’ Darby (1903 – 1935);
John William Stokes (1935 – 1951);
John Wilkinson (1951 – 1954);
Arthur Reginald Raybould (1954 – 1956);
Michael Conway (1956 – 1957);
Frederick Westwood (1957);
Harold Fortnam (1957 – 1958);
Harold Mallen (1958 – 1960);
Peter Smith Boyfield (1960);
Frederick Joseph Willetts (1960 – [1965])

Tony Allen []

NOTES

It had an ante '69 beerhouse license.

Henry Targett = Henry Target

County Advertiser 27/8/1870

“The annual licensing meeting for the Old Hill Petty Sessional Division was held yesterday.....

The following were cautioned. Beerhouse keepers.....

Henry Targett, Black Heath.”

1871 Census

High Street

[1] *Henry Targett* (30), widower, grocer and beer seller, born Middlesex;

[2] William Warby (17), nephew, grocer's assistant, born Middlesex:

1881 Census

15+14, High Street

[1] *Henry Targett* (40), grocer and beer seller, born St. Georges, E. London;

[2] Eleanor Targett (32), wife, born Dudley;

[3] Elizabeth Targett (13), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Eleanor Targett (2), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Frank Targett (9 months), son, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Edward J. Rutter (22), grocer's assistant, born Huntington, Staffordshire;

[7] Eliza Banner (16), domestic servant, born Pensnett;

[8] John H. Hollies (18), porter, born Dudley:

1891 Census

15, High Street

[1] *Henry Targett* (50), grocer (master), born London;

[2] Eleanor Targett (43), wife, born Dudley;

[3] Eleanor Targett (12), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Rebecca Bastable (18), general servant, born Rowley Regis:

Henry Targett, beer retailer and grocer, 15, High Street. [1896]

County Advertiser 7/5/1898

“On Tuesday an inquest was held by Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner), at the MANCHESTER INN, High Street, Black Heath, concerning the death of James Cooper, aged eight months, who resided with his mother in Hackett Street, and died suddenly on the 20th ult. From the evidence adduced it appeared that on the date in question deceased was taken ill. Dr. Griffiths was summoned, but the child gradually grew worse, and died before his arrival. Police-sergeant Onions deposed to making inquiries, and finding no suspicious circumstances connected with the case. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

1901 Census

14, High Street

[1] *Henry Targett* (60), grocer, born London;

[2] Helena Targett (53), wife, born Dudley;

[3] Helena Gadd (22), daughter, married, born Blackheath;

[4] Rupert Gadd (24), son in law, nut and bolt traveller, born Blackheath:

AND

15, High Street

[1] *George Evans* (36), beer retailer, born Handsworth;

[2] Elizabeth R. Evans (31), wife, born West Bromwich:

County Express 15/2/1902

“On Friday morning in last week Mr. H. A. Pearson (South Staffordshire Coroner) held an inquest at the MANCHESTER INN, High Street, Blackheath, concerning the death of Arthur Golding (20), a pikeman, residing in Hackett Lane, Blackheath, Rowley Regis, who had been killed by a fall of coal at the Yew Tree Colliery, Rowley.

Mr. F. Meachem represented the owners of the colliery, and Mr. Makepeace (Assistant Inspector) attended on behalf of the Home Office.

The deceased commenced to work at the colliery on the previous Monday as a pikeman, and on Wednesday was instructed by the

overmen to put a sprag in a working place near to a gate road in which he was engaged in getting coal. He neglected to obey the orders of the overmen, Alfred Fellows and George Carter, to set the sprag, with a result about 1cwt of coal fell on him, breaking his back and killing him.

It was stated that although the deceased was very young he was an experienced workman.

The Coroner said unfortunately the deceased was responsible for his own death by neglecting to obey orders.

The jury returned a verdict that the deceased met his death by accident, the result of failing to obey orders.”

County Advertiser 12/4/1902

“Yesterday morning, Mr. H. A. Pearson (county coroner) held an inquest at the MANCHESTER HOUSE INN, High Street, Blackheath, on the body of Benjamin Golding (60), colliery manager, Hackett Street, who had died from poison accidentally administered. It appeared from the evidence of Sarah Jane Golding that deceased was ill with bronchitis and rheumatism, and attended by Dr. Beasley and Dr. Freer. On Wednesday evening he asked for his medicine and she gave him some liniment in mistake for the bronchitis medicine. He vomited, and Dr. Freer attended and gave him an emetic. He died at four the following evening. Dr. Freer made a post mortem examination, and gave evidence that death was due to syncope, the results of sconeite poisoning. Deceased had a large heart, weighing 25ozs instead of 10ozs. The jury returned a verdict of Death by Misadventure.”

Tipton Herald 17/1/1903

“Mr. A. A. Betham (deputy coroner) held an inquest on Saturday morning last at the MANCHESTER INN, Blackheath, touching the death of Sarah Ann Parkes (16), residing at Hackett Street, Blackheath, who died suddenly on the 7th inst, under peculiar circumstances.

Elizabeth Parkes, the mother of the girl, stated that her daughter had always been a healthy girl and on the 7th inst she went to work as usual and returned home at dinnertime and partook of a hearty meal. About five weeks ago Dr. Beasley attended the deceased for pains in the head.

Thomas Jones, hardware manufacturer, Halesowen Street, Blackheath, stated that the deceased had been employed as a blower at his hearth. On the 7th inst, when at work, he heard the deceased give a loud scream. He turned round and saw the deceased reel and fall down. He gave her some brandy and water, but she was unable to drink it. She did not make any complaint to him.

Dr. J. H. Beasley stated he had made a post mortem examination of the body and ascertained that death was due to a clot of blood in the left ventricle of the brain, as the result of natural causes.

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.

As the mother was in poor circumstances the jury subscribed 16s 6d.”

County Advertiser 7/7/1906

“On Tuesday night Mr. G. C. Lewis (coroner) held an inquest at the MANCHESTER INN, High Street, Blackheath, on the body of Sarah Rollason (71), formerly residing in Hackett Street, Blackheath, who died on the 2nd inst from the effects of injuries sustained on the 28th ult. The evidence showed that on the last date named the deceased accidentally fell and fractured several ribs. She received medical treatment, but death soon took place on the 2nd inst from shock. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

County Advertiser 23/3/1907

“Mr. G. C. Lewis (coroner) held an inquest yesterday week at the MANCHESTER INN, respecting the death of James Crumpton (42), miner, formerly living at Hackett Street, Blackheath, who died under singular circumstances on the 14th inst. The evidence showed that on the 25th of January deceased was working at the Lye Cross Colliery, Rowley, when he sustained an injury to his right shoulder. He was medically attended by Dr. Tibbetts, and on Wednesday week died suddenly in bed. Dr. Tibbetts, who had made a post mortem examination of the body, said he found on the root of the tongue a large ulcer of cancerous nature. Death was due to weakness through the cancer. A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned by the jury.”

1911 Census

High Street – MANCHESTER INN

[1] *Tom Darby* (35), widower, publican and butcher, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Clifford Darby (13), son, school, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Elsie Maud Darby (12), daughter, school, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Reginald Darby (10), son, school, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Doris Darby (8), daughter, school, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Edith Darby (6), daughter, school, born Rowley Regis;

[7] Ena Darby (4), daughter, school, born Rowley Regis;

[8] Leonard Lawson Darby (2), son, born Rowley Regis;

[9] Arthur Swain Williams (20), assists in business, born Rowley Regis:

Tom Darby, beer retailer, 15, High Street. [1912], [1924]

Bilston and Willenhall Times 24/3/1928

“The tragic death in the street of a Blackheath woman, on Friday night last week was inquired into by the coroner, Mr. Frank Cooper, at an inquest held at the BRITISH OAK INN, Old Hill, on Monday afternoon. The woman was Mary Rollinson (66), a widow, who lived at 47, John Street, Blackheath.

Evidence of identification was given by Ellen Wood, of Oldbury Road, Blackheath, a sister, who said she last saw Mrs. Rollinson alive at about 7.30pm on Friday, when she was at witness's house. She was then apparently in her usual health, and had never complained to witness about feeling ill.

Nellie Taylor, single woman, of 69, Beaumont Road, Blackheath, said that at 9.15pm on Friday, March 16th, she was walking across the bottom of Hackett Street when she saw a woman standing by the window of the public house on the corner of High Street and Hackett Street. Almost immediately upon witness seeing her the woman fell backwards on her head, and when witness went to her she found her to be unconscious. Water was obtained and an effort made to bring her round, but to no avail, and some bystanders carried her into the public house while witness went for the woman's son-in-law to an address given to her by someone who came on the scene, and knew the woman.

Dr. J. Howard Beasley, of Blackheath, gave evidence of being called to the MANCHESTER INN and examined Mrs. Rollinson, who was then dead. He had made a post-mortem examination, which revealed all the organs to be normal, with the exception of the heart, which showed marked valvular disease. Death was caused by syncope. The Coroner recorded a verdict of Death from Natural Causes."

Blackcountryman (Autumn 1981)

'Connop's Corner, Blackheath'

".....Soon after his [Joseph Connop] death the property [draper's shop] was sold to William Darby who, in addition to being a draper, was also the local undertaker. His two brothers Harry and *Tom* were innkeepers, Harry of the ROYAL OAK and *Tom* of the MANCHESTER. The ROYAL OAK, an ancient coaching station, stood on the site of the present traffic island opposite Connop's Corner. Harry hired black horses, cabs, hearses and coaches to William, thus keeping the undertaking business in the family....."

Tom Darby bred Staffordshire bull terriers.

Demolished

It was rebuilt in 1937.

A wine license was granted on 3rd March 1937.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/3/1937

"Rowley Regis licensing justices' adjourned meeting at Old Hill yesterday.....

'Wine licenses are of importance because it is common knowledge that at Christmas time a great deal of drunkenness was due to the terrible stuff which people were getting from cheap so-called British wines,' said Mr. W. H. Thompson, solicitor, when applying for a wine license for the VINE INN, High Street, Blackheath.

The application was granted, as was also a similar one in respect of the MANCHESTER HOUSE, High Street, Blackheath."

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/5/1937

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

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

MANCHESTER HOUSE, High Street, Blackheath, Rowley Regis.....

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

1939 Register

15, High Street

[1] *John W. Stokes*, date of birth 26/10/1916, publican, married;

[2] *Bertha Stokes*, dob 12/10/1906, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Annie Stokes*, dob 31/12/1876, unpaid domestic duties, widowed:

A Publican's license was granted on 2nd February 1949.

It was transferred to a full license on 27th April 1949.

Sandwell Evening Mail 15/3/1988

"Fifteen men have appeared at Warley magistrates court accused of conspiracy to cause violent disorder after being arrested by police who stopped a van in Whiteheath, Rowley Regis, on Saturday night.

They were all bailed to appear before magistrates at Smethwick on March 23 on condition that they did not visit four public houses in the Whiteheath and Blackheath areas – the MANCHESTER, the TRAVELLERS REST, the ROWLEY RAG, and the GATE INN. Thirteen of the defendants who appeared were from Rowley Regis....."

It closed in 2003.
It became an office of Britannia Building Society.

MINERS ARMS

CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

LICENSEES

William Barker [1861]

NOTES

Birmingham Journal 6/8/1859

“On Thursday an inquest was held before the coroner, G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, at the MINERS ARMS, on the body of a waggoner, named Richard Cross, who met with his death under the following circumstances. Deceased was in the employ of Messrs. Harper, iron merchants, Dudley, and on Tuesday last he left the Phoenix Works, Rowley Regis, with a cart load of iron. He then appeared to have been drinking. On his way he called at a public house, and had some more drink, and when he was about starting with the iron, a man offered to drive the horses if he would walk behind. Deceased refused to do so, and after abusing the man, started off with the iron himself, walking by the side of one of the horses. He had not got many yards, when he reeled against the animal and fell down, and the wheel of the waggon passed over his head and breast. He died in about ten minutes. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

MOON UNDER WATER

164-166, High Street, CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

J. D. Wetherspoon [1997], [2019]

LICENSEES

Lee David Sinclair [2002]
John Grant [2005] – [2007] manager
Maxine Tolley [2008] – [2009] manager
Gabrielle ‘Gabby’ Livesey [2010] – [2014] manager
Verity Legg [2015]
Ashley Baker [2016] manager
Gabrielle Tandy [2017] – [2019] manager

NOTES

It opened on 5th June 1997.

Halesowen News 27/10/2006

“Punters at a Cradley Heath pub can sup on some lesser-known beers and ales from across the globe as part of an 11-day festival. Marston’s Wicked Witch, Wychwood Hobgoblin, York Centurion’s Ghost, Highgate Lone Wolf, Ecaussinnes Fruit Beer (from Belgium) and Herold Black Chalice (from Czech Republic) are just some of the beers on offer at the MOON UNDER WATER, High Street, as part of the Full Moon festival. Bateman’s Strawberry Fields – specially brewed for the first time in 12 years – will also be for sale. Pub manager *John Grant* said, ‘The festival will give people the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of wonderful

beers from across the UK, which are not normally available in the area. There will also be two foreign beers.”

Halesowen News 15/7/2008

“Four people who brutally attacked police officers after a punch-up at a Cradley Heath pub have avoided spending time in prison because the prosecution took more than two years to get the case to court. Two officers were called to deal with trouble at the MOON UNDER WATER in the High Street and they were set upon by the four who were arrested after the use of CS gas and the arrival of police reinforcements.

Judge Nicholas Webb told the four, ‘Your behaviour was disgraceful. Police officers investigating yobbish violence in this pub were abused and set upon by you while they were doing their job. If you had come before a court within a reasonable time after this outrageous conduct each and everyone of you would be going into custody for between six and nine months. But that did not happen. This case lingered on for almost two and a quarter years and, in the meantime, you have all kept out of trouble.’

The Judge went on, ‘The court has to take into account the amount of time that has elapsed. The sentence will be reduced and suspended because of the delay.’

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told Sgt. Costas Cosman and PC Ben Dolan were attacked in the incident. One of them was punched and forced against a wall while the second needed an AIDS test after being smeared with blood by one of their attackers. They all admitted assault with intent to resist arrest and they were each given a four month jail term suspended for two years and told to carry out 150 hours community punishment. After the case Vinny Bolina for the Crown Prosecution Service said, ‘It is regrettable there were delays in this matter. The errors made were not all our fault and the situation was rectified as soon as we realised there were problems with the prosecution.’”

Halesowen News 8/9/2008

“Wine lovers can tickle their tastebuds with a selection of award-winning wines at three local pubs taking part in a 19-day wine festival. The MOON UNDER WATER in Cradley Heath, the BRITANNIA in Rowley Regis and the WILLIAM SHENSTONE in Halesowen are all taking part in the wine festival which runs from September 17 until October 5.

Six new wines will be on offer, including a Cabernet Sauvignon Shiraz 2006 from South Australia and a German Naked Grape Riesling 2006, none of which have previously been served in the pubs. The wines will be sold at £2.20 for a 175ml glass, at £2.95 for a 250ml glass and at £7.69 for a bottle.

The MOON UNDER WATER manager *Maxine Tolley* said, ‘The wine festival will give people the opportunity to sample a range of award-winning wines at affordable prices.’”

Halesowen News 20/4/2010

“A money-spinning charity stunt at a Cradley Heath pub brought tears to the eyes of staff and customers, but raised more than £200 for young cancer sufferers. The MOON UNDER WATER kitchen manager Daniel Jones volunteered to have his chest waxed with colleagues and clients paying £1 a strip. Diners were also invited to buy tickets to win a meal for two in a VIP booth with the waiter of their choice reserved just for them. Tomorrow (Friday) staff at the High Street venue hope to add to their fundraising by wearing England football tops to work to mark St. George’s Day for which they will pay a ‘fine’ and encourage customers to contribute. Money raised will go to CLIC Sargent Caring for Children with Cancer, the charity supported by owners Wetherspoons.”

Halesowen News 19/5/2010

“A World Cup-themed wine festival kicks off at three pubs on Monday (May 24) to mark the run up to the biggest football tournament. Cradley Heath’s the MOON UNDER WATER, High Street, the BRITANNIA, Halesowen Street, Rowley Regis and the WILLIAM SHENSTONE, Queensway, Halesowen, will be serving five wines from World Cup winning countries, as well as the official FIFA wine from host nation South Africa. The festival runs until Thursday June 10 – the day before the opening game in the World Cup. The six wines from Argentina, Italy, Brazil, Germany, England and South Africa have not previously been served at the pubs and complement up to 16 additional wines available during the festival.

The MOON UNDER WATER manager, *Gabrielle Livesey*, said, ‘I am sure our customers will enjoy the six festival wines, which have all been sourced with the World Cup in mind.’”

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. The MOON UNDER WATER manager, *Gabrielle Livesey*, said, ‘We are thrilled to be serving such a fantastic selection of beers from across the world as well as those brewed in the UK. The overseas beers have never previously been available as cask ales in the UK, which makes them even more special.....

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 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 Equal-

ity Day which is highlighting the benefit of a VAT reduction in the hospitality industry. The MOON UNDER WATER manager, *Gabrielle Livesey*, said, ‘We are proud to support the campaign to reduce the level of VAT within the pub industry. Customers coming to the pubs on Wednesday September 24 will find the price of their food and drink is lower than normal. We are keen to highlight the amount customers would save if VAT in pubs was lowered. So, for example, the total price of a meal and drinks for a customer at the pubs would be reduced from £10 to £9.25 on Tax Equality Day.’”

It was damaged by fire on 11th September 2015.

Closed.

It reopened a few days later.

Halesowen News 6/1/2016

“A boozy row has erupted between Sandwell Council and Wetherspoons 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.’”

It underwent complete refurbishment and redecoration in 2016, at a cost of £326,000.

Halesowen News 8/9/2017

“A trio of Black Country boozers are cutting prices to protest against tax rules they say are unfair. On Wednesday September 20 the MOON UNDER WATER in High Street, Cradley Heath, the BRITANNIA in Halesowen Street, Rowley Regis and the WILLIAM SHENSTONE in Queensway, Halesowen, will drop the cost of all food and drink by 7.5 per cent. The pubs are taking the action, which will last one day only, to support national Tax Equality Day, aimed at highlighting the benefit of a VAT reduction in the hospitality industry. All food and drink in pubs is subject to 20 per cent VAT while supermarkets have a zero VAT rate on all food. Publicans say the big retailers use that saving to sell alcohol at a discounted rate.

Gabrielle Tandy, manager of the MOON UNDER WATER, said, ‘We are keen to highlight the amount customers would save if VAT in pubs was lowered permanently. So, for example, the total price of a meal and drinks for an individual would be reduced from £10 to £9.25 on Tax Equality Day. A reduction in the level of VAT on a long-term basis will generate growth and create jobs in the important leisure and hospitality sector and help the high street of which pubs are an integral part.’”

Dudley News 25/11/2017

“Dudley News Loos at five borough Wetherspoon pubs have been rated among the best in the country. The FULL MOON in Dudley, the ABRAHAM DARBY at intu Merry Hill, the CLIFTON in Sedgley were all given a platinum star rating in the Loo of the Year Awards 2017.

Inspectors also gave the top rating to the MOON UNDER WATER in Cradley Heath and the BRITANNIA in Rowley Regis. Meanwhile, gold ratings were given to the WATERFRONT INN in Brierley Hill and the WILLIAM SHENSTONE in Halesowen. The awards, celebrating their 30th anniversary this year, aim to highlight and improve standards of ‘away from home’ toilet provision across the UK. Loo of the Year Awards inspectors made unannounced visits to thousands of toilets at sites across the UK, in order to judge them. All of the toilets were graded from bronze to platinum – unacceptable toilets were not graded at all. The platinum rating was only given to outlets which offered ‘exceptional toilets.’

Toilets were judged against numerous criteria, including décor and maintenance, cleanliness, accessibility, hand washing and drying equipment and overall management.....

Mike Bone, managing director of the awards scheme, added, ‘The toilets at all seven pubs have been designed and fitted out to a very high standard and are both clean and well maintained. The pubs richly deserve their awards.’”

Halesowen News 22/5/2018

“A lively programme of more than 40 events and activities in 14 community venues has now been confirmed for Cradley Heath Arts Festival 2018.....

The MOON UNDER WATER will be celebrating 21 years in Cradley Heath with a live band on the evening of Tuesday, June 5.”

Dudley News 2/8/2018

“Wetherspoon’s pubs to host gin festival. An 11-day gin festival is coming to Black Country pubs later this month. The MOON UNDER WATER in High Street, Cradley Heath, the BRITANNIA in Halesowen Street, Rowley Regis, and the WILLIAM SHENSTONE in Queensway, Halesowen, will have numerous award-winning and flavoured gins on offer throughout. The FULL MOON in High Street, Dudley, the ABRAHAM DARBY at intu Merry Hill, the CLIFTON in Bull Ring, Sedgley and the WATERFRONT INN in Level Street, Brierley Hill, will also be involved in the festival, which will run from Friday, August 17 to Monday, August 27.”

Halesowen News 1/2/2019

“It will be gin o’clock at several pubs across the Black Country thanks to an 18-day festival paying homage to the tippie this month. Wetherspoons pubs in the area will each be serving up to 15 gins not previously available in the establishments. The MOON UNDER WATER in High Street, Cradley Heath, the BRITANNIA in Halesowen Street, Rowley Regis and the WILLIAM SHENSTONE in Queensway, Halesowen are among those taking part. Also genning up on their gin are the FULL MOON in Dudley High Street and the ABRAHAM DARBY at Merry Hill, the CLIFTON in Sedgley and the WATERFRONT INN in Level Street, Brierley Hill. The gin festival will run from Thursday, February 14 to Sunday, March 3 inclusive. There will be a number of flavoured gins among the selection including heather, dandelion, juniper, raspberries, vanilla, damsons, blackberries and rose petal. The festival gins include Aber Falls Orange Marmalade Gin, Adnams Copper House Pink Gin, Didsbury Gin Raspberry & Elderflower, Eden Mill Love Gin Liqueur, Greenall’s Wild Berry Gin and The Lakes Damson Gin Liqueur.

The MOON UNDER WATER manager *Gabrielle Tandy* said, ‘The festival will showcase some wonderful gins from across Britain.’

The FULL MOON manager Lee Cartwright added, ‘They have not previously been available in the pub and I am sure that our customers will enjoy drinking them.’

Tasting notes on all of the gins plus guidance on the best mixers – which are included free during the festival – for each gin will be available in the pubs. During the festival, the pubs will continue to serve their regular range of up to 12 gins.”

[2019]

NAVIGATION

137, Gorsty Hill Road / Waterfall Lane, (Granville Road), (Slack Hillock), (Gorsty Hill), OLD HILL

OWNERS

Miss Martha Smith [1890]

Atkinson Ltd. [1898]

LICENSEES

Thomas Lowe [1849] – [1850]

John Cole [1851]

John Nock [1854]

John Cley [1857] – **1858**;

Peter Turner (**1858** – []

William Smith [1858] – [1884]

Thomas Weston [] – **1891**;

Charles Cowton (**1891** – [1892]

Benjamin Dingle [1896]

William Pearson (**1897** – [1898]

NOTES

Gorsty Hill [1861], [1868]

137, Slack Hillock [1881]

137, Gorsty Hill Road [1891]

Waterfall Lane

Aris’s Birmingham Gazette 3/4/1854 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Property, at Gorsty Hill, known as the NAVIGATION INN.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Bateman (by the direction of the Mortgagee), at the house of Mrs. Lucy Tibbetts CROWN INN, Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, Rowley, on Monday next, April 10, at six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be produced.

All that excellent old-licensed and well-situated Public House, called the NAVIGATION INN, with Butcher's Shop, Outbuildings, large Garden, and Premises belonging, situated near the north entrance of the Canal Tunnel, at Gorsty Hill, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, now in the occupation of Mr. *John Nock*.

The above Inn is well situated for carrying on an extensive business, in the vicinity of various Works, and in a thickly-populated and fast-increasing district.

For other particulars apply to the Auctioneer, or at the offices of Messrs. Robinson and Fletcher, Solicitors, Dudley.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/4/1854 - Advert

“The Sale of the NAVIGATION INN and Premises, at Gorsty Hill, Rowley, advertised to be Sold by Mr. Bateman, at the CROWN INN, Waterfall Lane, this day, Will Not Take Place.

Robinson and Fletcher, Solicitors, Dudley.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 20/9/1854

“Unjust Weights and Measures. No less than 52 delinquents of this description were today fined as follows.....

Rowley Regis..... *John Nock*, four pints, 5s.”

The Advertiser 9/1/1857

“*John Clee* [sic], landlord of the NAVIGATION INN, Rowley Regis, was charged with having his house open during the hours of Divine service, on the 27th ult.

Sub-inspector Burton stated that about twenty minutes past three on the day in question, he entered defendant's house, and found seven men in a back room, with a quart of ale.

Fined 5s, with costs.”

William Smith = William Smyth

County Advertiser 18/9/1858

“Valuable Freehold Old-Licensed Public House and Premises, at Gorsty Hill, Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. W. Hawkins (by order of the Mortgagees) at the house of Mrs. Lucy Tibbetts, the CROWN INN, Gorsty Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, on Monday, the 4th day of October 1858, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions.

All that excellent well-accustomed Old-Licensed Public House, known as the NAVIGATION INN, with the Garden, Land and Premises adjoining, and held with the same and containing with the site of the Buildings about an acre and a half, now in the occupation of *William Smith*, bounded on one side by property of Mr. William Finney, and on the other side by property belonging to Mr. John Wright; and in front thereof by the Dudley and Netherton Canal, and by the side of the Turnpike Road leading from Dudley to Halesowen.

The House comprises front parlour and tap room, back parlour, three chambers, club room, two cellars, larder and brewhouse, with slaughterhouse, two stables, piggeries, &c, adjoining, and a well of excellent water. The garden is large and productive.

The House is well situated, being in a populous and improving neighbourhood, and is doing a good trade.

For further particulars apply to Messrs. Coldicott and Canning, Solicitors, Dudley; or the Auctioneer, Brierley Hill.”

1861 Census

Gorsty Hill

[1] *William Smith* (45), victualler, born Madeley, Shropshire;

[2] Mary Smith (33), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Sarah Ann Smith (15), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Rosannah Smith (11), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Martha Smith (7), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Henry Smith (16), boarder, labourer, born Birmingham:

Worcestershire Chronicle 1/10/1862

“*William Smith*, licensed victualler, Gorsty Hill, was summoned for having, on the 16th inst, unlawfully sold a quantity of ale on a race course without being duly licensed to do so. Defendant pleaded guilty, but urged that he had applied to the Excise for a license, and was informed that a license was not required, and that he might sell what he wished during the wake. The Clerk pointed out to the Bench that by the 25th Vic. chap.22, sec.13, the Commissioners of Inland Revenue could grant permission to licensed victuallers to sell on race courses after the consent of two Justice of the Peace had been obtained. He further suggested that as the Act was a new one, it could not be very well known, and that all purposes might be served if the defendant would plead guilty and pay costs. The defendant agreed to this course, and the case was dismissed.

John Wright and James Tromans, publicans at Gorsty Hill, were brought up on similar charges, and were dismissed under the same conditions.”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/12/1863

“The Explosion at the Saltwells Colliery

Mr. E. Hooper, one of the Coroners for South Staffordshire, yesterday concluded the enquiry respecting the death of James Stringer, one of the four unfortunate men killed at a pit of the above colliery, belonging to the Earl of Dudley, on the morning of the 30th of October. The adjourned inquest was held at the house of Mr. *William Smith*, the NAVIGATION INN, Gosty Hill. Mr. Owen (of the firm Bourne and Owen, Dudley) was present on behalf of the Earl of Dudley; Mr. J. P. Baker, the Inspector of Mines, attended officially. Mr. Fletcher, the manager of the colliery, was likewise in attendance.

It will be remembered that on Monday last the facts of the case were investigated by Mr. Robinson, one of the Worcestershire Coroners; and James Stringer, the subject of the present enquiry, having died within the jurisdiction of Mr. Hooper, the Staffordshire Coroner, it was requisite to pursue the investigation.

The Coroner said he had received a letter from Mr. Smith, Lord Dudley’s agent, announcing that, in consequence of a communication from him (the Coroner) he had determined to reward the man who had in such a praiseworthy manner attended to the deceased, Stringer.

Thomas Bunn, doggy of the pit, was called, and had the evidence given by him on Monday read over to him. The witness identified the lamp produced by the police constable, and said that the copy of his testimony just read over was correct. He did not know Stringer, but knew that he must have been at work that morning. Witness descended at half-past five that morning, before the workmen.

Mr. John Hughes, mining surveyor, handed in plans of the Saltwells Colliery, together with sections of the works, which were fully explained to the Jury by Mr. Baker, Government Inspector.

The witness Bunn continued: He did not see the men smoking that morning. After the occurrence all the powder in the can had been exploded. The can was usually put in a hole about the size of witness’s head, but could not say whether it was sulphur or powder which had caused the explosion. He had received the safety lamp from Ben Smith, the banksman, and felt certain that it was in perfect order. In reply to Mr. Owen, witness said that the men would, if they could, get powder from the can, for the purpose of facilitating their work.

James Knight, a sinker at the pit, was called, and had his evidence given before the Worcestershire Coroner read over to him. He said that the lamp was screwed up when it was given over to him.

Ben Smith deposed that, according to their common practice, the men went down smoking on the morning of the accident.

An additional witness, James Hodgkins, said: I am a miner, and have been employed at the Saltwells Colliery, where I was at the bottom of the pit on the morning of the 30th of October. I was blown over by the explosion, and fetched a lamp when I had recovered myself. I first saw Higgs in the east road. I found the deceased Stringer further up the gate road, a distance of about twenty yards. Stringer was lying on his back, his head being towards me. I helped to carry him out; he was badly burnt. I found Heeney on the other side of the road, some yards further on – a few yards from the ‘fault.’ Heeney must have been near the ‘fault;’ he told me so himself. I was under the impression that the explosion had arisen from sulphur.

By Mr. Baker: I heard but one report. Stringer said to me, ‘Oh, Jem, I’m smashed against that skip.’ I found the skip turned up. (This, as shown by the plan, would be but a very short distance from the spot where the powder was kept.)

Mr. Baker observed that this evidence threw more light upon the matter than any testimony yet adduced.

By Mr. Owen: I smelled the burnt sulphur.

Mr. Owen said that the agents of the Earl of Dudley were most anxious to afford every facility for soliciting the truth.

Richard Taylor, another miner, proved having brought up the deceased, and taken him home.

Police-constable Moss produced the remains of a pair of trousers belonging to the deceased man Higgs, and one of the pockets of which was entirely blown or burnt away. The theory sought to be founded on this fact was that Higgs had helped himself to some of the powder from the can, which had been ignited by a spark from his pipe, and thus occasioned the melancholy accident.

Mr. Baker then went minutely into the evidence, stating his opinion, as previously expressed at the inquest on Monday, as to the cause of the explosion.

The Coroner summed up, and the Jury found a verdict to the effect that the deceased had been killed by an explosion, the cause of which there was no evidence to show.

The Foreman of the Jury said he was thoroughly convinced that the ventilation of the pit was good, but that the Jury thought that increased care should be taken regarding the powder in the pits.

Mr. Fletcher observed that the powder was given out by the charter-master, but that so far as he was concerned, every effect should be given to the recommendation of the Jury.”

Stourbridge Observer 19/8/1865

“On Saturday last, an inquest was held at the house of Mr. *W. Smith*, NAVIGATION INN, before Mr. North, Deputy Coroner, touching the death of a man named David Law, aged 61 years. From the evidence adduced, it appears that the deceased left home on the Thursday night previous, for the purpose of going to his club, which was held at the PIG AND WHISTLE INN. He left the club house at ten o’clock, but not returning home, information was given of the fact to Police-constable Davies, who having got assistance, at once commenced searching the canal, which the deceased would have to pass on his way home. After dragging for some length of time, they found the body of the deceased in a basin of the canal called Collis’ Basin. The jury found a verdict of Found Drowned. The Coroner intimated that the basin of the canal in question, had better be a little more properly fenced, as its present fencing was in a shocking and defective state.”

Stourbridge Observer 6/7/1867

“John Cory, William Munslow, and John Munslow were charged by Police-constable Hume with assaulting him whilst in the execution of his duty on the 27th ult. Complainant said that he had a warrant for John Munslow for bastardy arrears. He appre-

hended him near the NAVIGATION public house. There were some people outside, and he took prisoner into the house. William Munslow said that he (meaning the prisoner) was not going out of the house that night. Witness caught hold of the prisoner, and William Munslow seized witness by the collar. John Munslow offered his brother his watch. Witness told him to have nothing to do with it. All three of them fell on the floor together. William said he had got his watch, and dared witness to take it off him, and also told witness to loose him. William then again took hold of witness by the collar, and the two of them bent him over the beer machine. Witness held John with his left hand, and pushed William with his right hand. Witness got John into the passage, and Cory cried out 'Fasten the door.' Witness was then struck with a basin from behind, but at length got outside. Cory said, 'Now Jack don't be took,' and seized the officer by the collar, and struck at him, but he warded off the blow. The landlord then took hold of Cory and told him to be quiet. John Munslow said he would not be taken, and said to witness, 'Come into the cut,' and seized him round the waist, and tried to put him into the cut. With the assistance of the landlord witness got John to the station. William followed, and the officer locked him up as well. He afterwards apprehended Cory with the assistance of Police-constable Shenstone.

William Smith, landlord of the NAVIGATION INN, gave corroborative evidence as to the resistance made by the prisoner. The Bench did not consider the case proved against William Munslow, and discharged him. John Munslow was fined 2s 6d and costs, and John Cory 5s and costs; in default 7 days."

1871 Census

Slack Hillock

- [1] *William Smith* (54), publican, born Madley, Shropshire;
- [2] *Mary Smith* (43), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Martha Smith* (17), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Samuel Lowe* (12), nephew, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 14/4/1877

"*William Smith*, NAVIGATION INN, charged Henry Pugh with being disorderly and refusing to quit his premises when ordered to do so. Complainant said defendant and some other men came into his house, and asked for some ale. He then called two men in who were drunk, and witness accordingly refused to supply the ale. On this defendant became disorderly, and would not go out of the house when ordered. Fined 2s 6d and costs, or fourteen days' imprisonment."

County Express 25/10/1879

"On Thursday last an inquest was held at the NAVIGATION INN, Old Hill, on the body of *Eliza Siviter*, aged 18, late of Tower Street, Birmingham, whose body was discovered in the Birmingham canal, near Old Hill Railway Station, on Tuesday. The deceased left her home on Monday for the purpose of visiting some friends at Halesowen and Blackheath, and left her grandfather's house at the latter place shortly before nine o'clock at night, intending to proceed to Birmingham by the last train from Old Hill. There are persons who state that a young woman answering the description of the deceased was seen on Monday night inquiring the way to Old Hill railway Station, and as she would have to pass along the side of the canal for some distance, it is assumed that she fell accidentally into the water. There were no marks of violence on the body. The inquiry was adjourned until Tuesday next. On Thursday last the body of a newly-born female child was found in the Birmingham canal at Waterfall Lane, Old Hill. There were no clothes upon the body, or anything which might give a clue as to how it came there. The Coroner held a preliminary inquest upon the body, and adjourned it afterwards until Tuesday next in order that further inquiries might be made."

County Advertiser 1/11/1879

"On Tuesday afternoon Mr. Edwin Hooper (district coroner) resumed an inquiry at the NAVIGATION INN, Old Hill, touching the death of *Eliza Siviter* (18) warehouse-woman, Theodore Street, Birmingham, who was found dead in the canal the previous Tuesday The Coroner said when the inquiry was opened there was a doubt in his mind as to whether the child, found two days afterwards near to the same spot as was deceased's body, belonged to her, but the evidence had entirely cleared this up, and there was no connection between the two. The jury returned a verdict of Accidentally Drowned, and recommended that a fencing be erected to guard a spot where it is supposed deceased fell into the canal.

At the same time the inquest on the body of the child above referred to was resumed. The body, that of a newly-born female child, was found in the canal, at Waterfall Lane, on the previous Thursday morning.

Mr. Standish, surgeon, who made a post mortem examination of the body, said that it was a full-grown child, and had apparently been in the water some weeks. There was a large scalp wound, such as might be caused by passing boats. The umbilical cord was attached, and there was no ligature to it. All the organs were in a healthy state, and in witness's opinion the child was born alive and died from haemorrhage, owing to not having received proper attention at the time of birth. Believed the child died before reaching the water.

This was the only evidence, the police having been unable to ascertain anything further respecting the body.

The Coroner said there was not sufficient evidence to return a verdict of wilful murder, and the jury, under his direction, returned an open verdict of Found Dead."

1881 Census

137, Slack Hillock – NAVIGATION INN

- [1] *William Smith* (64), licensed victualler, born Madley, Shropshire;
- [2] *Mary Smith* (54), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Martha Smith* (27), daughter, barmaid, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Florence M. Boilstone (5), visitor, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

Dudley and District News 13/1/1883

“George Rivers, alias Smith (40), returned convict, and Thomas Warr, pensioner, who gave their addresses as Windsor Street, Birmingham, were charged on remand with uttering counterfeit coin at Old Hill and Blackheath.

On the 5th inst, William Andrews, keeper of the CROWN INN, Old Hill, noticed the two prisoners stop in front of his house and then part, Warr going down the road and Rivers going into the house. Rivers called for half a pint of ale, which the servant girl brought him, and in payment of which he gave her a florin. Andrews looked at the coin and discovered it was a bad one. He asked the prisoner how many more he had like it, and he made no answer. A policeman was then sent for, and the prisoner was given into his custody.

Evidence was then given by Martha *Smith*, whose father keeps the NAVIGATION INN, Old Hill, showing that Rivers called at the house on the same date and asked for half a pint of ale, tendering a two-shilling piece in payment. Upon sounding it she found it was a bad one, and she refused to take it in payment or to supply the ale.

Eliza Wright, wife of John Wright, landlord of the SPORTSMAN INN, Old Hill, stated that Rivers called in the house on the 5th and asked for half a pint of ale, in payment of which he tendered a florin. She did not notice that it was a bad one, and she gave him change.

The same prisoner also passed a coin at a public house at Gorsty Hill.

The whole of the coins were examined by Mr. Henn, jeweller, of Cradley Heath, and were found to be composed chiefly of lead. Upon being apprehended 10½d of good money was found upon Warr, and eight bad two shilling pieces. About 9s good money was found upon Rivers.

PC Varrily, of the Birmingham force, gave evidence showing that the prisoner Rivers was committed at the Northampton Assizes in 1877, and sentenced to five years penal servitude.

The Bench remanded the prisoner for seven days.”

Birmingham Mail 29/1/1883

“Stafford Assizes.

George Rivers (35), labourer, and Thomas Warr (40), labourer, were charged with uttering several bad half-crowns at Old Hill. Mr. Todd prosecuted. It appeared that Rivers on the 5th of December went to the CROWN INN, Old Hill, and asked for a pint of ale, tendering half a crown. The servant, doubting its genuineness, went in search of the landlord, William Andrews, outside the door. Andrews seeing it was bad, gave prisoner in charge of a policeman. He then remembered seeing the prisoner Warr talking to Rivers before going into the house. With a policeman he followed Warr, and arrested him at Hales Owen Bridge. In his possession were found eight counterfeit half-crowns, which he said he had been given him to carry by Rivers. Prisoners were found guilty. Rivers was an old offender, and having on three previous occasions been convicted for uttering base coin, he was sentenced to ten years' penal servitude. Warr was ordered to be imprisoned for a month.”

In 1972 an article appeared in the *Black Country Bugle* relating that Jack the Ripper arrived at Old Hill Station in November 1888 and went to the NAVIGATION INN, where he obtained a night's lodging. During the night the stranger arose from his bed and rushed from the inn, over the rear courtyard wall and into a drainage marlhole, his body never being found. The landlord and his wife were named as Jethro and Eliza Jane Homer, and the top hat left behind was displayed at the inn.

It transpires that this story was a work of creative fiction written by Harry Taylor, the original proprietor and editor of the *Black Country Bugle*.

The article was reprinted in the *Black Country Bugle* of 20th May 2020.

County Express 30/8/1890 - Advert

“Old Hill, Staffordshire.

Highly Important Freehold Old-Licensed Public House, the NAVIGATION INN, Old Hill.

Mr. E. H. Boilstone has been favoured with instructions from the Representatives of the late Miss Martha *Smith* to Sell by Auction, at the House of Mr. William Andrews, the CROWN INN, Old Hill, on Monday, the 1st day of September, 1890, at Six for Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions incorporating the Common Form Conditions of the Birmingham Law Society. All that truly Valuable Double-fronted Freehold Old-Licensed Public House (with Dwelling House adjoining) known as the NAVIGATION INN, Old Hill, aforesaid, containing Smoke Room, Bar, Kitchen, Club Room, three Bed Rooms, capital Cellar, Malt Room, Brewhouse, Cowhouse, Stable, Piggeries, extensive Garden, and all necessary Outbuildings, the whole containing an area of 2,500 square yards or thereabouts.

The Dwelling House is let at an annual rental of £7 3s.

The above Inn is a Free House, and immediate possession can be had. It is situate near to the Old Hill Railway Station (G.W.R.), is surrounded by Works and Collieries, and is a great resort for Boatmen, which make it well worthy of attention.

For further particulars, apply to Messrs. John Wright and Tanfield, Solicitors, Cradley Heath and Halesowen; or the Auctioneer, Old Hill.”

County Express 8/11/1890 - Advert

“On Tuesday next. NAVIGATION INN, Old Hill, Staffordshire.

Mr. E. H. Boilstone will Sell by Auction, at the above address, on Tuesday, the 11th day of November, 1890, the whole of the Substantial Household Furniture, Brewing Plant, quantity of Hops, and other Effects, including a Pianoforte (by G. Cadby); capital full-compass Cottage Pianoforte, in Walnut Case, Trichord and Check Action (by Grover and Grover, London).

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock sharp.
For further particulars and Catalogues, apply to the Auctioneer.
Offices: Old Hill, Staffordshire."

Charles Cowton = Charles Coulton

1891 Census

137, Gorsty Hill Road – NAVIGATION INN

- [1] *Thomas Weston* (53), married, licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Luke Weston (17), son, tube squeezer, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] General Weston (16), son, striker for blacksmith, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Lilly Weston (11), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 30/5/1891

"At the Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, before Messrs. W. H. Wiggin, A. H. Bassano, and W. Holcroft, *Charles Cowton*, occupier of the NAVIGATION INN, Old Hill, and holder of the license of the NEPTUNE INN, Powke Lane, Old Hill, was charged under the Licensing Act with permitting drunkenness in the NEPTUNE INN, on the 20th and 21st insts.....

Inspector Bishop stated that *Cowton* had kept the NAVIGATION INN twelve months in a very satisfactory manner....."

[The account of the charges appears in the NEPTUNE.]

County Express 29/8/1891

"The annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis division of Staffordshire were held at the Police Court, Old Hill, on Wednesday.....

Mr. W. Waldron (Brierley Hill) appeared in support of the application of *Charles Coulton* for the renewal of the NAVIGATION INN. Inspector Bishop deposed to the holder of the license, *Thomas Weston*, on the 11th of March this year being fined £10 and costs for permitting drunkenness. Mr. *Coulton* left the NEPTUNE INN, Garratts Lane in March, and went to reside at the NAVIGATION INN. Whilst there he neglected to get the transfer to the then occupier, and thereby committed two offences, for which he was fined £10 and costs and £5 and costs. In answer to Mr. Waldron the Inspector said Mr. *Coulton* kept his house as well as any licensed victualler in the district. The house adjoined several works, and was frequented by boatmen. Mr. Waldron said no doubt the Bench were aware and would consider that the requirements of the district desired the house to be kept open. The house had been a licensed house for eighty years, and having regard to this fact alone, he hoped the Bench would not cause Mr. *Coulton* to be immolated. Adjourned."

AND

County Advertiser 29/8/1891

"The annual licensing sessions for Rowley Petty Sessional Division were held last Wednesday.....

The magistrates said they were pleased to learn that there had been a decrease in the drunken cases. They then proceeded to consider the 'black list'.....

Mr. Waldron applied for the renewal of the license of *Charles Cowton*, landlord of the NAVIGATION INN, Old Hill, who had been convicted of two offences against the Licensing Act, for which he was fined £10 and £5, in neglecting to have the house properly transferred to him. The previous tenant, *Weston*, was fined £10 and costs for permitting drunkenness on the 11th of March this year. Inspector Bishop said that *Cowton*, who kept the NEPTUNE INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, neglected to take out a transfer when he went to occupy the NAVIGATION INN.

Cross-examined: He had conducted the house in an excellent manner, and there was no better landlord in Rowley.

Mr. Waldron said the NAVIGATION INN was near collieries and works of various descriptions, and also close to the canal. He did not think the Bench would take away the license which had been in existence for 80 years, and especially when they have heard the character which the applicant possessed..... Adjourned."

County Express 3/10/1891

"Old Hill Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. W. Bassano said the only case in which they proposed not to renew the license was in the case of the CROSS INN, Old Hill.....

Mr. Ward asked if all the other licenses were granted without any special application being necessary. Mr. Bassano said this was so. Of course they had, in the exercise of their discretion, thought there were several cases in which they might reasonably withhold the license, and the Bench had had a long discussion that morning before coming into Court as to whether they should do so in the case of a man fined £10 and costs. However, they had decided to grant the whole of the licenses this year, and they gave an intimation that in future the Bench would deal very stringently in cases of conviction under the licensing laws, both as regards the amount of fines and endorsements, and in the cases of endorsements they would deal more stringently. In plain English, this meant that a person with an endorsement against the house would in future have a very small chance indeed of getting his license renewed. They hoped the licensed victuallers and other licensed persons in the district would take a warning from that."

County Advertiser 30/7/1898 - Notice

"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 hereinafter mentioned is situate, and to all whom it may concern.

I, *William Pearson*, Licensed Victualler, now residing at the NAVIGATION INN, Granville Road, Gorsty Hill, Old Hill, in the

Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, Do Hereby Give Notice that it is my intention to Apply, at the General Annual Licensing Meeting for the Division of Rowley Regis, to be holden at the Public Office, at Old Hill, in the said County, on the 24th day of August, 1898, for an Order sanctioning the Removal of the License now held by Frank Gadd, of and at the HORSE SHOE INN, Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, aforesaid (authorising him to Apply for and Hold Excise Licenses to Sell by Retail Beer and Wine, to be consumed on or off the Premises, in pursuance of the Acts 11 Geo.IV and Will.IV c.64, and 23 Vic. c.27 secs 7 and 8, and all other Acts amending the same), to the Premises now occupied by me at Granville Road, Gorsty Hill, Old Hill aforesaid, and known by the sign of the NAVIGATION INN, and that such License may be granted and continue in respect of such last-mentioned premises in pursuance of the Licensing Act 1872, and all other Acts thereto enabling, of which said premises Atkinsons Brewery Limited, of Aston Park Brewery, Queens Road, Aston, in the County of Warwick, are the owners, and the same are of the annual value, and are otherwise qualified as required by law, and are now in my occupation.

Given under my hand this 27th day of July, 1898.

William Pearson.”

Dudley Herald 27/8/1898

“The annual Licensing Sessions of the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division was held at the Old Hill Police Court on Wednesday.....

Mr. Cartland, Birmingham (instructed by Messrs. Redfern and Company) applied for the transferring of a full license from the NAVIGATION INN to the HORSE SHOE INN, Old Hill, and also for the beer license of the HORSE SHOE INN to be transferred to the NAVIGATION INN.

Mr. B. Shakespeare opposed on behalf of Mrs. Foley, of the THREE FURNACES INN, and Mr. McWinter, of the CROWN INN. Mr. Clulow also opposed for Mr. McWinter.

Mr. Cartland thought that this exchange would be one which would be for the benefit of the district. The HORSE SHOE INN was situated, as the Bench knew, on the main road near to the station and was in every way suitable for a fully licensed house. The tenant, Mr. Gad, provided an ‘ordinary’ for the travellers within the district and they required something stronger than beer with their dinner. The opposition was made upon selfish grounds as the CROWN INN and the THREE FURNACES were also near to the railway station.

Mr. Bassano said the NAVIGATION INN would probably have to be given up. He said the Bench knew most of the circumstances in connection with the houses and they were of opinion that the NAVIGATION INN was a house where a license ought not to be held.

Mr. Cartland: I understand that the house does a great deal of business.

The Chairman: You never knew a house that did not – (laughter).

Eventually the consideration of the matter was adjourned to the Adjourned Sessions.”

County Advertiser 1/10/1898

“The adjourned licensing sessions for the Rowley petty sessional division were held on Wednesday.....

Mr. Cartland, of Birmingham, applied for a full license on behalf of Mr. Gadd, in respect of the HORSE SHOE INN, and also for the renewal of the license of the NAVIGATION INN. He might say in his opening remarks that Messrs. Atkinson and Co. had thought over the advice given by the magistrates at the last meeting, and they had acted very wisely. They could see that there were a considerable number of houses in the district, and they were willing to surrender the license of the NAVIGATION INN if the application for the full license of the HORSE SHOE INN was granted by the Bench. The NAVIGATION INN was a valuable property, and they consented to surrender it with reluctance.

Mr. Bassano said the Bench knew the district very well, and the opinion of the Bench was that they would grant the license of the HORSE SHOE INN, but it would have to go to Stafford for confirmation.....

The renewal of the license of the NAVIGATION INN came up for consideration, and it was stated that the tenant of the house was now *William Pearson*.

Inspector Given produced the notice of objection to the renewal of the license.

Mr. Cartland said the objection was altogether out of order. It was not a legal notice, and there had not been any objection to the license by the Bench.

Mr. Bassano said he thought he said at the last licensing meeting that the house was not a suitable one, and that, in his opinion, amounted to an objection.

Mr. Cartland said there must be a final objection.

Mr. Cooksey (magistrates’ clerk) said he should advise the Bench that the words of the Bench were a sufficient objection.

Inspector Given then stated the condition of the premises of the NAVIGATION INN was very bad and they were quite dilapidated. The roof of the house had nearly fallen in, the plaster was coming off the walls, which were without any paper, and the rain poured through the roof in places. The house was much below the level of the canal, and was so situated that no conveyance could get down to it. In four years there had been three drowning cases in which people leaving the house had fallen into the canal, and on a dark night it was a regular death-trap. There was no fencing between the house and the canal. There was a cottage adjoining the house which was in communication with the public house, and there was a wash-house common to both houses. It was a house which was very difficult for the police to have anything like proper supervision over, and it was totally unnecessary for the requirements of the district. He knew of his own knowledge that during the previous occupier’s tenancy the Sanitary Authority served the occupier with a notice to have the house put in habitable repair, and nothing had been done.

Cross-examined: The license had been renewed year by year. He had not seen a customer go into the house for six months.

(Laughter.)

Mr. Cartland said he wished to appeal to the Bench to meet the owners of the house this far that they would hold the license in

abeyance until they went to Stafford to have the granting of the full license to the HORSE SHOE INN confirmed. Otherwise the owners of the house would be placed in an awkward position in the proceedings at Stafford, as if the full license was not confirmed, they would lose both licenses.

After some argument Mr. Bassano said the Bench would accede to the proposition of Mr. Cartland, and the certificate of the license of the NAVIGATION INN would remain in the hands of the Court.”

County Advertiser 8/10/1898

“The annual meeting of the Licensing Committee of the county of Staffordshire was held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Saturday.....

HORSESHOE INN, Old Hill. Frank Gadd, landlord of the above-named public-house, applied for the confirmation of the grant of a full license to the house by the licensing justices in petty sessions. Mr. Cartland and Mr. Parfitt supported the application, and Mr. Vachell (instructed by Mr. J. W. Clulow) opposed, on behalf of the North Worcestershire Breweries Limited and others..... The house was the property of Messrs. Atkinson, brewers, and they had given an undertaking to the Court below, that should a full license be granted to the HORSESHOE and confirmed, they would allow the license of the NAVIGATION INN, also owned by them, to lapse.....

Mr. Vachell contended that the applicant had no interest in having the license enlarged, it being a pure case of a brewery company seeking to improve their property He asked the committee to consider the case on its merits, and regretted that the practice was springing up of bolstering up a case by offering to give up a license belonging to some other house. In this case the brewery company were not offering much, as the NAVIGATION INN had been soundly condemned by the police and was of no value. Mr. Cartland said the license to the NAVIGATION INN had been renewed, but he was instructed to give an undertaking to the committee that in case the full license to the HORSESHOE was confirmed the other license should be given up immediately. The Chairman said that on that undertaking, and that undertaking only, the committee were willing to confirm the grant of the Court below.”

NEPTUNE

117, (39), Powke Lane, (Garratts Lane), (Dog Lane), OLD HILL

OWNERS

Edward Lowe

Mrs. Finney [1870]

Messrs. Hodgetts and Cooper, of Halesowen [1890], [1891]

North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1896) [1906]

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1909)

LICENSEES

Enoch Skidmore [1851]

Thomas Lowe [1851] – **1855)**

Mrs. Mary Lowe [1856] – **1865);**

Thomas Lowe (**1865** – [1872]

Josiah Robinson [1877]

John Tibbetts [] – **1878);**

Eliza Raybould (**1878);**

Ann Eliza Hadley (**1878);**

Adin Hadley (**1878** – [1883]

Charles Henry Price [1887]

Mrs. Caroline Green [1888] – [1890] manager

Charles Cowton [1890] – [1891]

Beaumont [1891] manager

Caleb Price (**1891** – [1892]

Oliver James Deeming [1892]

Moses Cutler [1895] – [1897]

Joseph Wothers [1898] – [1899]

John Henry Stafford [1901] – **1903);**

Thomas Hackerson (**1903** – **1905);**

Joseph Taylor (**1905** – [1908]

John Shaw [1911] – [1912]

William A Evans [1916]

Mary Ann Evans [1919] – 1922);
Harry Saunders (1922 – 1929);
Edgar Stanton (1929 – 1933);
Wesley Thomas Pearson (1933 – 1934);
James Thomas Spittle (1934 – 1937);
Elsie Spittle (1937 – 1938);
Mabel Bailey (1938 – 1939);
Charles Mildoon (1939 – 1940);
Richard Cooksey (1940 – 1946);
Charles Beard (1946 – 1949);
Charles Richard Hodgetts (1949 – 1956);
Charles Beard (1956 – 1965);
Frederick Newey (1965 – []
Lucy Allport []

NOTES

Dog Lane [1861]

39, Powke Lane [1881], [1891], [1896], [1901], [1908], [1912], [1916], [1921]

117, Powke Lane [1924], [1932], [1939], [1940]

1851 Census

Powke Lane

- [1] *Thomas Lowe* (59), victualler, born Rowley;
- [2] *Mary Lowe* (54), wife, born Rowley;
- [3] *Thomas Lowe* (23), son, labourer, born Rowley;
- [4] *Daniel Lowe* (18), son, labourer, born Rowley;
- [5] *Olive Lowe* (16), daughter, labourer on pit banks, born Rowley;
- [6] *Solomon Lowe* (12), son, brickmaker, born Rowley;
- [7] *Ann Tandy* (17), general servant, born Alvechurch, Worcestershire:

Staffordshire Advertiser 6/1/1855

“On Friday last, *Thomas Lowe*, landlord of the NEPTUNE INN, Rowley Regis, was killed by a horse and loaded cart he was driving passing over him. He was descending a steep hill at Powke Lane, when the weight of the load forced the horse forward, and the deceased was knocked own.”

County Advertiser 8/11/1856

“*Mary Lowe*, licensed victualler, was fined 10s and costs for having her house open after twelve o’clock on Saturday night week.”

1861 Census

Dog Lane

- [1] *Mary Lowe* (66), widow, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Solomon Lowe* (22), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Alice Willetts* (12), visitor, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Simeon Willetts* (11), grandson, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 16/12/1865

“On Wednesday, at Old Hill, the following transfers took place.....

NEPTUNE INN, Blackheath, from the Executors of *Mary Lowe* to *Thomas Lowe*.”

Stourbridge Observer 2/2/1867

“An inquest was held on Monday morning, before Mr. Edwin Hooper, Coroner for South Staffordshire, at the NEPTUNE INN, respecting the death of *William Rock* (59), a wagoner, late in the employ of Mr. John Knight, Worcester Wharf, Birmingham. The deceased on the 24th inst was driving a wagon laden with timber on a road near Old Hill, when some of the timber, which was not securely chained to the conveyance, fell, and caused the horse in the shafts to kick. Deceased was cautioned by a passer-by to see that the timber was made secure, but he took no notice of the warning, and shortly afterwards a portion of the timber fell on to the shafts of the wagon, causing the horse to kick so furiously that the deceased fell from his seat on to the road, and one of the wheels of the wagon passed over his thigh. He was picked up and conveyed to the nearest public house, where some brandy was administered to him, and he was then conveyed on the way to Birmingham, with the intention of being taken to the General Hospital; but on his arrival at the BEAR INN, Smethwick, he died, and was removed back to Old Hill. The jury found a verdict of Accidental Death, and expressed a hope that the road on which the accident happened being in a dangerous condition for traffic, should be repaired.”

County Advertiser 4/5/1867

“Last week the Rev. W. A. Newman gave his tenants an excellent dinner, at the house of Mr. *Thomas Lowe*, NEPTUNE INN, Old Hill. After dinner Mr. N. H. Chavasse was called to the chair, Mr. T. Lowe acting as vice-chairman; and a most pleasant and amusing evening was spent. At the close the party expressed their gratitude to their landlord, and all separated pleased and delighted with their entertainment.”

Aris' Birmingham Gazette 20/8/1870 - Advert

“Staffordshire.

Important and Valuable Freehold Family Residence and Land, situate at Waterfall Lane; Cottages and Building Land at Hawne Lane; Old-Licensed Public House, Powke Lane, Old Hill, all in the parish of Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. John Bent, at COOKSEY'S HOTEL, Old Hill, on Tuesday next, August the 23rd, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then read.....

Lot 8. All that Old-Licensed Public House and Premises called the NEPTUNE INN, situate at Powke Lane, Rowley Regis, and near to the Gas Works and Birmingham Canal. The Premises comprise front Tap Room, front Parlour, Smoke Room, Kitchen, three Cellars, four Chambers, Under Kitchen, Brewhouse, Stable, Piggeries, Wash Cisterns, and Outbuildings with a large plot of front Garden Land, walled in, and now in the occupation of Mr. *Thomas Lowe*, at the very low rent of £22 per annum.....”

County Advertiser 27/8/1870

“On Tuesday last the freehold property of the late Mrs. Finney was sold by auction, by Mr. John Bent, at COOKSEY'S HOTEL. There was a large attendance, and the competition was strong and spirited.....

The public house called the NEPTUNE INN was sold for £405.”

1871 Census

Powke Lane – NEPTUNE INN

- [1] *Thomas Lowe* (43), corn and timber dealer, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Sarah Lowe (40), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] Thomas Edward Lowe (16), son, apprentice wheelwright, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Albert Charles Lowe (14), son, apprentice wheelwright, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Sarah Jane Lowe (11), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Florence Elizabeth Lowe (9), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Jane Allen (43), boarder, born Dudley;
- [8] Alice Sidaway (22), general servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 13/4/1872

“A young man, named John Payne, was charged with committing an assault on Mrs. Sarah *Lowe*, landlady of the NEPTUNE INN, Old Hill. Mr. Addison defended. The prosecutrix stated that on the 7th of February the defendant and a number of other persons were drinking at her house. She was told that defendant had upset a table and broken some jugs and glasses, and on her going to the room she met the defendant rushing out. She attempted to stop him, whereupon he assaulted her in a most brutal manner by striking her on the head and shoulders. The husband of the prosecutrix gave corroborative evidence. For the defence, witnesses were called who swore that the amount of the damage was offered to the prosecutrix, and that Mr. *Lowe* violently assaulted the defendant, who only struck in self-defence. The Clerk said that when Mrs. *Lowe* applied for a summons she was almost blind from the blows she had received; and Police-sergeant Powner proved that defendant had been several times convicted of violent assaults. The Bench imposed a fine of 5s and costs, or twenty-one days.”

Stourbridge Observer 3/5/1873

“An inquest was held on Monday last, at the NEPTUNE INN, before Mr. E. Hooper, touching the death of Alice Taylor, aged seven weeks. After hearing the evidence the jury found the deceased died from Natural Causes.”

County Advertiser 18/8/1877

“On Tuesday morning, Mr. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the NEPTUNE INN, Powke Lane, on the body of a child named Joseph Smith, aged three years. It appeared that on Saturday afternoon the deceased was playing near the canal, and fell in. He was drowned, the body not being recovered until nearly half-past seven o'clock the following morning. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

County Advertiser 6/10/1877

“*Josiah Robinson*, landlord of the NEPTUNE INN, Old Hill, summoned William Robinson for being disorderly on his premises, and refusing to leave when ordered to do so. Mr. Addison defended. The prosecutor gave evidence in proof of the offence, and against defendant was sworn, stating that he was not disorderly, but was ordered out of the house by the landlord and refused to go until he had drunk the ‘stuff’ he had before him. He was fined 5s and costs.”

AND

County Express 6/10/1877

“William Robinson was fined 5s and costs, for refusing to quit the NEPTUNE INN, Old Hill, on the 27th ult. Mr. Addison defended.”

County Advertiser 24/11/1877

“James Marsh, furnace labourer, and Ezekiel Blaydon, labourer, were charged with assaulting Thomas Fletcher, of Dog Lane, a labourer in the employ of Mr. Lowe, of Old Hill. Mr. W. S. Hayes prosecuted, Mr. Waldron defending. The prosecutor alleged that on the night of the 16th inst, the two defendants were drinking at *Robinson’s*, the NEPTUNE INN, Old Hill, and left there about ten o’clock. They went across to Mr. Lowe’s timber-yard, and as they were trespassing the watchman came up and informed them of the fact, on which they used threats towards him. Fletcher hearing the altercation then came up, and defendants also threatened him. He went towards Mr. Lowe’s house for assistance, and was then knocked down by Marsh, and afterwards kicked by Blaydon. Evidence to this effect was given by Fletcher, by a servant at the NEPTUNE INN, by the watchman, and Mr. Lowe, who termed Marsh ‘as mad as a March’ with drink. He was attracted to the place of the alleged assault by hearing a disturbance created.

There was a charge preferred against Fletcher of having assaulted Marsh, in support of which defendant alleged that he was walking across the timber yard, as was the custom, not knowing that he was doing wrong, and Fletcher met him, telling him he would set a dog on him. He did this and the dog flew at him, without his having refused to go back the way he came. Fletcher also knocked him down, and the dog bit him. Blaydon never interfered with Fletcher, and he denied that he was requested to leave the yard by the watchman before Fletcher set the dog on him.

The Bench heard several witnesses, and decided to fine Blaydon and Marsh for the assault on Fletcher 10s and costs each, in default a month, the case against Fletcher being dismissed.

There was a further charge against Marsh of assaulting the watchman, Thomas Cooper, by striking him. It resulted in a fine of 2s 6d and costs, with the alternative of fourteen days being inflicted on the defendant.”

County Express 8/6/1878

“Alehouse Transfers. The Bench allowed the following transfers. NEPTUNE INN, Cradley Heath, from the executors of *John Tibbetts* to *Eliza Raybould*.”

Adin Hadley = Haden Hadley

County Advertiser 5/4/1879

“An inquest was held by Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, at the NEPTUNE INN, Old Hill, touching the death of William Sands (12), a boatlad from Oldbury. On Friday evening deceased’s boat was standing near the gas works on the Birmingham Canal, and the boy was sent by his sister to fetch some bread. Less than an hour afterwards his body was found in the water by a witness named Blaydon, about 150 yards from where the boat was stationed. There was no evidence to show how deceased came to get in the canal, but it was thought he had fallen in by accident. An open verdict of Found Drowned was returned.”

Dudley Herald 13/3/1880

“At the Police Court, on Wednesday, before W. Bassano and B. Hingley, Esqrs, Richard Pugh was charged with being disorderly and refusing to quit licensed premises of *Ann Eliza Hadley*, NEPTUNE INN, Old Hill, on the 6th inst. Prosecutrix stated that on the day in question defendant was in her house and using very bad language. She ordered him out, but he refused to go. With the assistance of her husband she got him out. Defendant was fined 1s and costs.”

Dudley and District News 9/10/1880

“On Wednesday Mr. E. Hooper (district coroner) held an inquest at the NEPTUNE INN, Old Hill, on the body of Uriah Darby (39), single, labourer, Blackheath. On the Tuesday, the 28th ult, the deceased left Old Hill to go to Windmill End, and was not seen again by his relatives. On Sunday, the 3rd inst, his dead body was found in the canal at Old Hill. It had been ascertained that the deceased was drinking at Windmill End until closing time on the 28th ult, and started from there in a state of intoxication, and it is supposed that in walking along the canal side to reach Old Hill he fell into the water and was drowned. A verdict of Found Drowned was arrived at by the jury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/3/1881 - Advert

“To Let, Old-licensed House; large garden and brewing plant. In-coming low. Situated in a mining district. Apply at NEPTUNE INN, Old Hill.”

1881 Census

39, Powke Lane – NEPTUNE

[1] *Adin Hadley* (44), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Ann E. Hadley (42), wife, born Brockmoor;

[3] Maria Hadley (15), daughter, born Barrow in Furness:

Birmingham Daily Post 22/10/1881 - Advert

“Full-Licensed Inn, situated in thriving district. Good brewery plant, and large garden. Apply to *Adin Hadley*, NEPTUNE INN, Old Hill.”

County Express 23/9/1882

“Joseph Dudley, Kate’s Hill, Dudley, was charged with having, on the 19th inst, stolen a pair of boots, value 9s, the property of *Haden Hadley*, landlord of the NEPTUNE INN, Powke Lane, Old Hill. The prisoner was drinking at the house on the 18th inst,

and made himself obnoxious on account of his bad behaviour. In the room he sat, a pair of boots were lying under a screen, and these were missed after he had left. The same night the prisoner told a man named Thompson that he had a pair of boots from *Hadley's*, and Thompson advised him to return them. Prisoner was quite drunk at the time. He did take the boots back to *Hadley's*, and whilst there he was arrested by Police-constable Wickstead, who charged him with stealing the boots. He replied that someone had put them in his pocket, and he could prove it. There was no previous charge of felony against the prisoner, and he was discharged."

County Express 5/5/1883

"Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the NEPTUNE INN, Powke Lane, Rowley Regis, respecting the death of Edward Pike (46), who was killed on the 26th ult, at the Haden Hill Colliery. Mr. W. Bassano, the proprietor of the colliery was present; and also Mr. W. B. Scott, the Government Inspector of Mines; and Mr. W. A. Pickering, the assistant inspector.

Whilst the deceased and a number of other men were engaged in erecting trees in a working on Thursday afternoon a 'bump' occurred, and immediately afterwards a great mass of coal fell and buried the deceased. Upon a portion of the coal being removed, deceased was found shockingly crushed, and quite dead. Two loaders would have met a similar fate had they not been sheltered by some trees. In reply to the Coroner, Mr. Scott stated that he had examined the workings, and was of opinion that everything possible had been done for the safety of the men engaged in the pit. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Dudley and District News 18/8/1883

"A serious accident occurred on Sunday at Halesowen Station, on the Great Western Railway.

Alterations are now being made on the main line, and upon a passenger train being signalled from Old Hill the home signal was left at danger. On the train nearing the signal, the guard Creswell slipped a carriage and the engine went on. Upon the station-master, however, giving the signal of caution the engine driver applied the brake, the result being that the slipped coach came into violent collision with the engine, and on the arrival of the train in the station it was discovered that seven passengers had been seriously injured, and some of them are now said to be in a precarious state, most of them suffering from contusion and shock.

The injured persons are *Adin Hadley*, of Old Hill.

Mr. *Hadley*, landlord of the NEPTUNE INN, Old Hill, said he was tossed violently from his seat to the opposite side of the carriage, but, fortunately for him, he had a hat on which prevented his head from being cut. He was so shaken that he was unable to attend to his business, and was then suffering from pains in his left side."

West Bromwich Weekly News 24/12/1887

"*Charles Henry Price*, landlord of the NEPTUNE INN, Powke Lane, Rowley Regis, was charged with defrauding the revenue by adding a larger quantity of sugar than was entered in his brewing book. Mr. Davis appeared to prosecute.

Charles Cruikshank, Inland Revenue officer, stated that on the 13th September he visited defendant's premises and found entered in the brewing book 10 bushels of malt and 20lbs of sugar. In the evening of the same day he again visited the premises, and took samples of the wort, and sent them for analysis to Somerset House. On the morning of the 14th September he again visited defendant's premises, and he at once told him that there had been a mistake made, and that the servant girl had bought another 20lbs of sugar, and it had been placed in the brewing, but the working brewer told him that he had stated that 56lbs would be required for the brewing.

Henry William Davis deposed to analysing the worts and grains, and said that 48½lbs of sugar must have been used in the brewing.

Defendant was fined £20, or in default two months' imprisonment."

County Advertiser 5/5/1888 - Advert

"Wanted, a good General Servant, age 22; one from the country preferred. Character required.

Apply, Mrs. *Green*, NEPTUNE INN, Old Hill."

County Express 1/3/1890

"Thomas Wells, George Hubble, and John Thomas Portman, boatmen, of Netherton, were charged with stealing a window blind, value 1s, on the 18th ult, the property of *Caroline Green*, landlady of the NEPTUNE INN. The prosecutrix said the defendants came to her house on the morning in question, between nine and eleven o'clock. Inspector Bishop came in and ordered the men out, but Wells refused to do so, and was arrested. After the men had gone she missed the blind (produced) from the bar window. Inspector Bishop said he went to the house and found the defendants in the tap room, drunk. Mrs. *Green* ordered the men out, but Wells refused to do so, and witness arrested him, and conveyed him to the police station. At the station he was searched, and the blind was found in his pocket. When charged Wells said, 'My mates took it down, and threw it on the table, and I put it in my pocket.' The same night he arrested the two other defendants, and in answer to the charge Hubble said, 'I undone one corner,' and Portman said, 'I shall say the same as my pals.' Wells also said it was a drunken spree. Defendants were each fined 2s 6d and costs, or seven days."

County Express 22/3/1890

"Arthur Hodgetts, proprietor of the NEPTUNE INN, Powke Lane, Old Hill, was charged with permitting drunkenness on the 18th ult. Mr. W. Waldron said he appeared for Hodgetts, who was a large brewer, and the charge was in respect of one of his houses. Inspector Bishop said that at 12.30 on the morning in question he visited the NEPTUNE INN in company with Police-constable Wickstead. In the tap-room he found Emanuel Wells, Joseph Hubbold, and John Thomas Portman. They were all drunk. In answer to questions the manageress (Mrs. *Green*) said the men had been in there about half an hour at that time. They came into the

house at eight o'clock that morning, but they had been out a time or two. Portman had a glass of rum hot, and the other men had pint cups before them, which he thought contained ale.

Cross-examined: He did not know whether the rum was supplied in the house or not. Mrs. *Green* told him she had asked them to leave, but they would not go.

Police-constable Wickstead gave similar evidence.

A witness, named Wood, said he was in the public house about eight in the morning, and the men had had half a dozen glasses of rum each in no time. It was only like water to them. At ten o'clock they were drunk.

Arthur Wood also gave evidence.

For the defence Mr. Waldron said he desired to confine the case to the point as to whether the men were or were not drunk when the inspector went to the house. Although the word 'knowingly' was struck out of the Act when it passed through the House of Commons, before any conviction could be made the offence must have been known to the manager or the person in control. It was no offence against the person in control if a drunken man went into a house, and was not supplied with anything to drink. He was bound to admit that the liquors were supplied by a little girl, as the manageress was ill. If the Bench thought this was an offence he would not take the case further.

The Bench regarded it as an offence, and inflicted a fine of £1 and costs.

The three men were brought up and charged with being drunk on licensed premises, and were each fined 1s and costs."

Charles Cowton = Charles Coulton

Birmingham Mail 8/12/1890 - Advert

"Pigs. For Sale, Porks, Stores, and Bacons.

Charles Cowton's NEPTUNE INN, Old Hill, near Dudley."

1891 Census

39, Powke Lane

- [1] *Charles Cowton* (31), licensed victualler, birthplace unknown;
- [2] Jane Cowton (29), wife, born Wychbold, Worcestershire;
- [3] Jane Cowton (9), daughter, scholar, born Crowle, Worcestershire;
- [4] Lillian Cowton (7), daughter, born Humbleton, Worcestershire;
- [5] Ellen Cowton (4), daughter, born Tibberton, Worcestershire;
- [6] Ethel Cowton (2), daughter, born Tibberton, Worcestershire;
- [7] Mary Preece (19), domestic servant, birthplace unknown:

County Express 30/5/1891

"At the Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, before Messrs. W. H. Wiggin, A. H. Bassano, and W. Holcroft, *Charles Cowton*, occupier of the NAVIGATION INN, Old Hill, and holder of the license of the NEPTUNE INN, Powke Lane, Old Hill, was charged under the Licensing Act with permitting drunkenness in the NEPTUNE INN, on the 20th and 21st insts. Mr. Waldron prosecuted for the police authorities, and Mr. Beauchamp (Worcester) appeared for defendant, and, on behalf of his client, pleaded guilty. Mr. Waldron said there were really more charges against defendant, but he only preferred these two. On the 20th inst, at 12.30, a man named Priest went to the NEPTUNE. While there he went into the back yard. He went from the yard into the front place in consequence of something being said to him by the servant about a woman being very drunk. Priest went into the room, and there saw a woman named Tromans, who, he considered, was helplessly drunk. Afterwards he went out into the kitchen, and whilst there he heard Tromans commence to sing. He went again into the room where the woman was sitting, and she had a pint cup containing ale before her. When she had finished that pint she rapped the table with the cup, and called for another pint, at the same time placing threepence on the table. The servant brought in the beer, but only picked twopence up, saying it was only fourpenny. The woman drank from the cup, and immediately she had finished it fell back with her head against the wall, helplessly drunk. The landlord, a person named *Beaumont*, who had the control of the house as manager, then locked the woman in the room until three o'clock. At this hour, *Beaumont*, with the assistance of Priest and the other men, carried the woman out of the house into an outhouse or shed in the back yard of the public house. He (Mr. Waldron) didn't know whether *Beaumont* became frightened that something would happen to the woman, but he thought the better course would be to communicate with the police, and he thereupon wrote a letter to Inspector Bishop, asking him to send an officer to remove a woman who came into the house drunk, but stating that she had had nothing to drink there, and had refused to leave. A policeman was sent to the house, and the woman was found to be so drunk that she was incapable of making any movement, and the police had to bring her to the Police Station on a wheelbarrow. These were the facts of the case on the 20th inst.

No doubt Mr. Beauchamp, who appeared for the defence, would, if he could in law, have raised a very important point, viz, that although this drunkenness took place in this house, the present defendant, *Cowton*, was not liable, inasmuch as he had handed over the business to Messrs. Hodgetts and Cooper, who had put in as manager a person named *Beaumont*, and that the defendant, not being upon the premises, and not, as it were, having control of the house, was not liable. The cases, however, bearing upon this important point were too strong. It was perfectly good law that the holder of a license, whether he was on the premises or not, was responsible for the persons who had control of the house, otherwise no offence, however bad it might be, could be brought against the holder of the license. This was not an offence, as it were, personally against the defendant, but the punishment was against the license.

The second offence occurred on the following day. Inspector Bishop went to the house to inform the landlord of what had occurred in his house the day previous, and as to the condition of the woman who had been brought to the station. Upon going into

the bar he saw a man named Joseph Wothers, who was drunk and drinking some porter out of a pint cup. He called *Beaumont's* attention to this, and he replied, 'Well, he's not beastly drunk.' From this remark it appeared *Beaumont* must have very peculiar and queer ideas of what drunkenness was. When request Wothers left the house and went home.

Jos. Priest, Police-constable Wickstead, and Inspector Bishop gave evidence bearing out this statement. The latter stated that *Cowton* had kept the NAVIGATION INN twelve months in a very satisfactory manner.

Mr. Beauchamp, addressing the Bench on behalf of the defendant, said from this last statement the defendant had a good character, and came before the Court with a clean sheet. Defendant had held this house under a yearly agreement, and his year's tenancy expired about the 9th inst; but he continued to hold the tenancy until another tenant could be got, and he held the license. The defendant continued to do so at the request of the proprietors. Defendant continued the tenancy until the 15th inst, and handed over the possession of the premises to *Beaumont*, who was put in as manager. Defendant ignorantly thought he had given up possession of the license as well, and was no longer responsible in the matter; but he had not divested himself of that responsibility, as he was still holder of the license, and liable in law. He thought he might say that Mr. Tanfield, who represented the owners of the house, Messrs. Hodgetts and Cooper, of Halesowen, did not intend to apply for transfer of the license to *Beaumont*, and he therefore would have nothing to do with the business in the future. The defendant had been led into this by not being sufficiently cautious to divest himself of the license. The Bench would see that, personally, his client had done nothing that was wrong or improper in the matter. However, he was legally responsible, and he asked the Bench, in view of the circumstances of the case, to inflict a small penalty only. A conviction against the defendant would be a very damaging circumstance against him when he applied for a new license at any time.

The Bench said in this case it seemed a very difficult task to get the right person, and under the circumstances *Cowton* was in a very unfortunate position. They recognised that he had a good character given him by the police. The understood he was likely to apply for a license before long, and the conviction they were about to make would not be taken into consideration as affecting the defendant personally in the event of his applying for a license. They considered the offence committed on the 20th was unpardonable, and they imposed a fine of £10 and costs. In the second case a fine of £5 and costs would be inflicted, including solicitor's costs."

County Express 29/8/1891

"The annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis division of Staffordshire were held at the Police Court, Old Hill, on Wednesday.....

Mr. W. Waldron (Brierley Hill) appeared in support of the application of *Charles Coulton* for the renewal of the NAVIGATION INN. Inspector Bishop deposed to the holder of the license, Thomas Weston, on the 11th of March this year being fined £10 and costs for permitting drunkenness. Mr. *Coulton* left the NEPTUNE INN, Garratts Lane in March, and went to reside at the NAVIGATION INN. Whilst there he neglected to get the transfer to the then occupier, and thereby committed two offences, for which he was fined £10 and costs and £5 and costs. In answer to Mr. Waldron the Inspector said Mr. *Coulton* kept his house as well as any licensed victualler in the district. The house adjoined several works, and was frequented by boatmen. Mr. Waldron said no doubt the Bench were aware and would consider that the requirements of the district desired the house to be kept open. The house had been a licensed house for eighty years, and having regard to this fact alone, he hoped the Bench would not cause Mr. *Coulton* to be immolated. Adjourned."

AND

"The application of *Caleb Price* for the renewal of the license of the NEPTUNE INN was made by Mr. Waldon. Inspector Bishop said the house was transferred to Mr. *Price* in June last. The previous holder of the license was fined 20s and costs in March for permitting drunkenness, and *Charles Coulton* was fined on the 27th of May last £5 and costs and £10 and costs. Mr. *Price* was a new tenant. The offences of the two last fines were committed whilst a manager was in the house. Mr. *Price* had a good character. Adjourned."

County Express 3/10/1891

"Old Hill Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. W. Bassano said the only case in which they proposed not to renew the license was in the case of the CROSS INN, Old Hill.....

Mr. Ward asked if all the other licenses were granted without any special application being necessary. Mr. Bassano said this was so. Of course they had, in the exercise of their discretion, thought there were several cases in which they might reasonably withhold the license, and the Bench had had a long discussion that morning before coming into Court as to whether they should do so in the case of a man fined £10 and costs. However, they had decided to grant the whole of the licenses this year, and they gave an intimation that in future the Bench would deal very stringently in cases of conviction under the licensing laws, both as regards the amount of fines and endorsements, and in the cases of endorsements they would deal more stringently. In plain English, this meant that a person with an endorsement against the house would in future have a very small chance indeed of getting his license renewed. They hoped the licensed victuallers and other licensed persons in the district would take a warning from that."

County Advertiser 13/2/1892

"Henry Bradley, Bank Street, Old Hill, was charged with stealing a dog, the property of *Oliver James Deeming*, on the 5th inst. It appeared complainant, who kept the NEPTUNE INN, had his dog, a spaniel, chained up in the yard, about 10.30, when he saw it safe. A person came to his house about half-an-hour afterwards, and the dog was then missing. Witness gave information to Police-constable Insley, who went with him to defendant's house, where they saw the dog. He did not wish to press the case against defendant, who took the dog for a joke. The case was withdrawn on payment of costs."

County Advertiser 3/2/1894

“On Tuesday morning Mr. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the NEPTUNE INN, Powke Lane, Old Hill, upon the body of Elijah Poole (21), labourer, Churchbridge, Oldbury, who was drowned in the Birmingham Canal on Sunday evening, close by the NEPTUNE INN.

Bennett Lowe, labourer, Oldbury, said deceased was his step-son, and worked at Albright and Wilson’s. About 10.30 on Sunday last he went in company with a neighbour named Arthur Pearson to Old Hill on a visit to some relatives of Pearson. Deceased said they should be back by dinner time, but he did not come. Pearson came back about a quarter to twelve at night, at which time witness was in bed, and he heard his wife ask Pearson, ‘Have you bought Elijah back?’ Pearson replied, ‘No, he is drowned.’ Witness then got up and went to Pearson’s house. Pearson, who had different clothes on to what he had in the morning, told him that they had walked into the ‘cut,’ and he had got out the other side; that when he got out he shouted for Elijah, but could get no answer. The two men were on good terms with each other.

William Pearson said he asked deceased on Sunday morning to go with him to his mother’s at the Saltwells for a walk. Deceased refused at first, but afterwards consented. They called on their way at his sister’s, where they had some porter. After a quarter of an hour’s stay they proceeded to his mother’s where they had dinner and some ale mixed with ginger beer. They stayed about twenty minutes there, and afterwards went to the MAYPOLE INN at Cradley Forge. There they had five or six jugs of ale, two or three of which were had after half-past two o’clock – closing time. They paid for them between them, and the landlord paid for some. At closing time witness walked out of the house and walked in again. He told the landlord they had come the three miles and were travellers. They took away from the house a pint of rum.

In answer to Inspector Bishop witness said they were not much the worse for what they had had, but he did not think they were sober.

Witness, continuing his evidence, said they reached his sister’s house about four o’clock, and had tea. They mixed their tea with the rum which they had brought from the MAYPOLE.

The Coroner: How many partook of the tea? – Witness: About five or six.

Witness said they remained at his sister’s house till about a quarter to six, and then proceeded homewards. On the way home they called at the BRIDGE INN, where they were joined by a man named Henry Homer. Here they had about three quarts between them, and left about seven o’clock. They were then much the worse for beer, and Poole ‘showed it more than he did.’ They afterwards went into the QUEENS HEAD INN, kept by Mr. Joseph Foley, where they were refused liquor, for which they asked, and they were refused at another public house. They had in their possession a pair of pigeons, and as they were coming up Powke Lane, deceased was talking about putting up a pen for them. They walked straight into the canal instead of keeping to the road. Witness swam across to the far side and scrambled out. He then shouted ‘Elijah’ several times, but could not get any answer. He was dazed, and could not find Poole, who he thought might have got out.

The Coroner: Yes; you were dazed through drink.

Witness, continuing, said he lay down under a hedge, and subsequently was taken to a house, where he changed his clothes.

In reply to Inspector Bishop, witness said that after he got out of the water and lay down, afraid to get up in case he should roll into the canal.

The Coroner: Through having too much to drink? – Witness: Yes, and the cold. I did not know whether Poole was in or out of the canal.

A Juryman: You are in the habit of getting drunk? – Witness: Yes.

And you have been convicted by the magistrates many times? – Yes.

And fining you has not done you any good? – This job will, for I will never taste drink again.

Did you say to the deceased, ‘You can’t stand any more drink, I will drown you?’ – No, I did not. It was not the first time Poole had got drunk.

Police-constable O’Leary deposed that at 9.45, on Sunday night he heard that a man was in the canal at Jones’s Bridge, and with the assistance of Police-constable Wickstead and four other men he dragged the canal and found Poole’s body. Pearson, who was taken into a private house to have his clothes changed, was drunk. He saw him there, and he asked how Poole got into the water, and Pearson said, ‘We walked into the canal by accident, and Poole was too drunk to get out.’

The Coroner said there could be no reasonable doubt that the deceased died from drowning, and there were many serious matters connected with the affair. The two men undoubtedly went into various public houses, and had such a quantity of drink that both of them must have been in a beastly state of intoxication when they got into the canal. The question of any breach of the law having occurred would be inquired into by another court. The evidence showed that deceased got into the canal, and they had to consider whether he got there by accident.

The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and that the deceased was intoxicated when he got into the canal.

The Jury wished the Coroner to reprimand Pearson on his drunkenness, and on his being called into the room, Mr. Hooper said to him that the jury considered he was in a great measure responsible for his companion’s death. It was a very serious matter, as Pearson induced the deceased to go with him. It appeared to him that he (Pearson) was considerably addicted to drink, and if he was again brought before the justices, and he (the Coroner) knew of it, he would get the magistrates to inflict a heavy penalty on him. The only way he could mark his sense of such conduct as Pearson’s was by disallowing his expenses, and he should take that course. He hoped the occurrence would be a warning to him for the rest of his life.

Pearson said he would never touch drink again.”

[The landlord of the MAYPOLE INN (Halesowen file) was fined for selling intoxicating liquor during prohibited hours, they not being bona fide travellers.]

County Advertiser 2/11/1895

“Mary Connelly and William Davis, tramps, were charged with stealing a quantity of wool, knitting pins, and other goods, the

property of *Moses Cutler*, landlord of the NEPTUNE INN, Rowley, on the 28th inst.

Prisoners, it appeared, went to the public house on the Tuesday night and asked to be supplied with some refreshment, at the same time saying that they had no money. Mary Hartshorne, the servant, refused to do this, and the male prisoner said he had travelled for three years with Sanger's Circus. He said he could also perform for the customers, and performed some tricks. Prisoners afterwards left, and the wool and other articles were missed. Police-constable Reynolds afterwards arrested the prisoners, and the male prisoner denied stealing any wool, whereupon his companion said, 'Why you gave it me when you were outside.' The wool was thrown away, and found on the road by Reynolds.

The male prisoner denied the charge, and both prisoners were remanded for a week."

County Advertiser 9/11/1895

"William Davis, of Cardiff, and Mary Connolley, of London, tramps, were charged with stealing a quantity of wool, knitting needles, and knitting, value 6d, the property of *Moses Cutler*, landlord of the NEPTUNE INN, Powke Lane, Rowley, on the 29th ult. The evidence showed that the prisoners came into the house on the night in question, and Davis asked Mary Hartshorne, a domestic servant, if she would give his 'dearly beloved' (referring to his companion) some whiskey. She replied that she could not, as she was only a servant there, and Davis then asked her for some beer, which she refused to draw, prisoner having no money. The servant went away to fetch the landlord, leaving some knitting on a table in the room. When the landlord came, Davis said to him, 'I am a detective, and I advise you to get the slops removed from under the taps.' He afterwards saw a quantity of wool in the female prisoner's bosom. The prisoners afterwards went away, and the wool was missed. Police-constable Reynolds was informed of the robbery, and arrested the prisoners in High Street, Blackheath. When they were charged with the theft, Davis denied it, and said he knew nothing of the knitting until after they left the house. The woman then said to him, 'You know you gave me the knitting.'

Davis said he was quite innocent, and the woman would tell them the same.

Mr. Bassano: I believe you are a detestable creature. You want to screen yourself and put the blame on this woman. Inspector Given, do you know anything of this wretched man?

Inspector Given said he had made inquiries in Wales, but could hear nothing about him, except that he had undergone seven days for drunkenness. He believed he had made the acquaintance of nearly every gaol in England.

Mr. Bassano said he wished they could have the prisoner flogged.

Davis: I have been in gaol seven days.

Mr. Bassano: You are a contemptible creature; trying to screen yourself at the expense of a woman. You will have to go to gaol for seven days with hard labour. The woman will be discharged."

County Advertiser 4/9/1897

"Henry James, landlord of the SPORTSMAN INN, Blackheath, was charged with being drunk on his own licensed premises, on the 27th July. Mr. S. Sharpe, of West Bromwich, defended.

Police-constable Beech stated that at about 10.40pm on the evening of the date in question he visited the SPORTSMAN INN.

Defendant was sitting in the bar, and witness at once saw he was drunk. He asked defendant to follow him into another room.

Defendant could scarcely get off his chair, and he staggered as he came across the room. Witness told him he was drunk, and he replied, 'I have had some beer, but I am not drunk.' He then asked witness to send for Dr. Mitchell, but witness told him that if he wished for a doctor he must send for one himself, as he was satisfied that defendant was drunk. Defendant then called a man named Booth, and witness asked Booth's opinion as to defendant's condition. He replied, 'He has had some beer, you can see, but he is not drunk.'

Cross-examined: He had had some communication made to him by another publican, but that was not the reason he said defendant was drunk. Defendant did not fall down. He denied being drunk, and at once spoke of sending for a doctor.

Police-constable Plant, who accompanied Police-constable Beech to the house, corroborated.

Moses Cutler, a publican, stated that on the evening named he went to the SPORTSMAN INN about six o'clock. Defendant came in at about twenty minutes to seven, and witness stayed in the house until nine o'clock. During that time defendant had had something to drink, and was in a drunken condition. There was a disturbance between witness and another publican, and as a consequence witness left the house at the request of the defendant. He went to the police station, where he informed Police-constable Beech that defendant was not sober.

Inspector Given said that in consequence of information received he went up to defendant's house on the night in question at 11.45 and overheard the wife of defendant say to him, 'Harry, you know you have had too much; it is your own fault.' Witness then went into the house, and could see from the defendant's manner that he was quite drunk. Witness mentioned that he had overheard the remarks of the defendant's wife, and then left. He subsequently heard through the window a further conversation, in which defendant told his wife she ought not to have told witness that he was drunk. He then said, 'Fill me another glass,' and she replied, 'No, you have had quite enough; you are quite drunk.' Witness then tapped the window and said, 'You are quite right, missis; he is quite drunk; that is perfectly true.' Defendant then said, 'Oh, you have done it this time,' and witness came away.

This closed the case for the prosecution, and Mr. Sharpe said that if defendant had consulted his own pocket he would not have defended the case, as the maximum fine was 10s, but he was so conscious of his innocence that he decided to defend it. It was the first time he had been summoned. A rival publican went to the house on the night in question, and in consequence of some strong language used by this man, Perry [sic], in the exercise of his discretion and the conduct of his business, ordered him out of the house. The man went back and asked to be supplied with some drink, but was refused, and he then went to the police station, and stated that defendant was drunk. Defendant's actions were those of a sober man, and he asked that the incident after closing time might be dismissed as having no weight.

Defendant was called, and said that on the date of the charge he went to Birmingham. He had four or five glasses of ale in Bir-

mingham, and reached home about 7.30. *Cutler* and another publican were there, and there were some words between them. He told *Cutler* that if he used bad language and insulted his customers as he was doing, he should not have him in the house. He requested him to leave, and he did so, but afterwards came back and asked for a bottle of stout. This defendant refused, and *Cutler* then said he would go down to the police station and tell them that he (defendant) was drunk.

Dr. Thomas Ellis Mitchell said that at about ten minutes past eleven on the 27th ult, defendant came to his surgery and gave him an account of what had taken place in his house that night. From the fact that when defendant came into his house he was able to walk steadily and to give a coherent account of his doings during the night, witness would say he was not drunk.

Cross-examined: He was not prepared to give a definition of drunkenness or sobriety. Defendant was not so sober as he appeared in Court at that time.

Sir Benjamin Hingley: Under the influence of drink, but not incapable? – Witness: Yes.

Charles Booth and Alec Hughes corroborated defendant's statements.

After a short consultation Sir Benjamin Hingley said that the Bench were of opinion that although it might have been very unkind on the part of the other publicans, they believed defendant was drunk and incapable of carrying on his business, and he would be fined 10s including costs."

Dudley Herald 27/8/1898 - Advert

"Two Canal Boats for Sale cheap.

Apply, *J. Wothers*, NEPTUNE INN, Old Hill."

County Advertiser 4/3/1899

"Jonathan Sefton, Cherry Orchard, Old Hill, and William Blakeway, of Netherton, boatmen, were charged with being drunk and disorderly on the licensed premises of the NEPTUNE INN, Old Hill, and refusing to quit the same when requested to do so, and further with assaulting the landlady, Selina *Wothers*, on the 20th ult, and Jonathan Sefton was also charged with assaulting Sarah Jane Howard, the landlady's daughter, on the same date.

Selina *Wothers* said the defendants came into her house about half-past seven at night, in a very drunken condition. Upon seeing their state she ordered them out several times, but they refused to go. Witness refused to supply them and they stopped for half an hour. Blakeway got up to light his pipe, and she again asked him to go out. He refused and pushed her. Witness tried to prevent him sitting down again, and he then struck her a violent blow in the mouth. Sefton also struck her and she sent for the police.

Sarah Jane Howard said she went to take her mother's part, and Sefton struck her on the face, causing her to have two black eyes.

Police-constable Beach said he went to the public house on the date named. Blakeway went when he told him, but Sefton said he would not — well go. He had to be ejected. Witness prevented him striking the landlady with a bottle.

Defendants alleged that Sarah Jane Howard got a poker which she intended to use on them.

Each of the defendants was fined 10s and costs for refusing to quit. Blakeway 40s and costs for the assault on Mrs. *Wothers*, and Sefton 20s and costs on the same charge. Sefton was also fined 20s and costs for the assault on Sarah Jane Howard."

1901 Census

39, Powke Lane

[1] *John H. Stafford* (60), widower, publican, born Dudley;

[2] Martha Stafford (19), daughter, born Old Hill;

[3] George Henry Stafford (17), son, carpenter and joiner, born Old Hill;

[4] Elizabeth Sidaway (15), domestic servant, born Old Hill:

County Express 13/4/1901

"An inquest was held on Wednesday evening, at the BRITISH OAK INN, by Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner), concerning the death of Allan Brookes (49), ales fittings maker, who had resided at Birmingham Road, Blackheath, and whose body was found in the Birmingham Canal, near Powke Lane Bridge, Old Hill, on Tuesday morning. Mr. G. Green was present, representing the deceased's relatives.

Edith Brookes, deceased's daughter, who identified the body at Old Hill Mortuary, said they last saw her father alive on Monday morning, when he left Blackheath Station by the 10.19 train to Windmill End. He had never threatened to make away with himself, and when he left home on Monday he was all right. He was of a cheerful disposition.

Albert Sidaway, landlord of the BRITISH OAK INN, deposed to deceased calling at the house shortly before eight o'clock on Monday evening. When he left just after eight, he said he was going to do other business. He appeared to be in his usual state of mind. Replying to Mr. Green, witness said he knew the spot where the body was found. It was, in his opinion, and unsafe place, and a regular death trap. Several persons had got into the canal there during the last few years, and he believed some had been drowned. Deceased would be going in the direction of home that way.

John Halebond, a boatman, of Yew Tree Lane, Netherton, deposed to finding the body of deceased in the canal, at 5.30am on Tuesday morning. He obtained the assistance of *John Stafford*, of the NEPTUNE INN, Powke Lane, to get the body out.

Police-constable Horne deposed to removing the body to the mortuary. He found £4 12s 6d in money upon the deceased. He considered the place where deceased was found very dangerous, and it should be protected by a gate. Dr. T. V. deDenne, who had made a post-mortem examination, said death was due to drowning.

A Juryman said he has passed along this road on many occasions at night, and although accustomed to it, he had fallen into the canal.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

County Advertiser 11/2/1905

“The annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday.....

The following is a list of the licenses objected to by Superintendent Johnson.....

Thomas Hackerson, of the NEPTUNE INN, Old Hill; George Payne, of the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Cradley Heath; and William Titus Smith, of the RAILWAY TAVERN, Cradley Heath; on the ground that the premises are structurally deficient and unsuitable.....

Superintendent Johnson opposed the renewal of the license of the NEPTUNE INN, Old Hill, and urged that what he objected to was the opening of a door at the back of the house, which led on to the canal side. This enabled boatmen to have an easy access to the premises, whilst they could also get into them by scaling the wall, which was not high enough. He wished for the wall to be built higher.

Mr. Thompson, who appeared for the owners of the house, the North Worcestershire Brewery Company, said the doorway had been there for a long time, and the plans of the premises had been passed with the door shown upon them. It was a great convenience to the boatmen, and he did not think the company should be called upon to close it, as Superintendent Johnson made no suggestion of secret drinking having taken place upon the premises.

The Chairman said it was a means of access to the public house, and thought it ought to be closed.

Mr. Thompson said it was an important matter to his clients, and he urged that it should be allowed to stand over until the adjourned sessions. This was agreed to by the Bench”

County Advertiser 11/3/1905

“The adjourned licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday, at the Police Court.....

Mr. Thompson referred to three objections made by the police at the annual licensing day for certain alterations which were deferred. The houses in question were the NEPTUNE INN, Old Hill, the RAILWAY TAVERN, Cradley Heath, and the PLOUGH AND HARROW, Cradley Heath. Superintendent Johnson raised certain points, and he asked them to be deferred because they were of considerable importance to his clients. Since then he had consulted with his clients. With regard to the NEPTUNE INN, the police objected to a door which led out of the licensed premises on to the canal side. His clients would give an understanding that this door would be closed altogether excepting to allow horses to be taken to the stables. Otherwise it would be necessary to take the horses a considerable distance round. With regard to the RAILWAY TAVERN they had consented to close the back entrance to these premises and also to close a doorway leading from the back premises of the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN to public passages, after sunset each evening. This was a matter of considerable importance to them inasmuch as the passages were public ones, but his clients had decided to close the doorway at night and he believed this would meet with the wishes of the police.

Superintendent Johnson said he should be willing to withdraw his objections to the renewal of the licenses providing the conditions named by Mr. Thompson were given in writing and carried out by the owners. Mr. Thompson agreed to these conditions, and the renewal of the licenses was granted.”

Birmingham Mail 1/11/1905

“At Old Hill Police Court, today, *Thomas Hackerson*, landlord of the NEPTUNE INN, Powke Lane, Old Hill, was charged with keeping open his premises during prohibited hours, and also with permitting intoxicants to be consumed upon the premises.

Mr. J. W. Clulow, who prosecuted, explained that Inspector Gibbs and Police-constable Bridgewood heard voices in the house at 12 o'clock on the night of the 21st of last month, and also heard the drawing of corks. They watched for a time, and eventually a man named Thorne came out of the side entrance of the yard. He was detained, and Inspector Gibbs, who went into the house, found five other men in the kitchen drinking.

Defendant pleaded that he had read in the Licensed Victuallers' Official Annual that he could entertain his friends after closing time. He did not believe he was infringing the law at the time.

Mr. A. H. Bassano (presiding magistrate) said if the defendant's version of the law was correct, public houses could be kept open all night.

Defendant was fined £5, including costs.

Six men, named James Henry Hackerson, George Thorne, Lewis Hyde, Henry Neale, Charles Newman, and James Danks, of Rowley and Old Hill, were each fined 15s for being upon the premises during prohibited hours.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/2/1906

“The annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held yesterday.....

The Superintendent objected to the renewal of the licenses of.....

NEPTUNE INN, Old Hill.”

County Advertiser 10/3/1906

“The adjourned annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday.....

Mr. Bassano said the bench had under consideration the nine houses, five of which were objected to on the ground of convictions and four others on the ground of redundancy. It had raised a very large question, and the magistrates had had before them the consideration of the parish as a whole. He threw out a 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.....

The last of the objections, that of the NEPTUNE INN, Powke Lane, Old Hill, was then gone into. Mr. W. H. Thompson (Dudley)

represented the owners of the house, the North Worcestershire Brewery Company.

Inspector Gibbs said there had been three convictions against the house since 1890. The house was badly constructed for licensed premises. There were four small rooms downstairs, and the house was in a very dilapidated state, due to mining operations. It was difficult to get at, being much below the roadway. There was a wall close to the towing path of the canal, and people could get over this into the premises. There was also a gate leading to the canal side, which on one occasion he found open. The house was very difficult for police supervision.

Mr. Thompson explained that the last conviction in 1905 took place when a previous tenant was under notice to leave. He submitted that having regard to the circumstances it would be unfair to refuse the license. He recognised that the premises should be altered, and had deposited plans. The house was at present below the road, and it was proposed to raise it to the level of the road, and also to cut off the access to the canal side, thus making the premises self-contained.

Mr. Bassano said a committee of justices had inspected the premises, and they were in a bad state. The case did not come before them on the question of redundancy, and they did not feel justified in refusing the renewal. They expressed the hope, however, that the plans for the improvement of the house would be submitted to the justices at the earliest moment."

County Advertiser 14/4/1906

"Mr. W. H. Thompson, of Dudley, applied on behalf of the North Worcestershire Brewery Co, for sanction to re-build the NEPTUNE INN, Powke Lane, Old Hill. He mentioned that the house was in a very dilapidated condition through mining operations, and had sunk several feet below the main road. The magistrates approved the plans subject to several minor alterations being made."

County Express 3/7/1909

"At 9.45pm on Saturday Benjamin Bradley, of Tibbetts Gardens, Cradley Heath, was in the vicinity of Powke Lane when he heard a splash in the Birmingham canal close to the NEPTUNE INN. Proceeding to the spot he saw a young woman, and with assistance rescued her. She subsequently gave her name as Lizzie *Blakeway* residing with her brother at the KINGS ARMS INN, Rowley Village. It was alleged that after being rescued she made efforts to again jump into the canal, but was prevented from doing so by Bradley. She was taken to the NEPTUNE INN, and afterwards removed home."

Indenture 28/10/1909

"All that plot of land situate in the Parish of Rowley Regis aforesaid on the western side of the Dudley and Netherton Canal and fronting the road leading from Old Hill to or towards Rowley And also all that messuage or dwelling-house now used as a public house known as the NEPTUNE INN with the brewhouse stables piggeries outbuildings and other erections thereto belonging. . . ."

1911 Census

39, Powke Lane – NEPTUNE INN

[1] *John Shaw* (32), hotel manager, (licensed victualler), born North Demsbey, Yorkshire;

[2] *Ethel Shaw* (26), wife, married 4 years, assisting in business, born Quarry Bank:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/3/1922

"Gallant rescues have been effected by two Old Hill miners. *Elsie* (aged 8) and *Leslie Saunders* (aged 13), of the NEPTUNE INN, Old Hill, were playing near the canal when the wind carried a boat which the girl was holding into the middle of the water. The child was dragged with it, and her brother jumped in to rescue her. He was in difficulties when *J. Pearson*, of 50, Cherry Orchard, Old Hill, and *Harry Hill*, of 29, Clifton Street, Old Hill, miners, on the way to the pit, saw the children struggling. Both of them jumped into the canal and succeeded in rescuing the children."

Edgar Stanton = *Edgar Stinton*

1939 Register

117, Powke Lane

[1] *Charles Mildoon*, date of birth 24/8/1898, metal pattern maker, married;

[2] *Lucy E. Mildoon*, dob 23/1/1898, unpaid domestic duties, married;

Charles Richard Hodgetts – see also BRICKHOUSE, Rowley Regis.

Closed

It reopened in 1999.

It closed in 2006.

It was converted into two take away food shops.

Halesowen News 29/11/2012 - Death Notices

"*Lucy Morrish* (formerly *Lucy Allport*) former licensee of the NEPTUNE INN, Rowley Regis, passed away on 22nd November 2012, aged 87 years. She will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service to take place on Monday 10th December 2012 at Rowley Regis Crematorium at 4.00pm. No flowers by request please. If desired donations accepted for Mary

Stevens Hospice.”

NEW INN

90, (221), (31), Oldbury Road, BLACKHEATH

OWNERS

Enoch Hadley
Windsor Castle Brewery (acquired in 1919)
City Brewery, Lichfield [1920s]
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1920)
Marstons plc
New River Retail [2017]

LICENSEES

Charles Cox [1845] – **1851**);
Charles Steward Clift (**1851** – [1885]
Enoch Hadley [1891] – [1892]
Thomas West [1893]
Mrs. Eleanor Shaw [1896] – [1901]
Mrs. Annie Selina Hill [1904] – **1906**);
George Harry Laister (**1906**);
Robert Bennion (**1906** – [1908]
Mrs. Mary Ann Bennion [1911] – [1912]
William Henry Bennion [1916] – **1928**);
John William Tolley (**1928** – **1936**);
Albert Leslie Green (**1936** – **1937**);
Francis Howard Ward (**1937** – **1938**);
Jesse Philip Jewkes (**1938** – **1949**);
William Percy Biddle (**1949** – **1952**);
Thomas Jones (**1952** – **1960**);
Vera May Jones (**1960** – [1965]
B Crowley [1983]
Maurice Hall [1984]
B Crowley [1990]
Angela Pepperell [2010]
Armin Burazorovic [2012]
Ian Keeling [2016] – [2017]

NOTES

31, Oldbury Road [1881], [1891], [1901], [1908], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1924], [1932]
221, Oldbury Road [1940]
90, Oldbury Road [1983], [1990]

Black Country Bugle (February 1984) - Pub of the Month

“Many of the local pits were sunk on the Whiteheath side of the town and young *Charles Cox* of Endless Orchard, Old Hill, saw the need for another tavern in that area. He built the NEW INN in the early 1840s calculating that it would not be short of custom, for some 40 coal pits and 10 brickyards lay within a two mile radius of its location With pits like ‘Blackbat’, ‘Ramrod’ close by, the NEW INN became a favourite colliers pub where the blood sports practiced by that brethren were popular diversions from a stint at the coal face. Dog and cock fighting ledgers were regular events at ‘Cox’s House’ – also famous for its fist fights on Saturday nights.”

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

8th March 1846 - Charles, son of *Charles* and *Mary Cox*, victualler, Blackheath.
22nd August 1847 - Ann, daughter of *Charles* and *Ann Cox*, publican, Blackheath.
21st October 1849 - Edward, son of *Charles* and *Ann Cox*, victualler, Blackheath.

Staffordshire Advertiser 11/12/1847

“Inquests Before George Hinchliffe, Esq, Coroner.

On Wednesday last, at the NEW INN, Rowley Regis, on the body of William Norton, aged 27 years. The deceased was at work at Mr. Hackett’s coal-pit, at Rowley, on Monday last, and, in company with two other men, ascended from the pit in a skip. On arriving at the top, there was no person in attendance to push the waggon over the pit mouth (the regular banksman not attending on Mondays) and instead of waiting until the engineer came, the unfortunate deceased jumped out, and his foot catching the side of the pit, he fell backwards to the bottom, a depth of 150 yards. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Charles Cox, beer retailer, Bleak Heath. [1850]

Charles Clift = Charles Cliff

1851 Census

Blackheath

- [1] *Charles Clift* (24), victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] Matilda Clift (22), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Maryan Clift (14), Oldbury;
- [4] Catherine Savage (24), visitor, born Oldbury;
- [5] Thomas Savage (26), visitor, cole miner, born Tipton;
- [6] Maryan Savage (7), visitor, born, Oldbury;
- [7] Maryan Waterhouse (16), servant, born Oldbury:

Staffordshire Advertiser 22/8/1857

“On Thursday last, an inquest was held at the NEW INN, Rowley Regis, to enquire into the circumstances attending the death of John Pearson, a miner, 44 years of age. The deceased was employed at the Eagle Pits, Rowley Regis, and was buried by a fall of three or four tons of earth from the roof. He was dead before his body could be extricated from the mass of rubbish which covered it, and which took two hours’ incessant exertion to clear away. It was proved that the workings had been examined that morning, and found to be in a satisfactory state.”

1861 Census

Black Heath – NEW INN

- [1] *Charles Clift* (34), victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] Sarah Clift (35), wife, born Claverley;
- [3] Mary Ann Clift (24), sister, born Oldbury:

County Advertiser 18/5/1867

“At the Police Court, on Wednesday, before Messrs. F. D. L. Smith and F. W. G. Barrs, the following persons were charged at the instance of Mr. William Tullet, district inspector of weights and measures, with having in their possession insufficient and unjust weights and measures.

Charles Clift, licensed victualler, Blackheath, was summoned in a charge similar to those above recorded. Mr. Shakespeare appeared to defend him, and when the case was called on said that he had had some conversation with Mr. Tullet on the case, and it had been arranged between them to withdraw it. The question was whether when liquor was sold in the jugs seized by the inspector it was sold by the defendant as representing a certain quantity. He could call evidence to prove that the defendant charged ½d less for these jugs, which were used in his bar. In a recent case the Solicitor-General gave it as his opinion that the law did not apply unless the jugs were to represent imperial quarts and imperial pints.

Mr. Barrs observed that that would open a very wide door.

Mr. Shakespeare said that if his client had not charged ½d less he would have been amenable, but whenever customers asked for pints or quarts he measured the quantity, but when they asked for jugs he gave them jugs and charged ½d less.

Mr. Oldershaw (Magistrates’ Clerk): It is very dangerous for a licensed victualler to have measures of that kind. He lays himself open for these jugs; and it might be very awkward for him.

Mr. Shakespeare: He does it at the request of his customers, in order to keep his bar more respectable.

Mr. Oldershaw: I fancy he must sacrifice the idea of respectability on that point.

Mr. Shakespeare: Well, if he takes my advice, he will never use them again.”

County Express 26/11/1870

“*Charles Clift*, of the NEW INN, Old Hill, was summoned for having his house open on Sunday the 20th inst, during prohibited hours for the sale of ale and beer. Mr. Hayes defended.

The defendant was represented by his wife.

Police-constable Slynn was called to prove the case, when Mr. Hayes said that the defendant admitted the offence which was a very trivial one, and expressed her sorrow for it. It occurred about a quarter of an hour before the proper time for opening, and she would not have done so, but a woman who lived near went and begged hard to her to let her have some ale, as one of her neighbours had got some friends who had walked from Smethwick. She had since been told that it was a plan adopted to catch Mr.

Clift.

Police-sergeant Powner said he should press the case, and asked for a conviction, as it was stated that it was a plan used for the purpose of catching a publican. If the defendant was convicted he should summons the woman, but if the Bench merely ordered payment of costs, he could not summons her. He would as soon summons the woman as the defendant.

Mr. Hayes said the ale was for travellers.

The Bench ordered her to pay costs.”

1871 Census

Blakeheath

[1] *Charles Clift* (44), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;

[2] Sarah Clift (46), wife, born Claverley;

[3] Mary E. Hadow (20), domestic servant, born Bentley, Worcestershire:

Stourbridge Observer 29/6/1872

“Thomas Bond was charged by *Charles Clift* with having on the 22nd inst, knowingly uttered one counterfeit shilling, and also with having in his possession 52 shillings and 6 florins, well knowing them to be base.

Miss Edith Clift said she was neice of the prosecutor, of the NEW INN, Blackheath. On the 22nd inst the prisoner called at their house, and asked for a bottle of ginger beer. He gave her a shilling. She gave it him back and told him it was a bad one, and he then gave her a good sixpence. She told her uncle and Sargeant Davis who were talking together in the house.

Sargeant Davis proved apprehending prisoner, and finding 52 shillings and 3 florins (base coin) all wrapped in fresh tissue paper singly. He also had 5s good money, and 4½d in copper. He said he had bought them of a navvy at Bilston, and had given him 15s for the coins.

Superintendent Mills said he was formerly a jeweller and silversmith. The coins produced were all base, and were a mixture of tin and lead.

Prisoner said he was out of work, and poverty compelled him to do it.

He was committed to take his trial at the Stafford Sessions.”

[Thomas Bond, 22, seaman, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to three months' imprisonment.]

Birmingham Daily Post 13/11/1873

“The rivet-makers of Rowley Regis, Black Heath, and district are now on strike for an advance of 10 per cent on their present rate of wages. A new list of wages was sent to each master in the trade fourteen days prior to the commencement of the strike; but the masters refuse to grant the men's proposals. A deputation of the men waited upon the masters, at a special meeting called for that purpose, at the NEW INN, Black Heath, on Monday night, to try to make a compromise; but the masters' terms could not possibly be accepted. Two or three of the smaller masters have offered to give the advance asked for.”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/1/1874 - Advert

“Found, a Scotch Shepherd's Dog, on January 1; dark fawn coloured. If not claimed within three days will be sold to defray expenses.

Apply, Mr. *Clift*, NEW INN, near Rowley Station.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/2/1875 - Advert

“‘Defensio, Non Provocatio.’ Caution.

The Licensed Victuallers' Tea Association, Southwark Street, Borough, London.

This Association, having prosecuted and convicted a Grocer, at Bradford, at the Leeds Assizes, under the Merchandize Marks Act, 1862, and also prosecuted a man at Chester Assizes, who was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for fraudulently counterfeiting and imitating their Trade Mark, and having obtained a decree for a perpetual injunction against a Tea Company (Limited), restricting the said Company from selling or exposing for sale Tea packed in covers or wrappers made in imitation of those used by the Licensed Victuallers' Tea Association, or not materially differing therefrom, or in any covers or wrappers which by their shape, size, colour, labels, writings, figures, inscriptions, trade mark, or general character should make it appear that the packets sold or exposed for sale were those of the Licensed Victuallers' Tea Association, and which decree on appeal was confirmed by the Lord Chancellor, notice is hereby given that all Persons Counterfeiting or Imitating the Trade Mark of the Licensed Victuallers' Tea Association will be forthwith Proceeded Against; and Licensed Victuallers, Grocers, Bakers, Confectioners and others are hereby warned from selling or exposing for sale Tea packed in covers or wrappers made in imitation of those used by the said Association.

Thompson and Son, 60, Cornhill, Solicitors for the Licensed Victuallers' Tea Association.

Agents For Staffordshire.....

Rowley Regis: Mr. *C. Clift*, NEW INN, Blake Heath.”

1881 Census

31, Oldbury Road – NEW INN

[1] *Charles Clift* (54), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;

[2] Sarah Clift (56), wife, born Claverley:

County Advertiser 14/11/1885

“Samuel Smith (18), labourer, Blackheath, and William Read (19), labourer, Cakemore, were charged with breaking and entering

the dwelling house of Sidney Smith, Causeway Green, and stealing therefrom one silver lever watch, one silver chain and locket, £1 10s in gold, two 5s pieces, three shillings in silver, one twopenny piece and some coppers, on the 29th ult. Mr. Hughes (West Bromwich) defended the prisoner, Read.

Sarah Jane Smith, wife of prosecutor, said that at eight o'clock on the morning in question she left her house, leaving all the doors and windows locked. When she returned at half-past eleven, she found the back door opened. She went to one of her dresses downstairs, and found that the money had been extracted from her purse, and the, and the purse put back again. Upon going upstairs she found that her husband's watch, chain and locket had been taken from under the bed pillow. The articles in a clothes-box had also been turned out, and two 5s pieces and an old twopenny piece extracted. On the same day she gave information to Police-constable Bayliss.

Cross-examined: The prisoner Smith is my nephew, but I do not think he had ever been in any other room than the kitchen in my house.

A boy named Joseph Denson said that on the morning in question he saw two men near prosecutor's house. One was near the dog kennel, and the other at the back door. Witness could not identify the two men.

Mrs. *Clift*, NEW INN, Blackheath, said that between ten and eleven o'clock on the morning in question the two prisoners came to her house and had a pint of ale, two glasses of rum, bread and cheese, two other glasses of rum, some tobacco, and a cigar, for which the prisoner Smith paid. Smith also asked her to change a 5s piece, which she did. The prisoners remained in her house about an hour.

Police-constable Lavin said that on the day in question he received information of the robbery, and went to the house of the prisoner Smith, and charged him with committing the robbery. Witness saw that Smith had something in his hand, and found it full of money. Smith said, 'I have done no work for the last eighteen months, and thought I would have some.' Smith's mother, who was standing by crying, said, 'Here is the watch,' and handed it to him. Smith had in his possession £1 16s 4d. Police-constable Bayliss came up at the time and took charge of the money and the prisoner.

Police-constable Bayliss said he charged the prisoner Smith with committing the robbery, to which he replied, 'I own all that.' Witness subsequently received a five shilling piece from Mrs. *Clift*. When at the police station Smith said, 'Read told me to go. He stopped in the yard and minded the dog while I went. I gave him a shilling and a twopenny piece of the money.' On the same night witness arrested Read, who said he knew nothing about the robbery, and added, 'If you had asked me when I saw you before I should have told you all I knew.' Witness locked Read up, and charged the prisoners jointly with committing the robbery. Read said, 'I found a twopenny piece by the garden gate, and gave it to my mother.' Read said he would tell witness all about it, and made a statement to the effect that he knew nothing of the robbery, but that Smith paid for the refreshments they had at Mrs. *Clift*'s. When searched a key which would unlock prosecutor's back door was found in Smith's pocket.

Polly Read, sister of the prisoner Read, deposed to receiving a twopenny piece from her mother and leaving it at the house of Police-constable Bayliss on the 30th ult.

Cross-examined: On the previous day witness saw her brother pick up a twopenny piece in the lane where the prisoner Smith had been dancing.

For the defence Jemima Read, the mother of the prisoner, was called, and said that her son left home about nine o'clock on the morning in question.

A witness named Thompson said the prisoner was at the Cakemore Brickworks at ten o'clock on the morning in question. Smith came to the brickyard about a quarter past ten and had a lot of money in his possession.

Similar evidence was given by Rachel Parkes and William Dunn.

The prisoners were committed for to take their trial at the Sessions.

The Bench allowed bail for Read."

Charles Clift died on 7th February 1886.

County Express 9/6/1888

"Mr. Edwin Hooper (South Staffordshire Coroner) held an inquest on Tuesday at the NEW INN, Whiteheath, Rowley Regis, touching the deaths of William Franks (30), miner, Ross, and John Robinson (32), miner, Mincing Lane, who were killed by the fall of coal at a Rowley Hall Colliery. Mr. Scott (Government Inspector) and Mr. Pickering (assistant-inspector) were in attendance, and Mr. North represented the Rowley Hall Colliery Company.

Evidence of identification having been given, Thomas Siviter said he was at work in a place near to where the deceased were employed on Thursday. Shortly after twelve o'clock a heavy fall of coal occurred and the two men were buried. He certainly was of opinion that the stall where the accident occurred was inadequately timbered.

Christopher Bateman, stallman, said he considered the place to be safe, and that there was no necessity for extra timber.

In reply to the Coroner, witness said he could not account for the coal falling, as it was very firm when examined.

Joseph Baugh, underground manager at the colliery, said John Robinson (one of the deceased men), examined No. 14 stall, and witness was told the place was safe.

The Coroner: To the best of your judgement do you consider there was sufficient timber set for the safety of the men? – Witness: They told me the place was safe.

The Coroner: That is not an answer to my question. – Witness: A shot had been fired.

The Coroner said he should decline to ask the witness another question. He evidently wanted to shirk his responsibility.

In reply to a Juryman, witness said he considered there was sufficient timber.

A Juryman said he considered that Baugh was to blame for the accident.

The Coroner: There is no doubt that had Baugh examined the workings he would have found a faulty place, and the lives of these unfortunate men might have been saved.

After other witnesses had been called, Mr. Pickering, assistant-inspector, stated he examined the workings on the 1st inst. The place was not sufficiently timbered, there being no tree under the coal which gave way. The accident, in his opinion, was due to the want of timber.

The Coroner, in summing up, said the evidence showed that Robinson and Baugh were greatly to blame for not having done their duty. Baugh was very much to blame for not having examined the place, and it would be for the jury to say whether he had been guilty of culpable negligence.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and added that Baugh was deserving of severe censure for neglect of duty.

Baugh was called into the room and the Coroner informed him of the decision of the jury. He added that he had narrowly escaped a committal for manslaughter, and he trusted what had taken place would be a warning to him, and that he would in future do his duty.

Baugh: I won't rely on the workmen in future."

Sarah *Clift* married *Enoch Hadley* in the 4th quarter of 1888.

Birmingham Daily Post 21/2/1889

"Last night a meeting of the employers in the rivet trade at Rowley, Blackheath, Old Hill, and surrounding districts, was held at the NEW INN, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, for the purpose of considering the application made on behalf of the operatives for an advance of wages. Mr. T. W. Lench presided.

The meeting unanimously decided to offer to concede the list issued in June, 1887, representing an advance ranging from 5 to 15 per cent upon the prices paid at present.

A deputation, consisting of Messrs. I. Cashmore, T. Brookes, and other delegates, representing the operatives was called into the room and informed of the decision of the employers. Mr. Cashmore took exception to one item in the list, and Mr. Brookes argued that the advance should be based on the 3s 9d list. He said it was impossible for the men to maintain themselves and families at the present low rates.

The Chairman said the employers considered that the state of trade did not warrant them in offering more than the list mentioned. It would be better for the men to accept a small advance now with the promise that if trade improved that employers would then consider the claim for the 4s list.

After further discussion, the masters agreed to offer the list of June, 1887, in its entirety, with the exception of $\frac{3}{8}$ in and gas rivets. For the $\frac{3}{8}$ in rivets they would pay 3s 8d per cwt in, and 4s 2d out, and an increase of 6d per cwt on gas rivets.

This was accepted by the representatives of the operatives, and they agreed to do their utmost to maintain the new list."

1891 Census

31, Oldbury Road

[1] *Enoch Hadley* (50), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Sarah Hadley (62), wife, born Claverley;

[3] Jane Newman (22), domestic servant, born Kingswinford:

County Advertiser 15/4/1893

"*Thomas West*, landlord of the NEW INN, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, was charged with selling intoxicating liquors to drunken persons on the 19th inst, and further, with permitting drunkenness on the same date. Mr. Waldron prosecuted, and Mr. Thompson (Warmington and Thompson), Dudley, defended.

Mr. Waldron said the circumstances out of which the cases arose were as follows. Two young men named Priest and Sturman, on Sunday, the 19th March, went from Old Hill to West Bromwich for a drive, and, in the course of their journey, as far as the evidence showed, they imbibed rather freely of port and brandy at several public houses. They started early in the afternoon, and ultimately got to defendant's house about 7.30. There they had some more port and brandy, Priest having four glasses, and Sturman six glasses of the liquor. Sturman, in consequence, was helplessly drunk, and had to be carried out of the house by defendant, and placed in the trap.

Mr. Bassano: Were the port and brandy drunk together? – Mr. Waldron: I don't know, but it used to be drunk years ago for a specific purpose, pain in the stomach. (Laughter.)

Continuing, Mr. Waldron said the result was that Sturman was taken home and had to go to bed. Sturman afterwards found that he had lost his watch, and though they did not impute anything to defendant in regard to that, it showed that Sturman was so drunk that he could not take care of his own property. He wished to say that the police did not ask for a conviction in both cases, and would be content with one conviction, and having regard to all the circumstances, and the evidence he would call, he asked the Bench to say the case was fully made out.

Fredrick James Priest (18), Halesowen Road, Old Hill, bore out Mr. Waldron's statement, and deposed to calling at three public houses and having a mixture of port and brandy before they called at defendant's house where they stayed half an hour. During this time he had four glasses of brandy and port, and Sturman had six.

Mr. Waldron: I suppose you were not sober? – Witness: Well, I was not drunk. (Laughter.)

Mr. Bassano: What proportion of brandy was there in the glass? – Mr. Thompson: A little under a teaspoonful of brandy, and the rest port.

Samuel Evans and Thomas Sturman also gave evidence in keeping with Mr. Waldron's statement, and said he did not recollect anything after the first glass.

Inspector Bishop deposed to going to the house on the 24th ult and making inquiries. Defendant said Sturman had four glasses, and upon having the fourth suddenly fell forward with his head on the table. Defendant thought Sturman had a fit, and said he

never saw a man go so quickly.

Cross-examined: The house had been well conducted.

Mr. Thompson, for the defence, admitted that Sturman was drunk, but urged that there was nothing to induce defendant not to fill the liquor the young men asked for. They were sober when they reached defendant's house, and Sturman was only supplied with four glasses. The quantity supplied would come to only a quarter of a pint, and under the circumstances, and bearing in mind the good character of the house, he asked the Bench not to convict.

Defendant was called, and deposed to these facts, stating that Sturman walked out of the house with his assistance.

Charles Deakin corroborated.

The Bench considered the case proved, and fined defendant 40s and costs."

County Advertiser 13/5/1893

"Frederick James Priest, a young man of respectable appearance, residing at Old Hill, was summoned at the instance of Mr. J. Bracken (Supervisor of Inland Revenue) for using a gun without a license on March 20th.

Thomas West, landlord of the NEW INN, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, said he saw defendant shoot at two pigeons when liberated from a trap. The defendant did not hold a license for the gun he used.

Mr. Bassano (the presiding magistrate): To whom did the gun belong? – Witness: It belongs to me.

Mr. Bassano: And you do hold a gun license? – Witness: Yes, I do.

Defendant: You asked me amongst others to have a shoot, and I accepted your offer. – Witness: That is so.

Defendant said *West* had asked him to use the gun, and afterwards gave information to the Excise authorities. Some weeks ago he had to give evidence against *West* in a licensing prosecution.

Mr. Bassano said it had not been customary for the Inland Revenue to prosecute and ask for fines.

Mr. Bracken said the information having been forwarded to the Inland Revenue authorities, a prosecution was ordered.

Mr. Bassano: The magistrates are of opinion that it looks very much like a trap. We think the case should be withdrawn on payment of costs.

Mr. Bracken: A fine to include costs.

Mr. Bassano: We do not think it is a case in which a fine should be inflicted. The case will be withdrawn on the defendant paying the Court costs, 10s.

Defendant: Thank you, gentlemen."

County Advertiser 22/9/1894

"On Monday evening, Mr. Edwin Hooper held an inquest at the NEW INN, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, Rowley Regis, relative to the death of the female child of Hannah Poole, a single woman, residing in Oldbury Road.

The mother stated that the child was a fortnight old, and had been healthy from its birth. On Sunday morning she found it dead at her breast. Her mother, who was in the house, was sent for. No medical man was called in, and no attempt was made to restore animation by placing the child in a bath.

The Coroner: What did your mother do for the child? – Witness: Nothing.

The Coroner: Do you suppose that children can be allowed to die in this way? If you do you are greatly mistaken. A child is allowed to die on its mother's breast and nothing is done for it, although there are three women in the house. – Witness: I did the best I could for the child.

The Coroner: You allowed the child to die, and you deserve a long term of imprisonment.

Two other women gave evidence, and admitted that they did not do anything for the child or trouble about a doctor.

The Coroner said a great deal had been said at times about infant mortality in the Black Country, and he did not wonder at it. In the present instance the child's life had been thrown away.

A Juryman: The women acted through ignorance.

The Coroner: Ignorance is no excuse.

The jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes.

The Coroner called all the witnesses before him and severely censured them, remarking that if he had had the power he should have committed both the mother and grandmother for manslaughter as they were undoubtedly guilty of culpable negligence. The jury had, however, taken a merciful view of the case. He should order them to be watched as to how they treated other children."

Worcestershire Chronicle 28/11/1896 - Deaths

"Nov. 11, Sarah, wife of *Enoch Hadley*, late of the NEW INNS, Black Heath, Dudley."

County Advertiser 9/11/1899

"Edward Harris, of Hadleys Buildings, Whiteheath, was charged with stealing a rabbit, some sugar, one pound of pork chops, and a pocket handkerchief, the property of Fred Cooper, on the 28th ult.

Complainant stated that on the 28th of last month, he was in the NEW INNS, Oldbury Road, Blackheath. There were some other people there, including the prisoner. As soon as he went in he placed a bundle, which he had in his hand, on the table. The bundle contained sugar, a rabbit, and a pound of pork chops. Complainant then went out into the yard, and on returning missed the bundle. He estimated the value of the bundle at 2s.

Philemon Jones, carter, of Oldbury Road, corroborated, adding that he saw prisoner take up the bundle and carry it away. Witness informed complainant about it as soon as he returned.

Police-constable Dale said at 11 o'clock on the 28th ult, from information he had received, he visited the house of defendant, and after a careful search, found the rabbit and the pork chops on separate dishes on a shelf at the top of the cellar. The handkerchief

was stuffed in a hole in the head of the sofa. Upon again visiting the house next day witness found the sugar. When witness charged defendant with the theft, he replied, 'I found them up the road, I shall say no more.'
Defendant pleaded guilty, but said he had not taken the articles with any intention of stealing them, but was the worse for drink at the time and did not know what he was doing.
Defendant was fined £1 and costs."

Dudley Herald 5/5/1900

"William Plant, Station Road, Cakemore, was charged with assaulting Harriet Parkes, of Oldbury Road, Blackheath. Sarah Poole, of Blackheath was also charged with assaulting Parkes, whilst Letitia Cole, servant of the NEW INNS, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, charged William Plant with assaulting her. A very lively affray was testified to, and Plant was fined 10s and costs for assaulting Mrs. Parkes, and 10s and costs for the assault on Cole. Mrs. Cole was fined 5s and costs."

1901 Census

31, Oldbury Road

- [1] *Eleanor Shaw* (64), widow, licensed victualler, born Birmingham;
- [2] Ann Matilda Cooper (42), daughter, widow, born Birmingham;
- [3] Maud Gibbs (22), granddaughter, born Acocks Green;
- [4] Sarah Cole (19), domestic servant, born Blackheath:

Smethwick Weekly News 6/7/1901

"At the Old Hill Police Court on Wednesday, David Cooke, brick manufacturer, of Church Street, Blackheath, was summoned for assaulting William Geary, brickworks' foreman, who lives at Saltley, Birmingham, on the 25th ult. Mr. S. Ward prosecuted, and Mr. J. S. Sharpe defended. Mr. Ward explained that the parties were in the NEW INNS, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, when a heated discussion took place respecting various businesses, and defendant alleged that complainant's mismanagement had landed his company into bankruptcy. The complainant repudiated, and defendant struck him in the mouth, chest, and eye, and knocked him into a window, smashing it. Complainant gave evidence in support of this statement, and in cross-examination he admitted striking defendant in self defence. The Bench fined defendant £1 15s, including costs."

Birmingham Mail 6/3/1906 - Deaths

"On March 3rd, Mrs. *Hill*, late of the NEW INNS, Blackheath. Not forgotten by Daisy."

1911 Census

Oldbury Road – NEW INN

- [1] *Mary Ann Bennion* (52), widow, licensed victualler, born Blackheath;
- [2] *William Henry Bennion* (27), son, barman, born Blackheath;
- [3] Percy Bennion (19), son, coal miner, born Blackheath;
- [4] Clara Dodson (27), domestic servant, born Blackheath:

County Advertiser 23/3/1907

"Mr. G. C. Lewis (coroner) held an inquest yesterday week at the NEW INN, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, concerning the death of John Henry Goodwin (51), loader, formerly residing at Oldbury Road, Blackheath, who died on Wednesday week from the effect of injuries sustained whilst following his employment at the Rowley Station Colliery on the 7th inst. Mr. R. H. Makepeace (Government Inspector of Mines) was present, Mr. W. I. Smith represented the proprietors of the colliery, and Mr. R. Bate the relatives of the deceased man.

The evidence showed that on the afternoon of the 7th inst deceased was working in a roadway with another man named Benjamin Westwood, when a bump suddenly occurred and nearly two tons of coal fell upon Goodwin. He was partially buried, and when rescued he was found to be badly crushed.

Dr. J. G. Beasley found that deceased had sustained a fracture of four of his ribs on the left side, death being due to shock following the injury. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/2/1921

"In presenting his report to the Old Hill magistrates, yesterday, Superintendent Robotham said there was one license for every 255 of the population. Twenty-three persons had been proceeded against for drunkenness, 21 being convicted.

Applications for structural alterations to the BOAT INN, Tividale, was agreed to, but a similar application to the BRITANNIA INN, Tividale, was refused. Alterations to the NEW INN, Blackheath, were permitted."

Demolished

It was rebuilt in the late 1920s.

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 Subscription List..... Customers, NEW INN, Oldbury Road, Blackheath..... £1 0s 0d."

Jesse Philip Jewkes = Jesse Philip Jenkes

1939 Register

221, Oldbury Road

[1] *Jesse P. Jewkes*, date of birth 9/12/1902, manager of licensed premises, married;

[2] Lilan M. Jewkes, dob 20/6/1904, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] Alan Jewkes, dob 4/1/1936, under school age, single:

Halesowen News 15/02/2007 - Advert

“Joyce Patricia Owen. The family of the late Joyce would like to express their sincere thanks to relatives, friends and neighbours for their cards and donations for Holly Croft Staff. Also thanks to the NEW INN Blackheath for the lovely buffet.”

Halesowen News 23/4/2010

“A new hair salon could be for the chop as trade has plummeted by 80 per cent due to the closure of a main road through Rowley Regis for five weeks to allow the replacement of a burst water main. Hair Professionals opened last month in Oldbury Road, but owner John Tsang said he was ‘absolutely devastated’ by the loss of passing trade when South Staffs Water started digging up the road 10 days ago.

‘It’s like a ghost town and as a new business, I’m worried that we may not survive this,’ he said. Other businesses are also suffering as motorists avoid the road works, although there is access to frontages and an ‘open for business as usual’ sign has been displayed.

Toucan Car Spares boss Ron Spencer, who is also losing passing trade said, ‘Motorists are put off by the barriers and think the road is closed completely so are not coming to us.’

NEW INN landlady *Angela Pepperell*, said the pub was very quiet and mechanic Amin Navab who runs Green’s Garage, just off Oldbury Road, described business as ‘dead.’

Mr. Tsang said there had been little notice of the road closure from the water company and he had received no guarantees of whether – or when – he would receive compensation for loss of income. He was also concerned that his business would suffer if water supplies were cut off for any length of time in order for the works to be completed.

Most of the businesses said they would hope to claim compensation for loss of trade from South Staffs Water and a company spokesman said claims would be considered by loss adjustors from their insurers. He added that the work was essential to replace an 800m length of water main which had burst and flooded two homes three times in the last two years. ‘This work was scheduled for later this year, but when the Highways Authority gave us this window of opportunity we brought the work forward. We apologise for any inconvenience and hope to have it completed within five weeks. If there are delays, we will have to return in August. A customer liaison officer will visit the businesses to see if there is anything we can do to help,’ he added.”

Armin Burazorovic was born in Bosnia.

He and his family came to Britain in 1993.

Ian Keeling was married to Stacey.

[2019]

NEW INN

31, (32), Graingers Lane (Halesowen Street), (Corngreaves Road) / Northgate, CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

William Tibbetts

Exors of William Tibbetts

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. [1949]

LICENSEES

William Tibbetts [1859] – [1871]

Thomas Tibbetts [1872]

William Tibbetts [1881] – [1892]

Frederick Arthur Tibbetts (1892 – [1896])

Caroline Tibbetts [1898] – [1900]

Frank Gower (1900 – [1901])

Mrs. William Tibbetts [1904]

William Tibbetts [1908] – [1916]
Ann Maria Tibbetts [] – 1919);
Richard Llewelyn Province (1919 – 1949);
Wesley Ronald Homer (1949 – 1951);
Joseph Henry Martin (1951 – 1953);
Jack Flavell (1953 – 1954);
Thomas George Jones (1954 – 1956);
Charles Tucker (1956 – 1958);
Alice Tucker (1958 – 1959);
Joseph Jeavons (1959 – 1961);
John Edward ‘Ted’ Holloway (1961 – 1965);
L Piggott (1965 – []
Colin Scott [1990]

NOTES

Corngreaves Road [1871]
Halesowen Street [1873]
32, Graingers Lane [1881], [1891]
Graingers Lane [1896]
31, Graingers Lane [1901], [1904], [1908], [1912], [1924], [1932], [1940]

MALT SHOVEL [1871]

It was known locally as “Lew’s”.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/7/1857 - Marriages

“June 27, at Snowhill Congregational Church, in this town, by the Rev. William Bevan, Mr. *William Tibbetts*, maltster, of Cradley Heath, to Ann, daughter of Mr. Thomas Adams, of King Street, in this town.”

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.....
William Tibbetts, beerseller, ten deficient pint measures, 5s and costs.”

1861 Census

Five Ways to Corngreaves, Reddal Hill – NEW INN

- [1] *William Tibbetts* (34), maltster and victualler, born Rowley;
- [2] Ann Tibbetts (26), wife, born Wolverhampton;
- [3] Harry Tibbetts (1), son, born Rowley;
- [4] Thomas A. Tibbetts (5 months), son, born Rowley;
- [5] Erskine Morgan (23), domestic servant, born Rowley:

William Tibbetts, retailer of beer, Cradley Heath. [1862]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 3/9/1862

“At the Rowley annual licensing session, held on Friday last there were thirteen applicants for new licenses, but only two were granted, Mr. Joseph Foley, and Mr. *William Tibbetts*.”

William Tibbetts was also a maltster. [1864], [1865], [1868], [1870]

1871 Census

Corngreaves Road – MALT SHOVEL

- [1] *William Tibbetts* (44), widower, publican and maltster, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Harry Tibbetts (11), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Thomas Tibbetts (10), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Joseph Tibbetts (8), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *William Tibbetts* (5), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Frederick A. Tibbetts* (4), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Sarah Tibbetts (1), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] Erskine Morgan (33), general servant, born Rowley Regis:

Thomas Tibbetts was also a maltster. [1872]

County Advertiser 6/9/1873

“General Servant (good) wanted. Not under 25. Wages according to capabilities. Apply, *William Tibbetts*, NEW INN, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 1/5/1875 - Advert

“Two good General Servants Wanted. Apply, *William Tibbetts*, NEW INN, Cradley Heath.”

1881 Census

32, Graingers Lane

- [1] *William Tibbetts* (53), widower, publican and maltster, born Rowley;
- [2] Harry Tibbetts (21), son, assistant, born Rowley;
- [3] Joseph Tibbetts (18), son, assistant, born Rowley;
- [4] *William Tibbetts* (16), son, assistant, born Rowley;
- [5] *Frederick A. Tibbetts* (14), son, scholar, born Rowley;
- [6] Phoebe Ann Homer (23), domestic servant, born Rowley;
- [7] Sarah Tibbetts (11), daughter, scholar, born Netherton:

County Express 7/7/1888

“Alarming Subsidence at Cradley Heath.

There is perhaps no district in the Black Country whose inhabitants have suffered so much as a community during the last two years as the people of Cradley Heath. Strikes and disastrous fatal accidents have followed each other with startling rapidity, and accompanied by the most severe trade depression, have brought about very great distress among the poor people living in the district. The last of this series of disasters is an alarming subsidence, the result of mining operations, the extent of which has never been equalled within the memory of the oldest inhabitant. The area of land affected by the subsidence is more than three acres, and the damage is estimated at £10,000.....

The subsidence which has occurred during the past week is much more alarming than any which have preceded it, the locality affected being covered with houses and chain and nail shops. The locality may be described as bounded in front by Graingers Lane, in the rear by King Street, and at the sides by Tibbetts Gardens and Cokeland Places. In addition to the hundred houses and their outbuildings which are included in this area, there is the Primitive Methodist Chapel, a blue-brick building, with a tower. Some of the houses are comparatively new, having been but recently built, but all have equally suffered The Primitive Methodist Chapel was erected in 1841 and enlarged in 1858, and the tower was built by Mr. *William Tibbetts* and others in 1860.....

Mr. *William Tibbetts*, of the NEW INN, has twenty-three houses besides the one he occupies, and he has been apparently the principal sufferer in the matter. His malthouse floor has been cracked in one part by the movement of the ground, and the quarries have been thrust upwards. There has been a good deal of damage done to the house he occupies, as well as mischief to those he owns. There was, on Thursday, only a few feet of water in his well, which is thirty-two yards deep, and which used frequently to have twenty-six yards of water in it.....

A meeting of property owners interested in the matter was held A resolution was passed as to the desirability of united action with regard to any steps to obtain compensation for the damage that has been occasioned. A deputation [including *William Tibbetts*] was appointed to wait on the colliery proprietors who have been alleged to be responsible for the damage.....”

Frederick Arthur Tibbetts married Caroline Carwright in the 2nd quarter of 1890.

1891 Census

32, Graingers Lane – NEW INN

- [1] *William Tibbetts* (64), widower, publican, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Phoebe Homer (32), housekeeper, born Dudley;
- [3] Eliza Homer (17), general servant, born Kingswinford:

County Express 3/10/1891

“At the County Court, on Tuesday, before Sir Rupert Kettle, a claim was made by Mrs. Margaret Adams, wheelwright, of NEW INN, Cradley Heath, against Mr. William Willetts, builder and contractor, Old Hill, to recover £4 7s 0d for work done. Mr. W. O. C. Addison, appeared for plaintiff. The defendant admitted the plaintiff’s claim but counter-claimed for £4 7s 6d in respect of some wagon wheels and hand cart wheels, and for the cost of re-painting a lorry which he alleged had been improperly painted by the plaintiff. In cross-examination, the defendant admitted that the transaction as to the wheels was with the plaintiff’s late husband, and the lorry had not been re-painted, and that he had paid the plaintiff for the painting of it. The Judge disallowed the defendant’s counter-claim, and gave the plaintiff judgement with costs of four witnesses and solicitor’s fees.”

William Tibbetts was also a maltster. [1892]

County Advertiser 27/2/1892

“On Wednesday morning at the Police Court, Old Hill – before Messrs. W. Bassano, G. H. Claughton, and W. Holcroft – William

Foley, mineral water manufacturer, Tibbetts Gardens, Cradley Heath, was summoned, at the instance of the Birmingham and District Mineral Water Trade Protection Society, for nine offences under the Merchandise Marks Act by filling bottles on which there were the trade marks of Mr. Charles Grove, mineral water manufacturer, Princess End; Mr. Trentham, of Great Bridge; and Mr. William Pain, of Brierley Hill, and with selling the same to *William Tibbetts*. Mr. Jesse Herbert appeared to prosecute, and said he appeared to prefer a number of charges against William Foley, and he proposed to take three of the charges out of the nine which stood against defendant. The facts were these.

This man Foley had some mineral water in his possession which he sold to one man whom they had chosen in the case, viz, *William Tibbetts*, of NEW INN, Cradley Heath. When the inspector of the Association went to Mr. *Tibbett's* house on the 27th of January he found there bottles of ginger beer which had been supplied by defendant. Mr. *Tibbetts* said he had his mineral waters only from Foley, and there were a number of cases which were supplied by defendant in a wholesale way, and the bottles in these bore the mark, among others, of Mr. Charles Grove, Princes End; of Mr. Trentham, Great Bridge; and Mr. William Pain, of Brierley Hill. The bottles had on them Mr. Grove's own registered trade mark, 'C.G.' as plain as a pikestaff, and there could be no doubt, therefore, with regard to that point. The label, which was placed on the bottles, was put there by the inspector of the Association for the purpose of identification, so that there could be no mistake about it. Foley knew perfectly well that he ought not to have committed the offence, because no longer back than 1890, he was found out doing the same thing. Letters had been addressed to him pointing out his offence, and cautioning him. He had replied to these communications, asking them not to proceed against him, and he would not transgress again. But numerous complaints had arisen, and they were compelled to institute proceedings. He should put in evidence the last letter that was written by defendant, in which he said he was sorry they were going to put him to so much trouble, and whatever had occurred was through no fault of his. He (the speaker) might say that defendant was given every opportunity of purchasing and acting in good faith. The letter went on to say he hoped they would see their way clear to stop any proceedings. The association had a great deal of experience in this matter, and a large number of mineral water manufacturers, who had a considerable number of cases, hardly ever found one bottle go astray. These bottles went to the Exchange in Birmingham, and were returned to the proper quarters again. Defendant, having been forgiven in the past, made the case all the more a gross case under the Merchandise Mark Act, of 1887. Passing on to the question of law, Mr. Hebert quoted a case of a precisely similar character, in which the offence was proved, although the defendant did not intend to defraud. He, therefore, asked for a conviction in the present case.

Alexander Nasmyth, inspector to the association, and formerly in the police force for twenty-six years, said he lived at Handsworth, and on the 22nd of January visited the NEW INN, Cradley Heath, kept by *William Tibbetts*. He asked for a bottle of ginger beer, which he drank, and noticed Mr. Pain's name on it. He then asked to see the landlord, who produced the case at his desire. He took nine bottles from the case, which held ten. He produced those that were found, and every one bore the trade mark of other people. He put labels on the bottles for the purpose of identifying them.

William Tibbetts, who had been subpoenaed, said he remembered the inspector calling on him, and the bottles were supplied by Mr. Foley's man. Defendant's firm supplied him with mineral waters. Witness did not order any particular make, and they supposed that the mineral water supplied by Foley was manufactured by himself. The latter had a trade mark of his own, either a ram or a sheep.

Charles Grove, mineral water manufacturer, Princes End, said the bottle produced was his, and his trade mark on it was registered. He had no dealings with the defendant, and neither bought from him nor sold to him. He did not deal with the witness *Tibbetts*. He had had numerous complaints against the defendant. After the bottles came to his premises all stray ones were sorted out and put aside until the association cart came round and took them to the Exchange, Birmingham. Here they were sorted, and each man's bottles put in a box and sent on to its destination.

Mr. Bassano: That is the function of your association? – Witness: That is its function. There was a fixed charge for the collection of bottles, but non-member paid more for his bottles.

Charles Cox Smith, secretary to the association, said it was not an association for the pecuniary benefit of its members but simply for the protection of the trade and to ensure honest dealing.

Defendant said that he could not attend to his business at the time as he was ill with rheumatism and his man was ill at the same time. It happened entirely by mistake.

Joseph Coley employed by defendant deposed to this being the case.

Mr. Bassano said they believed defendant had no intention to defraud and they should therefore not inflict the maximum penalty, but a fine of £5 and costs.

Mr. Hebert asked for the other cases to be withdrawn, and defendant to pay the costs.

Defendant accordingly paid costs, and the total amount of fine and costs was £16 3s."

Birmingham Daily Post 24/11/1892

"Yesterday, at the Police Court, *Frederick Tebbitts* [sic], landlord of the NEW INN, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath, for permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 24th October, was fined 20s and costs, in all £3 5s 6d.

Enoch Pritchard was fined 2s 6d and costs for being drunk on the above licensed premises."

County Advertiser 6/5/1893 - Advert

"Engine (Vertical) for Sale; 4-HP, equal to new.
NEW INN, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath."

The Era 26/8/1893 - Advert

"Wanted, Juvenile Leading Lady, Tall, Good Appearance, Good Wardrobe. Salary must be low. Photos. Also Gentleman with Tenor Voice.

Louis Clarmont, care of NEW INN, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath, Staffs.”

County Advertiser 26/5/1894

“James Woodhouse, Tibbetts Gardens, Cradley Heath, was charged with being disorderly on the licensed premises of *Frederick Arthur Tibbetts*, landlord of the NEW INNS, Cradley Heath, and refusing to leave on the 12th inst, and was fined 15s and costs.”

County Advertiser 10/11/1894 - Advert

“Lost, November 5th, Brown Collie Bitch. Reward given; detainer prosecuted.
F. A. Tibbetts, NEW INN, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath.”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/9/1895

“Bankruptcy Proceedings. Re *Frederick Arthur Tibbetts*, licensed victualler.

At the Dudley County Court, yesterday, *Frederick Arthur Tibbetts*, of the NEW INN, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath, came up for his examination. Debtor’s liabilities amounted to £278, the deficiency being £166.

Replying to Mr. Jobson (official receiver), debtor stated that he commenced trading in 1892 by taking the above named public house, the business of which had previously been carried on by his father. No valuation was made, and bankrupt had paid nothing for the effects. When he acquired the business his capital was 25s and the stock he took to consisted of one barrel of ale. He had frequently been in financial difficulties, and from time to time had been relieved by his father. In June 1894 he gave a bill of sale upon his effects to secure £70. After a period of four months the holder of the bill of sale pressed for payment, and in November following the claim was paid by debtor’s father, who took an assignment of the bill of sale. He attributed his failure to losses in brewing, bad debts, and law expenses. The examination was concluded.”

Dudley Herald 19/2/1898

“Yesterday at Dudley County Court before Mr. Deputy-registrar Walker, Thomas Adams Tibbetts, maltster, 33, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath, came up for his public examination.

Mr. Raybould, from the office of Mr. T. Cooksey, Old Hill, represented the debtor. In reply to Mr. E. P. Jobson (official receiver), he said he filed his petition about 18 years ago. He was then a miner. Subsequently he went to Canada, and on returning kept a butcher’s shop. It was five years ago last September that he took to his father’s business. The stock was valued, and he agreed to pay for it in half-yearly instalments. In the following October his father gave him a cheque for £500, a portion of which he put in the bank, and the other he utilised to pay bills which were then due. He was born and bred in the malting trade, but during the last three years there had been a lot of competition. He had lost money owing to the inferior quality of barley supplied to him, and gave instances of transactions which left him the worse for having entertained them. He had lost a considerable amount of trade owing to public houses which he supplied with malt having been purchased by brewery companies. When he started business he had quite thirty customers, but they had gradually dwindled down to one. Since he knew trade had been going from him he had only spent about £1 a week in going round trying to get orders. He had had to borrow 5s to come to the Court that day, and he believed if he had not been so hard pressed that he could have carried on and have come out all right. The examination was concluded.”

County Advertiser 19/2/1898 - Advert

“Important to Brewers, Hop Merchants, &c.

In Bankruptcy. Re Thomas A. Tibbetts, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath, Maltster.

Mr. R. Underwood, under instructions from Mr. E. P. Jobson, Esq, will Sell by Auction, on Monday, February 28th, 1898, the Stock-in-Trade, and Effects, comprising about 250 Sacks of Malt, Six Pockets Hops, 4-H.P. Engine, Vertical Boiler, Malt Crushers, Cart, Malt Trap, light Trap, Harness, capital strong Cob, 14½ hands; Malting Coal, Cokes, Tools, &c; also Household Furniture, Scales, Weighing Machine, &c.

Sale at Eleven o’clock am prompt.

Auctioneer’s Office: Old Hill.”

County Advertiser 3/9/1898

“Nelson Clift (22), Cradley Heath, was charged with being drunk and disorderly, and also with maliciously damaging a window to the extent of 3s, the property of *Caroline Tibbetts*, landlady of the NEW INN, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath, on the 29th inst.

Police-constable Dale said that about five o’clock on the date in question he was on duty at the Five Ways Cradley Heath, when prosecutrix complained to him of defendant’s conduct. Witness visited the public house, and there saw the damage which defendant had caused.

Inspector Given and *Caroline Tibbetts* also gave evidence as to the damage, the latter stating that defendant threw a paving brick through the window.

Defendant was fined £1 11s 6d including costs.”

County Advertiser 14/4/1900

“The War in South Africa.....

Private Will Morris, from Cradley Heath, writing recently to Mrs. *Tibbetts*, NEW INN, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath says: ‘We are at Norvals Pont now, so we shall be in the Orange Free State in a day or two; but we shall have to wait for the bridge to be placed across the Orange River, for the Boers have blown it up. Our troops have repaired two bridges here that they have blown up. The railway, however, is down again. The rain is worse than the war, for we get drowned now and again, and it isn’t nice to

march the next day after lying in water all night or standing in the rain. I saw a peculiar sight last night. It rained heavens hard for about an hour, and when I had a look there was every man standing like monuments with blankets round them. There was not a murmur all round, all the men taking it in good part. I suppose you have read about our bit of a battle at Slingsfontein, when the Boers attacked our regiment. I thought I had got to have a pill when a few shots dropped round me when we fetched Captain Thomas, who was surrounded, out on the hills. He has since died. We are beyond there now, and shall soon be further.”

County Advertiser 12/5/1900

“James Cartwright, Beehive Street, Cradley Heath, was charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of *Caroline Tibbetts*, when requested by her, on the 5th inst. Complainant stated that she kept the NEW INNS, Cradley Heath. On the 5th inst defendant came to the premises when in a drunken condition, and began to behave in a disorderly manner. Witness ordered him out to save further bother, but defendant refused to go. Defendant was fined 10s and costs.”

County Advertiser 16/6/1900 - Advert

“Preliminary Announcement. To Brewers, Maltsters, Publicans, and Others.

Important Sale of a Valuable Freehold Fully-Licensed House, Malthouse, Grocer’s Shop, and Premises, at Cradley Heath.

Arthur H. Sidaway is favoured with instructions to Sell By Auction, at an Early Date.

All that Highly-valuable Freehold Fully-Licensed House known as the NEW INN, situate in Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath, and now in the occupation of Mrs. *Caroline Tibbetts*.

18-Quarter Three-Storey Malting adjoining the above, with Stabling, and also that Valuable Grocer’s Shop and Premises adjoining, and now in the occupation of Thomas A. Tibbetts.

Full Particulars will appear in future Advertisements.

Further information and Plans may be had of James Hinds, Esq, Solicitor, Stourbridge; or the Auctioneer, High Street, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 30/6/1900 - Advert

“To Brewers, Maltsters, Publicans, and Others.

Important Sale of a Valuable Freehold Fully-Licensed House, Malthouse, Grocer’s Shop, and Premises, At Cradley Heath.

Arthur H. Sidaway is favoured with instructions to Sell by Auction, on Tuesday, the 17th day of July, 1900, at the House of Mr.

Thomas Scriven, the RAILWAY INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath, at Seven o’clock in the Evening, subject to Conditions then to be produced.

All that Highly-valuable Freehold Fully-Licensed House, known as the NEW INN, situate in Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath, and now in the occupation of Mrs. *Caroline Tibbetts*, comprising large Bar, Parlour, Smoke Room, Tap Room, Four Cellars with Rolling Way, large Brewing House, Stabling, Brick Paved Yard.

Together with the Capital 18-Quarter Three Storey Malting, situate in the rear, consisting of, on Ground Floor, Cistern and Malting Room. First Floor: Barley Room, with Garners and Winding Apparatus, large Store Room and Kiln. Second Floor: Large Store Room, and Drying Kiln, with Patent Iron Tiles. Covered Cartway, Stabling, and Piggeries.

Also the very Valuable Grocer’s Shop and Dwelling House adjoining, now occupied by Mr. T. A. Tibbetts, consisting of capital Front Shop, with Bay Window, Front Parlour, Kitchen, Brewhouse, Bakehouse, Four Cellars, Garden, and usual Outbuildings.

The Property is situated in the midst of a densely populated part of Cradley Heath, and capable of commanding extensive and profitable Trades, being surrounded by large and important Works.

It has an important frontage of 50 feet or thereabouts to the main thoroughfare leading to Corngreaves. Cartway entrance at the side of the Public House.

The Public House is, without doubt, one of the best Licensed Houses in the District.

All the Mines and Minerals in and under the Property (except Common Brick Clay and Common Freestone and Rubble, or Rotchstone) are reserved, and belong to the Lord of the Manor, and are subject to the provisions relating thereto contained in the Rowley Regis Inclosure Act, which provides, inter alia, that any damage done to any Buildings by the searching for, or working of, the said Mines, or the using or exercising of any powers or liberties conferred by the said Act shall be made good by the Person or Persons doing or occasioning the same.

The Tenant’s Fixtures, Utensils, and Stock-in-Trade to be taken to by Valuation in the usual way and paid for on completion.

Possession can be had on completion.

Further information and Lithographed Plans may be had from James Hinds, Esq, Solicitor, Stourbridge; or the Auctioneer, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 28/7/1900

“A meeting of the workmen employed by Messrs. Penn and Co., was held at the licensed house of Mrs. *Tibbetts*, on Saturday night. A supper was provided, and a large number sat down.....”

County Express 11/8/1900

“Mr. H. A. Pearson held an inquest at the NEW INN, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath, on Saturday, touching the death of Samuel Weston, aged two years and seven months, the son of Samuel and Martha Weston, 27, Tibbetts Gardens, who died under singular circumstances.

The mother stated deceased fell into an ash-pit on the night of the 26th ult, and his head lay in the contents for some time. He was got out by his father, and washed under a tap. He was seen by Dr. Fry, who gave him an emetic, and he vomited the following day. On the 31st ult deceased visited his grandmother’s house, where he got possession of a can containing paraffin and drank a

small quantity. He was seen by Dr. de Denne and died the following day.

By the jury: She did not know whether there was a cork in the bottle.

Dinah Weston stated that on the 31st ult deceased came to her house and asked for some dinner. She went into the pantry to get some, and she was followed by the deceased, who picked up a bottle containing a small quantity of paraffin and drank it. Remedies were at once applied. In her opinion, he suffered very much as the result of his fall into the ash-pit.

Samuel Weston also gave evidence, and stated that when he heard that the deceased had swallowed paraffin oil he administered salt and water.

Dr. Tibbetts stated that on the 1st inst he found deceased in a state of collapse, and in his opinion death was due to drinking the paraffin, accelerated by the fall into the ash-pit. He did not see deceased a second time, as he was rendered unwell owing to inhaling a bad smell.

Inspector Given said he had every reason to believe that the child had been properly attended to since the accident. The midden heap was in a very unsatisfactory state, and should be remedied.

A juryman said Tibbetts Gardens were in a most disgraceful state, and he questioned if there was another place in such a bad insanitary state in the county of Stafford. The sanitary authority ought to take immediate steps to bring about the necessary improvements.

The Coroner said he quite concurred. He was surprised the sanitary authorities allowed such a state of things to exist.

Inspector Given said ashes for some reason were not mixed with the excrement.

Dr. Tibbetts said the place in its present condition was a veritable death trap.

The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased had been accidentally poisoned, and requested the coroner to communicate with the Rowley Regis Council with a view to the districts of Tibbetts Gardens being put into a better sanitary condition.

The Coroner said he would communicate with the sanitary authorities, as it was necessary some improvements should be forthwith carried out.”

1901 Census

31 Graingers Lane – NEW INN

[1] *Frank Gower* (26), married, publican, born Netherton;

[2] *Sarah Gower* (58), widow, mother, born Old Hill;

[3] *Thomas Gower* (35), brother, blacksmith, born Netherton:

County Advertiser 18/5/1901

“The following persons were summoned for allowing their dogs in the highway without a collar stamped with the owner’s name and address, or a muzzle.....

Frank Gower, NEW INNS, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath.....

A fine of 8s 6d, including costs was imposed on each of the defendants.”

Frank Gower – see also CROWN.

County Advertiser 17/9/1904

“*William Brookes* (30), of Kidderminster, but formerly residing at Tibbetts Gardens, Cradley Heath, was charged with being drunk and disorderly and assaulting Police-sergeant Wood on the 13th inst.

Sergeant Wood stated that on the night in question he saw the prisoner drunk and creating a disturbance in the NEW INNS, Cradley Heath. He was ordered out of the house, but subsequently witness found him in the CROWN INN, where the landlord was trying to eject him. Witness locked him up, but prisoner behaved in a violent manner. He struggled with witness, and kicked him on the legs and in the back. They were on the ground struggling for over twenty minutes, when Police-constable Horton came to his assistance, and prisoner was brought to the Police Station. They placed him on the tram-car to Old Hill, but it took six men to remove him to the station in consequence of his violence.

Inspector Gibbs said prisoner was simply mad, and he had not seen a more violent man for some time. They were compelled to go into the cells and pull off his shoes.

Prisoner was sent to gaol for a month with hard labour for the assault, and the other case was dismissed.”

County Advertiser 16/9/1905

“An alarming conflagration, involving heavy loss to the owner of the buildings at which it occurred, and threatening for a time even more ruinous consequences, occurred on Thursday evening at the NEW INN, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath. At about a quarter past five, a young man named *Walter Knott*, who is employed as maltster on the premises, was in the yard, when the proprietor, Mr. *William Tibbetts*, called and asked where his son was. Knott replied, ‘I have seen him not a minute ago,’ and, thinking he had gone into the malthouse ran up the steps on to the first maltings floor to try and find him. ‘When I got there,’ Knott says, ‘I noticed a smell of burning, and all of a sudden the flames leaped up towards the centre of the malthouse. I at once ran to give the alarm.’ That is the simple story of the outbreak, for which no other cause can be assigned than either spontaneous combustion or overheating of the malt.

The wrecked malthouse is a large, oblong building forming the further wing of an extensive block at the rear of the NEW INN, a large double-fronted public house standing nearly opposite Sykes’s chain works. A cart road to the left of the inn leads to a fairly large yard. To the left of the yard is the brewery, and parallel with the main road is a two-storey building in which hops and barley are stored. The malthouse itself is about 80 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 40 feet high. There were three storeys above the basement. On the ground or ‘working’ floor was the machinery, some of it new including the malt-screen, crushers, and other fittings.

The second floor, where the fire originated, bore from £300 to £400 worth of malt, and on the third floor was the kiln. Of course the whole of the building was kept very warm by the malting operations, and the outburst is thought to have been spontaneous. Mr. *William Tibbetts* has for three or four years been the proprietor of the business, which was established by his father; and he was fortunately on the premises when the alarm was given.

At first the seriousness of the position was not apprehended, and Mr. *Tibbetts* and his staff set themselves to quench the flames by the usual methods. Fire amongst grain is always a very difficult trouble to deal with, however, as the fuel goes off in a series of explosions which makes for the speedy extension of the area of flame, and it was soon seen that the fire was gaining the mastery. When this was realised, the alarm was given to the local section of the Rowley Regis Brigade, by the blowing of Messrs. Holt and Willetts's steam whistle. The response was very prompt, and in a very few minutes Superintendent Tustin, with Firemen E. D. Round, W. Denning, W. Deeley, Jenks, and Harris, were on the spot with their hose-reel and quickly got to their work. They found a hydrant almost opposite the house, with a splendid pressure of water, and by means of their new two-way breeching coupling, they were able to get two jets to work on the flames. With the other buildings crowded round its front the seat of the fire was somewhat difficult of access; and it was seen almost from the first that the malthouse would have to go. Before the firemen had been long at work, the interior became a roaring furnace, the glow from which could be seen for miles. The Old Hill section quickly made its appearance, Superintendent Ashman being accompanied by Firemen F. Salt, J. Cook, H. Fendal, and J. Page. Captain E. T. Barnsley, who was in the office making arrangements for the fire brigade dinner today, also hurried down, and two members of the Blackheath section, Firemen T. Smith and J. Smith were on the scene when the outbreak was notified, and took part in the work. Mr. Caleb Woodhouse, the chairman of the Fire Brigade Committee, was present during the progress of the operations, and will be able to testify to the excellent work the local brigade are able to do with their present equipment and with the splendid supply of water given to them by the South Staffordshire Company. In the meantime the Stourbridge Brigade had been telephoned. They got the call at 3-53, and did a grand turnout, reaching the fire at twenty minutes to six, via Cradley, with the steamer and manual. Lieutenant Walker was in command, with Lieutenant Trow, Firemen Bingham, Canadine, Abel, Weaver sen, Weaver jun, Berry, Owen, Wall, Trow, and Dalloway. On account of close quarters and the efficient work already done by the local men they did not find it necessary to put on any more water, but they assisted and relieved the local brigade very materially. Shortly before their arrival there was a fear that the whole of the front buildings, including the brewery, would become involved, and some £40 or £50 worth of hops stored there were removed in haste, but from that time the men had the measure of the fire and gradually beat it back. The fall of the roof was a striking spectacle, and increased the fierceness of the flames, which now roared up and cast a vivid glare on the darkening sky. The crisis might have been a serious one for Firemen Abel, Owen, Trow, and Dalloway, who noticed the impending fall of the roof just in time to escape. As it was they sustained a few cuts. The fact that the malthouse adjoined the other buildings necessitated continual vigilance lest there should be a further spread of the flames, but by half-past seven all apprehension was removed, and the Stourbridge brigade packed up and left; another hour's work remaining to the local brigade before the place was considered safe.

An inspection of the place afterwards showed how fierce had been the fire and how clever had been the work which prevented its extension. The top storey, reached by way of the brewery, showed its full length open to the sky, bulging walls, and beams which though they remained in place was scorched to a cinder. This was the case with the floor next below, and all which had occupied this wing was completely destroyed. All the windows are gone, and only the skeleton of the malthouse remains. As usual, there was some cause for congratulation. A large consignment of barley was on order, but it had not arrived, or it would probably have been destroyed with the rest. It should be mentioned that the police under Inspector Gibbs rendered excellent service, both in coping with the early stages of the fire, and in keeping order amongst the crowd of over 1,000 people who gathered at the front of the house. The officers present were Sergeant J. Wood, Constables Donellan, Turner, and Orton.

In addition to the slight casualties to firemen mentioned above, two accidents happened. The first was to Mr. *Tibbetts* himself, who in the haste and flurry of the alarm and subsequent effort, fell against a crusher, and cut the inside of his ear. Lieutenant Walker also met with a slice of ill-luck mixed with good fortune. His ill-luck was to slip through the damaged floor of the malthouse to the working floor below, and the fortunate thing was that one of the Rowley Regis firemen was near to assist him, for the water had been pouring on to this lower floor from the two storeys above, and as the drains had not been opened a foot or more of water had accumulated. In thanking Mr. Barnsley, the Rowley Regis captain, for the assistance which was promptly given by the local firemen, the lieutenant said that but for that he should very likely have been 'done for.' Yesterday, we heard that Mr. Walker had suffered nothing beyond a severe shaking.

When our reporter saw Mr. *Tibbetts* he was too much perturbed to have estimated the damage caused by the fire, but it will probably amount to £1,000 or £1,500. The buildings are partly insured, but not the stock, and the proprietor will be at serious loss. At the same time he appreciates the strenuous and well-directed efforts without which his loss would have been much greater."

Birmingham Mail 20/8/1906 - Advert

"Donkey (handsome) for Sale; 4 years old, fast trotter, quiet with children; also Harness. Apply, Mr. *Tibbetts*, NEW INNS, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath."

County Advertiser 20/10/1906

"*William Tibbetts*, landlord of the NEW INNS, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath, made an application for a certified copy of his license, which he said had been burnt in a recent fire. The application was granted."

1911 Census

Graingers Lane – NEW INN

[1] *William Tibbetts* (45), brewer, born Cradley Heath;

[2] Hannah Maria Tibbetts (49), wife, married 26 years, assisting in business, born Brierley Hill;

- [3] Annie Tibbetts (22), daughter, assisting in business, born Cradley Heath;
- [4] William Tibbetts (20), son, brewer, born Cradley;
- [5] Cicely Tibbetts (19), daughter, assisting in business, born Cradley;
- [6] Minnie Tibbetts (14), daughter, apprentice dressmaker, born Cradley;
- [7] Harold Tibbetts (10), son, school, born Cradley;
- [8] Hilda Tibbetts (8), daughter, school, born Cradley Heath;
- [9] Flossie Tibbetts (6), daughter, school, born Cradley Heath:

County Express 29/7/1911

“Unreserved Sale of Office Furniture, which has been removed to the House of Mr. *William Tibbetts*, NEW INN, Graingers Lane for convenience of Sale.....”

County Express 7/9/1912

“On Saturday the wedding was solemnised at St. Luke’s Church, between Miss Annie *Tibbetts*, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. *William Tibbetts*, of the NEW INN, Graingers Lane, and Mr. Reginald Webb, son of Mrs. Webb and the late Mr. Benjamin Webb, of Brooklyn House, Brook Street, Wordsley. The bride, who was given away by her mother, was attired in ivory satin, with veil embroidered with true lovers’ knots and wreath of orange blossom. The bridesmaids, Miss Minnie *Tibbetts* (sister of the bride) and Miss Nellie Webb (sister of the bridegroom) were respectively attired in pale blue crepe de chine and pale blue silk poplin; the bride’s mother wore Quaker grey French cloth, and the bridegroom’s mother black and white silk. Mr. Cyril Webb (brother of the bridegroom) was best man. The bridegroom’s present to the bride was a gold wrist watch and bracelet, and to the bridesmaids gold brooches. The bride’s present to the bridegroom was a gold curb chain. Subsequently Mr. and Mrs. Webb left for Douglas, where the honeymoon is being spent. The bride travelled in a navy blue serge costume and grey Tagal hat with Lancer plumes.”

William Tibbetts was also a brewer. [1914]

1939 Register

31, Graingers Lane

- [1] *L. R. Province*, date of birth 30/7/1877, publican, married;
- [2] Emily Province, dob 5/5/1882, domestic duties, unpaid, married;
- [3] Ruby (Province) Raybould, dob 24/9/1915, hairdresser (ladies), single;
- [4] Zena Province, dob 25/3/1921, book binder (light), single:

Richard Llewelyn Province was also a brewer. [1940]

A team from here took part in the Cradley Heath Domino League. [1960]

Ted Holloway was married to Dora.

Sandwell Evening Mail 26/3/1990

“Former world speedway champion Erik Gundersen, who cheated death in an horrific crash which ended his career, is planning to take part in a mammoth charity walk.

Cradley Heath speedway fans from the NEW INN, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath, are planning a 140-mile walk over Easter weekend from Bradford to the Dudley Wood stadium. They are hoping to raise thousands of pounds in sponsorship for the Stepping Stones appeal at Pinderfields Hospital in Wakefield, where Gundersen fought for his life after the crash at Bradford last September. The Stepping Stones appeal aims to raise more than £1 million to expand and modernise the hospital’s specialist spinal injury unit.

Speedway fan Mr. *Colin Scott*, licensee at the NEW INN, said that he and five regulars planned to finish the walk on the morning of Easter Monday when Cradley ride against Coventry. He went on, ‘Support has been promised from other speedway clubs on or near to the route of the walk. Collections will be taken at speedway meetings at Stoke, Long Eaton, Bradford and Belle Vue.’

Mr. *Scott* said Erik, former skipper of Cradley, intended to take part in the walk himself as far as he could.

Erik suffered a broken neck and severe spinal injuries in the crash during the World Team Cup Final.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 8/6/1994 - Advert

“Get Out & Do It!

Ballooning; 4x4 off-road driving; powerboating; helicopter flying; formula Renault motor racing; microlighting.

10 Free Adventure Weekends To Be Won.

Banks’s. Est 1875. Unspoilt by Progress. British Pubs Week 12th – 19th June 1994.

Visit any one of the following outlets between 12th – 19th June to collect your free entry form. Only those aged 18 or over may apply.....

NEW INN, Cradley Heath.”

[1998]

Closed [2002], [2016]

Halesowen News 29/9/2006

“A notorious Cradley Heath eyesore could finally be bulldozed for flats after more than five years of planning wranglings. Plans submitted to Sandwell Council could see the boarded-up former NEW INN, Graingers Lane, transformed into 24 one and two bed apartments.

The latest application comes after three failed applications for 11 houses on the site, from two different developers. Previous proposals have been met with concerns from opposite factory Premier Stampings, who said noise from their work would be too much for nearby residents. They feared complaints could affect the business, resulting in job losses. But Cradley Heath councillor Ann Shackleton said she is hopeful the application will be approved. She said, ‘We have been identifying grot spots in the town and that was one of the major concerns. Yet again it will mean an increase in the number of flats but I am in favour of these plans. I think all the councillors would be because we need to try and get rid of this eyesore. We will just have to watch this space and if it is refused again, try and work out why.’

Work at the site of nearby Graingers Lane Methodist Church is already well underway with 21 houses in the pipeline. Plans for the church were approved at Sandwell’s Planning Committee in April, despite objections from Premier Stampings.”

Demolished [2017]

Housing was built on the site.

NEW INN

Halesowen Road, OLD HILL

OWNERS

LICENSEES

James Pearson [1857] – **1878**);

Thomas Burgess (**1878** – []

NOTES

It was situated next to Bakers Fold.

Worcestershire Chronicle 20/11/1853 - Advert

“Old Hill, Staffordshire.

To Be Let, with immediate possession, that good accustomed, and well-know, Old Licensed Public House, the NEW INN, situated at Old Hill as above.

The House comprises front Bar and front Tap Room, Parlour and Back Kitchen, 2 Cellars, Club Rom, 3 Chambers, good Yard, Stabling, and Piggeries, an excellent supply of Water, Bowling Alley, and every convenience attached to the House that may be desired; the present proprietor leaving on account of having taken to some Coal Mines. The House has been successfully carried on as an Old Licensed Public House for a number of years, and it is well known to be one of the best accustomed Houses in the neighbourhood, six Clubs being attached to the House, and the House supplying two Pit Companies with ale. The House is situated in the centre of a mining district, and close to the Turnpike Road. To any industrious and persevering party a fortune may be accumulated in a few years. The Fixtures, &c, to be taken to at a fair valuation. Rent moderate.

For particulars and to treat apply to Mr. Hawkins, Auctioneer, Brierley Hill and Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/12/1857

“John Maloney, a nailer, of Rowley, was charged on Monday, at Wordsley, before C. E. Swindell, Esq, and the Rev. F. J. Clarke, with stealing one shilling, the property of Samuel Bennitt, also a nailer, of Rowley. The circumstance were somewhat singular. On the previous Tuesday night the parties were at the house of Mr. *James Pearson*, publican of Rowley, and the prosecutor placed a shilling upon the table to pay for a pint of ale, but before it was taken up he was called out of the house, and on his returning it had disappeared. Another man was in the room, but both he and the prisoner denied any knowledge of the shilling. Suspecting that the prisoner had it, the prosecutor and a policeman followed him to the CROSS INN, kept by Mrs. Tromans, at Old Hill. Here the prisoner called for a pint of ale, and in payment gave the landlady a shilling, which, on being examined, turned out to be the one lost by the prosecutor, the latter having positively identified it by a mark. The defendant, for whom Mr. Burbury appeared, was committed to hard labour for fourteen days.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/6/1858 - Advert

“Freehold Property, Rowley.

By Mr. Detheridge, This Day (Monday) June 28th, at the House of Mr. *James Pearson*, NEW INN, Old Hill, Rowley Regis, at Six o'clock in the evening.

Two Freehold Dwelling Houses, situated at Slack Hillock, near Gosty Hill, in the parish of Rowley Regis, Staffordshire."

1861 Census

Halesowen Road – NEW INN

[1] *James Pearson* (54), victualler, born Kingswinford;

[2] Leah Pearson (54), wife, born Kingswinford;

[3] Selina Pearson (18), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Joseph Pearson (10), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 21/5/1862

"An inquest was held on Friday last, before Mr. Hooper, coroner, at the NEW INN, Old Hill, in the parish of Rowley, touching the death of Sarah Parkes, aged 65 years. It appeared from the evidence of Thomas Parkes, a nailer, the husband of the deceased, that on the previous Sunday night they both retired to rest about half-past nine o'clock. About half an hour afterwards the deceased got out of bed, and presently the witness heard a noise as of a person falling down the stairs, which were situated close to the foot of the bed, and without any door or other protection. He immediately got up, and on procuring a light, found the deceased at the bottom of the stairs in a state of insensibility. Parkes at once called in some neighbours to his assistance, when it was ascertained that the woman was quite dead, having broken her neck in the fall. She had been subject to fits, and it was supposed that during one of those periodical attacks the occurrence took place which resulted in her death. Verdict, Accidental Death."

County Advertiser 3/3/1866

"On Tuesday an inquest was held at the house of *James Pearson*, the NEW INN, by Mr. E. Hooper, on the body of Isaac Brown, aged 22, labourer, who was found dead in bed on Saturday morning. The deceased had only been ten months married, and was a most respectable young man. The jury returned a verdict of Found Dead."

AND

Stourbridge Observer 3/3/1866

"On Tuesday, an inquest was held on the body of Isaac Brown, 22 years of age, a labourer, at the house of Mr. *James Pearson*, the NEW INN, before E. Hooper, Esq, coroner. On Friday night deceased retired to bed in his usual health; and, on being called about six on the following morning, he said, 'All right.' In about a quarter of an hour afterwards they called a second time, but receiving no answer his wife and mother went into his room, and found him dead, but warm. The jury returned an open verdict of Found Dead in bed. He has left a wife and one child."

Stourbridge Observer 16/6/1866

"On Tuesday an inquest was held at the NEW INN, before Mr. W. Phillips, Deputy Coroner, on the body of Zachariah Knowles, a miner, who met with his death while working in Mr. Dawes' pits, at Darby End, on the Saturday previous. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned....."

Stourbridge Observer 21/7/1866

"An inquest was held on the body of Joseph Siviter, twelve years of age, an orphan, at the NEW INNS, before E. Hooper, Esq. It appears that the boy was out bathing last Tuesday night, about seven o'clock, in the engine pool, at Spring Meadow, and through some unexplained cause was drowned. James Skit got him out, and took him to his brother-in-law's. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

Stourbridge Observer 14/9/1867

"On Saturday, an inquest was held at the house of John [sic] *Pearson*, NEW INN, Old Hill, before Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, on the body of Edward Howell, collier, aged 52, who was injured on Saturday, the 31st ult, while at work in the pit, and who died from those injuries on Thursday, the 5th inst. Mr. Baker, Her Majesty's Inspector of Mines, was present.

The first witness called, who was the eldest son of deceased, stated that on the morning of the accident he was at work with deceased, who left him, saying he would remove some stuff from under coal which had been cut a short distance from where they were at work. He wished his father not to go, as the spot was dangerous, and there was not a sufficient quantity of timber under to support the coal. Deceased persisted in going, and was preparing to put up a tree, when about half a ton of coal fell on his shoulder and head, which eventually caused his death.

On being questioned by Mr. Baker, witness said he had never read the rules published according to Act of Parliament, nor had they been read to him. He knew there were some rules, and that if he broke them he would be sent to prison, but what special rules they were he did not know.

[This was often the case with illiterate miners, and the owners seemed merely to stick the rules to a wall, and do no more.]

Another witness corroborated the statement of the former, and exonerated the doggy, John Bunn, from any blame, as he knew that timber had been ordered to be put in that spot by him.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned, after which Mr. Baker said he wished it to be distinctly understood that it was the duty of the doggy not only to order a thing to be done, but see that it was done; for unfortunately so reckless are colliers that between the giving an order and the doing it serious consequences sometimes ensue."

Stourbridge Observer 8/5/1869

“An accident, unhappily attended with loss of life, occurred early on Thursday morning, the 29th ult, at Messrs. Dawes and Sons’ pits, at Blackheath.

It appears that the deceased, Samuel Weaver and George Green, went to work on the previous night, and about two o’clock in the morning they were at work in the gate road when a ‘bump’ occurred, and a fall of several tons of coal took place, burying the deceased and killing them instantly.

An inquest was held on the bodies on Friday, the 30th ultimo, at Mr. *Pearson*’s, the NEW INN, Old Hill, before E. Hooper, Esq, Coroner, and after hearing the evidence of several witnesses, the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

Mr. Baker, Government Inspector of Mines, was present, and said that such an accident could not be prevented, but recommended them to put the trees and other materials used in stacking, in as safe a place as possible.”

County Advertiser 10/7/1869

“At the Police Court, on Wednesday, *James Pearson*, beerhouse-keeper, Old Hill, was summoned for having his house open during prohibited hours. He was ordered to pay costs.”

County Advertiser 27/11/1869

“On Friday an inquest was held at the NEW INN, Old Hill, on the body of a young woman named Louisa Gill, wife of Thomas Gill. The deceased was seized with violent vomiting and purging in the night time, and died in about two hours afterwards. Dr. Morrow was called in, but not till after death. The Jury returned a verdict to the effect that deceased Died from Natural Causes.”

1871 Census

Halesowen Road – NEW INN

[1] *James Pearson* (65), licensed victualler, born Kingswinford;

[2] Leah Pearson (65), wife, born Kingswinford:

County Advertiser 14/9/1878

“Rowley Annual Licensing Session.....

Mr. Hayes appeared for *Thomas Burgess*, to apply for permission to remove the license of the NEW INN, Old Hill, to new premises. The Bench gave their consent.”

NEW INN

Barnett Brook, Reddal Hill, OLD HILL

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Benjamin Gould [1851] – [1861]

NOTES

1851 Census

Old Hill

[1] *Benjamin Gould* (22), victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Mary Ann Gould (22), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Maria Gould (3), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Eli Gould (1), son, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Thomas Palmer (18), lodger, engine fitter, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Jane Wilkinson (21), servant, household work, born Canam, Herefordshire;

[7] Thomas Wesley (26), visitor, taylor, born Birmingham:

OLD BUSH REVIVED

44, (21), Powke Lane, BLACKHEATH

OWNERS

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.
Union Pub Co.
Louise Carroll (acquired April 2010)
Black Country Ales (acquired in 2022)

LICENSEES

Higgs []
'Nobby' Clarke [1846]
Thomas Gaunt [1851] – [1856]
Thomas Gaunt [1860] – 1892);
Decimus Gaunt (1892 – 1919);
Decimus Howard Gaunt (1919 – 1923);
William Edward Evans (1923 – 1927);
John Thompson (1927 – 1929);
William Chilton (1929 – 1930);
Walter Seaton Sykes (1930 – 1932);
Arthur Harry Nicholls (1932 – 1936);
Malcolm Glaze (1936 – 1940);
Nellie Florence (Curtiss) Knowles (1940 – 1953);
Frank Grant (1953 – [1965]
Frank Boot [1975]
Sandra Whitehouse [1986] – [1993]
Dorothy Fay Wright (2003 – [2007]
Louise Carroll (2010 – [2016]
Georgia Johnson and Matt Crisp (2022 – []

NOTES

21, Powke Lane [1881], [1891], [1892], [1916]
44, Powke Lane [1921], [1924], [1932], [1939], [1940], [1993]

HOLLY BUSH [1851]
OLD BUSH [1860], [1891], [1925]
BUSH INN [1895], [1896], [1904], [1908], [1912]
OLD BUSH REVIVED [1872], (“since 1906”)

Black Country Bugle (November 1975) - Pub of the Month

“Before the canals came in 1800, Powke Hillock was a sleepy farming hamlet of a dozen or so families who mostly worked on the land. Farmer *Higgs* employed a good number of the villagers and the rest earned a scant living from the nail making trade. The tiny community’s focal point was the OLD BUSH, a beerhouse cum tavern, owned by Farmer *Higgs*. It had no competition The construction of the nearby canal which bisected *Higgs* Lezzers in 1800 brought increased custom for the Powke Hillock tavern. Rough navies, many of Irish descent, invaded the area They were a thirsty crew, prone to drunken sprees and fist fights which began to involve Powke Hillock men who resented the newcomers. Farmer *Higgs* was troubled by the situation and sold the tavern to an enterprising Birmingham man who was better equipped to cope with its rowdy clientele. The OLD BUSH proved a profitable acquisition until Rowley Church sold its glebe lands in 1841 and the red brick canyons of Blackheath rose rapidly on it Many Powke Hillock customers flocked to the new tavern (GEORGE AND DRAGON) and the OLD BUSH virtually withered.

It was kept, at that time, by ‘*Nobby*’ *Clarke*, a well known bare knuckle fighter with Birmingham connections. He became alarmed at the drop in trade He sent for three ‘painted ladies’ from his old Birmingham haunts to act as barmaids and hostesses. Their presence, though resented by local womenfolk who dubbed them shameless hussies, had the desired effect – attracting custom to the place and reviving its fortunes. ‘*Nobby*’ *Clarke* had a new sign painted over his front door THE OLD BUSH REVIVED.

He was still an active pugilist and a close friend of Bill Perry, the Tipton Slasher, who often called at the BUSH to wet his whistle. In 1846, *Clarke* was matched to fight Tom Paddock of Redditch on January 27th. Perry backed him heavily and lost a packet, *Clarke* failing to come up for the 42nd round. That was the end of a fistic friendship ‘*Nobby*’ *Clarke* came back to the BUSH with his tail between his legs and did not stay in Powke Hillock much longer. The tavern changed hands several times in subsequent years until *Decimus Gaunt* took over in the early 1880s *Decimus Gaunt* lived a long and happy life at the OLD BUSH REVIVED – passing away in 1937 at the age of 77 In the old days the OLD BUSH REVIVED was strictly male territory, famous for its Saturday night suppers, sports like whippet racing, hare and rabbit coursing and beer barrel racing, when mighty

casks were rolled drunkenly down Powke Lane.....”

Black Country Bugle (January 1976)

‘Tales Of Decimus Gaunt And Old Blackheath’

“.....*Jess [Decimus Gaunt]* married twice, his first wife bearing six sons and two daughters. His second marriage produced five offspring His brother Richard was Mayor of Stockton on Tees His eldest son Percival founded the famous firm of Blackheath undertakers – making his first coffin in the loft at the BUSH.....”

Thomas Gaunt (the elder) was born on 17th April 1766.

Thomas Gaunt, the grandson of *Thomas*, was born on 17th May 1812.

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

16th May 1852 - *Thomas*, son of *Thomas* and *Sarah Gaunt*, victualler, Powke Lane.

12th February 1854 - *James*, son of *Thomas* and *Sarah Gaunt*, victualler, Powke Lane.

30th March 1856 - *Sarah Anne*, daughter of *Thomas* and *Sarah Gaunt*, victualler, Powke Lane.

5th December 1859 - *Decimus*, son of *Thomas* and *Sarah Gaunt*, victualler, Powke Lane.

1861 Census

Powke Lane

[1] *Thomas Gaunt* (45), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Sarah Gaunt* (38), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *Joseph Gaunt* (20), son, labourer, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Lydia Gaunt* (17), daughter, dress maker, born Rowley Regis;

[5] *Mary Gaunt* (16), daughter, house maid, born Rowley Regis;

[6] *Richard Gaunt* (13), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[7] *John Gaunt* (11), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[8] *Thomas Gaunt* (9), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[9] *Sarah Ann Gaunt* (5), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[10] *Decimus Gaunt* (1), son, born Rowley Regis:

Thomas Gaunt, beer retailer, Powke Lane. [1864], [1865], [1868], [1870]

He issued tokens from here.

County Advertiser 13/7/1867

“The second anniversary of Court Little Band of Hope Lodge of the Ancient Order of Foresters took place on Monday last, at Rowley. The brethren met at the meeting house, OLD BUSH, Powke Lane, and formed in procession at eleven o’clock, accompanied by the Spinners End Sax Horn Band, and headed by the officers of the court mounted and dressed in full uniform, representing Robin Hood, Little John, Friar Tuck, and Will Scarlet. In the procession was a waggon decorated with evergreens, and in it twelve little girls in white. They proceeded through Blackheath to the village church where an excellent address was delivered by the Rev. F. Ward, vicar. After leaving church, the procession moved through the village by Ross to the meeting house, where an excellent dinner was served by the host, Mr. *Thomas Gaunt*. After dinner the procession again sallied forth, and after a considerably long round returned to the club house to supper. A pleasant day was spent.”

County Express 3/8/1867

“The members of Court Britain’s Glory (No.4821) of the Ancient Order of Foresters celebrated their first anniversary at their court house, Brother *T. Gaunt*’s, OLD BUSH REVIVED, Powke Lane, Rowley Regis, on Monday, when upwards of 30 members sat down to an excellent dinner and supper provided by the host, *Thomas Gaunt*. Brother H. Whittall, secretary of the court, took the chair, and Brother Cornelius Parsons, the vice-chair. The room was handsomely decorated for the occasion. The usual loyal toasts having been given, the chairman addressed the members on the benefits received by joining Foresters’ societies, and said it was the best thing a working man could do to join a society of this sort. The members formed themselves into a procession, and marched through the village to pay a visit to Court Robin Hood’s Cave, No.4737, BRITISH OAK, INN, Garrets Lane, Old Hill, who were celebrating their anniversary on the same day, and after refreshing themselves they re-formed, and returned to the court house, where the evening was enlivened by a variety of songs, glees, and recitations, by Brothers Heber, Whittall, G. Firkn, W. Edwards, and Curtis. The conviviality was kept up to a late hour, when the members separated, highly gratified with the events of the day.”

County Advertiser 7/11/1868

“At the Police Court, on Wednesday *Thomas Gaunt*, landlord of the BUSH INN, Powke Lane, was charged with keeping his house open for the sale of beer, on the night of the 18th ult. Mr. Superintendent Mills proved the offence, and defendant was ordered to pay costs.”

County Express 8/10/1870

“Forestry. On Monday last the members of court 4598 were entertained to a good substantial repast provided for them by their

worth host, Mr. *T. Gaunt*, OLD BUSH REVIVED, Powke Lane, Rowley. After the cloth was withdrawn the chair was taken by brother W. Webster, and the vice-chair by brother T. Cashmore, PCR, the respected secretary of the Court. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts were given and responded to; success to Forestry in general and Court 4598 in particular was proposed by the chairman, and ably responded to by T. Cashmore, and the health of the host and hostess was drunk with great applause. The host in responding thanked them for the manner in which they had received his health and hoped they would enjoy themselves. In entertaining them that day he had fulfilled a promise he had made to them some time ago, that when their number reached one hundred he would entertain them. Songs, toasts, and sentiments went the round of the evening, and they parted at an early hour having thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Votes of thanks to the chairman and vice-chairman for presiding were given at the close.”

1871 Census

Powke Lane

[1] *Thomas Gaunt* (55), victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Sarah Gaunt (48), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Sarah Ann Gaunt (15), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Decimus Gaunt* (11), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Phillis Gaunt (8), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 15/8/1874

“Shepherdry. The anniversary of Sanctuary 3595 of the A.O.S. was held on Monday last, at the OLD BUSH REVIVED INN, Powke Lane, Rowley, when the members and friends partook of a goodly repast, which was provided for them by the host, Bro. *T. Gaunt*. After the cloth was withdrawn Bro. Thomas Hemming was called to the chair, and Bro. Enoch Jones to the vice-chair. Addresses were delivered by Bros. Hemming and Jones, on the advantages of Shepherdry, and scribe Bro. Isaac Cashmore read the report, which showed the Sanctuary to be progressing. Several new members were initiated, and some capital songs were given by Bro. Joseph Harris and Bro. John Owen. The Black Heath String Band was in attendance, and played at intervals during the evening, and all thoroughly enjoyed themselves.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/1/1878 - Advert

“Found, on Wednesday, a large black Retriever Dog. Owner may have him by paying expenses. Apply, *Thomas Gaunt*, OLD BUSH REVIVED, Powke Lane, near Rowley, Staffordshire.”

1881 Census

21, Powke Lane

[1] *Thomas Gaunt* (65), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Sarah Gaunt (58), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *Decimus Gaunt* (21), son, general carter, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Phillis Gaunt (18), daughter, barmaid, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 4/6/1881 - Advert

“Money! Money! Money!

All Persons in want of Money, and those who are desirous to Invest, should join either of the undermentioned Loan and Investment Societies, held at Mr. *Thomas Gaunt*'s OLD BUSH INN, Powke Lane, Rowley, every Wednesday Evening; at Henry Tope's, OLD CROSS INN, Old Hill, every Thursday Evening; and at the HOLLY BUSH INN, Mrs. Jane Homer's, Cradley Heath, every Saturday Evening. No Fines for Non-payment. No Interest to pay.

Business hours from Half-past Seven to Nine o'clock.

Scale of payments.

For a Share of £10 0s 0d. 1s 3d per week.

For a Share of £20 0s 0d. 2s 3d per week.

For a Share of £30 0s 0d. 3s 3d per week.

For a Share of £40 0s 0d. 4s 3d per week.

For a Share of £50 0s 0d. 5s 3d per week.

Registered pursuant to Act of Parliament.

The rules may be seen and every information obtained by applying at either of the above places, or on application to the Secretary, Mr. Isaac Cashmore, Auctioneer and House Agent, Rose Cottages, Rowley Regis.”

County Advertiser 30/7/1881

“The annual meeting of the Rowley Regis Loan and Investment Society was held on Monday last, at the house of Mr. *Thomas Gaunt*, the OLD BUSH INN, Rowley Regis. Upwards of 50 members and friends sat down to an excellent dinner. Mr. Edward Willetts occupied the chair, and the vice-chair by Mr. Thomas Carter. The Chairman, in proposing the toast of the evening, ‘Success to the Rowley Regis Loan and Investment Society,’ congratulated those present on the success the society had attained, and dwelt at some length on the advantages persons might derive by becoming members. During the evening toasts were proposed by Messrs. T. Carter, G. Taylor, and the secretary, Mr. I. Cashmore. Songs and recitations were given by others, and votes of thanks to the chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, and visitors, concluded a pleasant evening.”

Dudley and District News 13/9/1884

“A ceremony of a pleasant nature took place at the half-yearly meeting of the Court Little Band of Hope, No.4596, of the Ancient Order of Foresters, held at the OLD BUSH INN, Powke Lane, Rowley, on Monday evening last. The members of the above court, in conjunction with Court Foresters Pride and Miseltoe Bough, presented to their medical officer a very handsomely framed emblem of the Order, on which was the following inscription: ‘Presented to Bro. J. G. Beasley by the members of Courts 4598, 4305, 5366, for his valuable services rendered to them as their medical attendant.’ And also a splendid sash specially made by Mr. Hemming, of London. The presentations were made by Past Chief Rangers Bro. Samuel Grove and Benjamin Lowe, in appropriate speeches, who were ably supported by Past Chief Rangers Bros. John Hingley and George Taylor. Bro. Beasley, in reply, thanked them very heartily for their splendid gifts, and also for the sentiments entertained towards him. He could assure them that they would always be looked upon with pleasure by him and he should endeavour, by continuing to do his duty to the best of his ability, to merit the same appreciation of his services in the future as in the past. Other speeches and songs followed, and a very enjoyable evening was spent.”

County Advertiser 2/12/1884 - Advert

“OLD BUSH REVIVED, Powke Lane, Rowley Regis.

A Select Dancing Class is held at the above address every Thursday Evening, commencing 7pm.

Terms – Gentlemen 6d; Ladies 3d.

Also a Public Dance every Tuesday Evening Free.”

Decimus Gaunt married Susanna Jones on 14th September 1885.

County Express 29/1/1887

“*Decimus Gaunt*, Powke Lane, Rowley Regis, was charged with, on the 26th November, keeping two carriages without having a license for the same.

Mr. J. Blake Davis, who appeared on behalf of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, stated that on the 26th December, 1885, a declaration was forwarded to defendant upon which he only mentioned one carriage. On November last the officer saw the defendant using on various occasions two vehicles, and knowing that he was only licensed for one asked for an explanation. Defendant then admitted that he had two carriages, but had never used them at the same time. He subsequently altered his statement and said one had been lent him by a friend whilst his own was undergoing repairs. Under the section 27, Mr. Blake said the defendant had thus rendered himself liable to a penalty of £20.

The statement was substantiated by the evidence of a witness named Cruikshank.

Defendant, in reply to the charge, stated that the one vehicle was lent him by a friend, whom he called to bear out his statement.

The witness, however, stated that in July last he disposed of his trap to the defendant, and the latter had since been in possession of two vehicles.

The magistrates thought that only a technical offence had been committed and that the payment of the costs would meet the case.

Upon the application of Mr. Davis the duty was also allowed, the Bench expressing a view that the defendant had laboured under a misapprehension.”

1891 Census

21, Powke Lane – OLD BUSH

- [1] *Thomas Gaunt* (75), widower, victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Decimus Gaunt* (31), son, brewer's assistant, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Susannah Gaunt* (27), daughter in law, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Frank P. Gaunt* (5), grandson, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Thomas L. Gaunt* (4), grandson, born Dudley;
- [6] *Olive Maud Gaunt* (3), granddaughter, born Dudley;
- [7] *Decimus H. Gaunt* (1), grandson, born Dudley;

County Advertiser 24/10/1891

“*Decimus Gaunt*, landlord of the BUSH INN, Powke Lane, Rowley, was charged with committing a rape on Ellen Minett, a domestic servant in his employ, aged 17, on the 6th inst.

The prosecutor said she was in defendant's employ about five weeks. On the date in question defendant came down to brew early in the morning, and complainant upon coming down about a quarter to seven went to take the cotter out of the shutter. Defendant then came behind her and pulled her on to a table before she had time to unfasten the shutter. The room was dark and defendant who had shut the door committed the offence charged against complainant's will, and in spite of her screams and struggling.

Defendant used violence, and threatened to murder her if she complained to any one of what had been done to her. A man named Lyons was in the brewhouse, and defendant's wife and children were asleep upstairs. She went to Dr. Walker's at Blackheath on the Friday following with her father, and on the following day took out a warrant against the defendant. Witness went home the same day of the assault.

Cross-examined: Defendant had taken liberties with her before. She didn't speak to the person in the brewhouse about it. Defendant denied the charge when spoken to on the matter. She did not know that her sisters had received sums of money from two persons for bringing a charge of this kind.

Mr. James Walker, surgeon, of Blackheath, said that on Friday night, the 9th inst, the girl was brought to his surgery by her father, and he examined her, and found marks of violence on her. He expected from her story, however, to find more than what he did.

Elizabeth Minett gave evidence of her daughter coming home about eight or nine o'clock in the morning, and complaining of the

assault.

Charles Minett deposed to calling on defendant on the Friday night about the affair. Defendant then grossly insulted him. Witness asked him what he meant by taking liberties with the girl, to which defendant replied by cursing and swearing at him. Witness told him it was not settled, and then went into the house which defendant ordered him to leave.

After some further evidence the Bench dismissed the case.

Defendant was further charged with indecently assaulting Annie Palmer on the 1st of August. Prosecutor, it appeared, lived now with her parents at Tory Street, Blackheath, and was employed by defendant about three months ago. She got up about 6.30 on the date named and soon afterwards defendant acted indecently towards her. She complained to a neighbour named Lees, who brought her mother in, to whom she told what had taken place. Her mother then went to defendant's place and complained to him about what he had done, but he indignantly denied having done anything.

Further evidence was given in support of the charge.

Inspector Bishop said that on the 10th last he had defendant in custody on another charge, when he told him he would be charged with indecently assaulting a girl named Palmer at Blackheath on the 1st of August. Defendant simply replied, 'Yes.'

Cross-examined: Defendant was a very respectable man.

Mr. Shakespeare in defence said there was only the girl's statement which did not tally with her mother's in all particulars in support of the charge. Defendant was a thoroughly respectable man, and he had a testimonial as to his character, signed by men who would not sign it unless they firmly believed him to be innocent.

The Bench considered the case proved and fined defendant £10 and costs, or two months."

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

1st May 1892 - William Henry, son of *Decimus* and Susannah *Gaunt*, publican, 21, Powke Lane.

Birmingham Daily Post 14/4/1894 - Advert

"To Builders, Speculators, and Others.

Notice of Sale by Auction of a very Valuable and Improving Freehold Building Estate, with the Mines and Minerals, at Blackheath.

Alfred W. Dando has been favoured with instructions to Sell by Auction, at the OLD BUSH INN, Powke Lane, Blackheath, on Monday Next, April 16, at Seven o'clock in the evening precisely, subject to conditions of sale then to be produced....."

County Advertiser 25/5/1895

"A Raid On Publicans.....

Decimus Gaunt, landlord of the BUSH INN, Cradley Heath, was charged with allowing gaming on the premises by means of draughts, for ale, on the 27th ult. Mr. Waldron, who appeared for the police, said this was a different kind of gambling in this district; he had never before heard of gambling with draughts. He then detailed the facts stated below.

Police-constable Rixson deposed to visiting the house in disguise, and seeing the game played for a pint of four-penny. The landlord soon after came in and stopped the gaming.

Mr. Sharpe, who appeared for defendant, pleaded that the draught-board belonged to one of the players, and that defendant was not aware of what was going on. When he did, he at once stopped it. The case was dismissed."

County Advertiser 3/10/1896 - Advert

"Have You Seen The Big Pig?

D. Gaunt, of the OLD BUSH INN, Powke Lane, Blackheath, is now Showing the Largest Pig in the World, at the above Inn.

Come and see for yourselves.

Ales, Wines, and Spirits, of the finest quality. Cigars of choicest brand."

County Advertiser 21/11/1896

"Monday, November 23rd, 1896.

OLD BUSH INN, Powke Lane, Blackheath.

To Parties Furnishing, Dealers, and Others.

Mr. W. Hackett will Sell by Auction upon the Premises as above, on Monday, November 23rd, 1896.

Large Quantity of Household Furniture, Two Horses, Two Dog Traps, One Horse Cart, Harness, Cart Gears, large Show Pig, about 40 scores; Porket and Bacon Pigs, Five Couple of Fowls, Rick of Prime Hay, about Five Tons; and a large quantity of other Effects.

The Whole on View Morning of Sale.

Sale at Twelve o'clock.

Auctioneer's Office: Birmingham Street, Oldbury."

Decimus Gaunt married Mary Ann Deakin in the 1st quarter of 1897.

County Express 4/9/1897

"On Monday evening the annual dinner in connection with court Little Band of Hope was held at the OLD BUSH INN, Powke Lane. An admirable dinner had been prepared by the host, Brother *D. Gaunt*....."

County Advertiser 24/9/1898

“On Sunday afternoon the annual friendly societies’ Sunday service, on behalf of the hospitals, was held in a field at the back of Mountford House, Siviters Lane, Rowley, kindly lent for the occasion by Dr. J. G. Beasley. The members of various societies met at their headquarters, and were formed into a procession as below. The Blackheath Village Band started from the WHEAT SHEAF INN, Turners Hill at one o’clock, with the Church of England Friendly Society, and proceeded through Portway and Perys Lake, calling at the BULLS HEAD INN for the Sick Club, at the WARD ARMS INN for Court Foresters’ Pride, at the KINGS ARMS INN for Lodge Working Man’s Friend. It then proceeded by way of Ross, Holly Road, Tump Road, and John Street, to the GEORGE AND DRAGON Ground. The Woodgate Brass Band had in the meantime covered its route from the OLD BUSH INN, Powke Lane, with Court Little Band of Hope, calling at the MALT SHOVEL INN for Lodge Lily of the Valley, the VINE INN for Court Mistletoe Bough, proceeding along Station Road to the RAILWAY INN for Court Britannia’s Pride, thence through Halesowen Street, Tump Road, and Hackett Street, meeting the other Courts at the GEORGE AND DRAGON Ground. A united procession was then formed, and marched to Siviters Lane, reaching the ground at three o’clock. The proceedings opened with the hymn ‘All people that on earth do dwell,’ after which the Chairman (Mr. E. Pewtress, CC) delivered a short address. The Rev. C. W. Barnard, MA, Rector of Kings Norton, then addressed the meeting, after which the hymn ‘Lead, kindly light,’ was sung. Addresses were also delivered by the Revs. W. Hall and N. Haigh, of Blackheath. At the close a collection was taken on behalf of the Dudley Dispensary and Birmingham Eye Hospital. It amounted to £11 9s 5d.”

County Advertiser 25/2/1899

“An application was made by *Decimus Gaunt*, landlord of the BUSH INN, Powke Lane, Blackheath, in respect of certain alterations at his premises. Applicant, in reply to Mr. Cooksey (magistrates’ clerk), said his application that day was not of a similar character to the one made at the licensing sessions. Mr. Bassano (presiding magistrate) said there was no reason why the application should not be granted, but if it was intended to obtain a reversal of the decision given at the licensing sessions applicant would run a risk of losing his license. The Bench would not consent to be humbugged and hoodwinked. As far as it went the application would be granted.”

County Advertiser 19/8/1899

“*Decimus Gaunt*, landlord of the BUSH INN, Powke Lane, Blackheath, was charged with using threatening language towards a man named William Burton on the 3rd inst. Mr. H. Tinsley, of Dudley, defended. Complainant, who resided in lodgings near to defendant’s house, stated that defendant rushed into his house and used very violent and threatening language to him. Defendant said he would kill him. Thomas Brooks corroborated. Mr. Tinsley said that defendant was a most respectable man, and denied threatening defendant in any way. He would call defendant, and he submitted to the Bench that the summons had been take out for spite. Defendant said on the date named he went to the house of witness Brooks, and saw Burton there. In consequence of a statement made to witness by his wife, he asked complainant what he had been annoying his wife for, and told him he had better not do it again. Defendant did not put himself in a fighting attitude and use threatening language. The Bench dismissed the case.”

1901 Census

21, Powke Lane – OLD BUSH INN

- [1] *Decimus Gaunt* (41), publican, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Mary A. Gaunt (24), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] Frank P. Gaunt (15), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Thomas L. Gaunt (13), son, born Netherton;
- [5] Olive M. Gaunt (11), daughter, born Netherton;
- [6] *Decimus H. Gaunt* (10), son, born Netherton;
- [7] William H. Gaunt (9), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] Daisy Gaunt (6), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [9] Joseph A. Gaunt (3), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [10] Gladys A. Gaunt (1), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [11] Doris Gaunt (6 months), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [12] Lucy Deakin (15), sister in law, domestic servant, born Oldbury:

County Advertiser 21/3/1903 - Advert

“OLD BUSH, Powke Lane, Blackheath.

To House Furnishers, Brokers, and Others

Alfred Hill had been instructed by Mr. Edward Heath, to Sell by Auction, on the above premises, on Monday Next. March 23rd, 1903 (removed for convenience of Sale), a Quantity of Household Furniture and Effects, together with several useful Traps, Gigs, Wagonettes, and Harness, etc, etc.

Sale to commence at Two o’clock prompt.

Auctioneer’s Offices: Old Hill and Halesowen.”

County Advertiser 5/9/1903

“An application was made by *Decimus Gaunt*, landlord of the OLD BUSH INN, Powke Lane, Blackheath, for an occasional license to sell intoxicants at the annual sports promoted by the Coombs Wood Tube Works Football Club on the 14th inst. Applicant

explained that the proceeds from the sports would be devoted to improving the new ground that the club had secured. Sir Benjamin Hingley said that the Bench sometime ago decided not to grant occasional licenses to football clubs, but as this was a special application, it would be granted.”

County Advertiser 19/9/1903

“The first annual athletic sports promoted by the Coombs Wood Tube Works Football Club were held on Monday afternoon on the new ground, Powke Lane, Blackheath, in the presence of about 3,000 spectators.....
The officials were secretaries, Messrs W. Salt and *D. Gaunt*.....”

Decimus Gaunt was also a furniture dealer. [1904]

County Advertiser 28/5/1904

“On Tuesday, the second annual sports in connection with the Coombs Wood Tube Works Football Club were held at the football ground, Powke Lane, Blackheath, in the presence of about 4,000 spectators. The attendance was unfortunately affected by the wet weather.....
The officials were hon. secs, Messrs G. Siviter and *D. Gaunt*.....”

County Advertiser 18/6/1904

“*Decimus Gaunt*, landlord of the OLD BUSH INN, Powke Lane, Blackheath, applied for an occasional license to sell intoxicating liquors at the Coombs Wood Tube Works Football Ground on the 25th inst, on the occasion of the sports arranged by the friendly societies of Blackheath. There was no objection, and the license was granted.”

County Advertiser 16/7/1904

“The annual dinner in connection with the Coombs Wood Tube Works Football Club was held at the BUSH INN, Powke Lane, Blackheath on Saturday night. About 50 were present, and the host, Mr. *D. Gaunt*, provided an excellent repast. Mr. Wainwright was in the chair, and Mr. Aitcheson in the vice-chair. After the loyal toasts, Mr. G. Keiling proposed ‘The Coombs Wood Tube Works Football Club,’ and spoke of the difficulties the club had had to face during the past season. He was sure the committee had worked very hard, and he hoped that the heavy debt which the club had incurred – chiefly through having to spend such a big sum on the new ground and the wretched weather of the past season – would be soon wiped off.

Mr. W. Salt (secretary), in responding to the toast, congratulated the players on their work during the past season. Their record was – Played 41, won 23, drawn 8, lost 10, scoring 100 goals against 71. They also reached the semi-finals of the Birmingham Junior Cup and the Birmingham Charity Shield, and occupied fifth position in the Birmingham Junior League. The balance sheet adopted at the annual meeting showed a deficiency on the year’s working of £60, accounted for by the sum of over £40 being spent on the ground, and the bad weather had also made against good gates. The loss in many cup-ties accounted for the remainder of the debt. Given fine weather another season, and having no further expense on the ground, the debt should be considerably reduced.

Mr. J. H. Henderson proposed ‘The Host and Hostess,’ and Mr. G. Keiling seconded. Mr. *D. Gaunt*, in acknowledging, said he hoped to be able to do as much for the club in the future as he had done in the past.

During the evening songs were rendered by Messrs. D. Darby, J. H. Henderson, T. Rose, and T. Lowe. A hearty vote of thanks to the chairman brought a pleasant evening to a close.”

County Advertiser 6/8/1904

“On Saturday night a concert was given by the Old Hill Brass Band upon a piece of land close to the OLD BUSH INN, Powke Lane. There was a good audience, and the concert was much appreciated. A collection was made on behalf of the funds of the band.”

County Advertiser 1/7/1905

“The annual dinner of the Coombs Wood Tube Works Football Club was held on Thursday evening at the clubhouse, Powke Lane..... The club started the season with a deficiency of £63, which they had succeeded in reducing by one-half. The very successful season was celebrated by a most enjoyable evening, and great credit is due to Mr. and Mrs. *D. Gaunt* for their admirable catering for the company.”

County Advertiser 16/12/1905

“Licensing Business.....

Mr. Thompson applied for permission to make alterations at the OLD BUSH INN, Powke Lane, Blackheath, kept by *Decimus Gaunt*. He mentioned that the back portion of the premises were in a very bad condition as the result of mining operations, and that it was absolutely necessary that this portion should be rebuilt. At present it was only propped up, and if it was not rebuilt would probably all have to come down. Mr. Bassano said there were certain points which the justices wished to consider, and they would adjourn the application until the licensing sessions. Mr. Thompson asked if the justices would inspect the house, but Mr. Bassano said they would take some action upon the matter.”

County Advertiser 10/2/1906

“The annual general licensing sessions for Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday.....

Mr. W. H. Thompson made an application for permission to make structural alterations to the OLD BUSH INN, Powke Lane,

Blackheath, kept by *Decimus Gaunt*. He explained that on the last occasion when he made the application the proposed alterations were in respect of a small bar that at the present time was a very dark place, and practically of little use except for keeping beer in. The smoke room was very small, and had no light whatever except of an artificial character. The room was also very low, being about 7ft 3in high, and was quite inadequate for the business that was done, with the result that a lot of business had to be done in the kitchen. It was proposed to do away with the small bar, which would be called a serving room. It was also proposed to do away with the present dark smoke room and substitute a light and lofty room. The front of the premises would not be altered, and the licensed area would not be increased in any way. It was absolutely necessary that some repairs should be made to the premises, because they had been badly pulled about by mining operations.

The Chairman said the justices had inspected the house, and had found an open door which led into a field at the back of the house. He felt sure the police would not like that door to be open.

Mr. Thompson said this door was shown upon the old plan.

The Chairman said the police would like that to be done away with. There was also a wall round the premises which the justices desired to see raised to a proper height. The Bench had more than once objected to entrances to club rooms being mixed up with entrances to bed rooms. There certainly ought to be an independent staircase from the ground level to the club room. The conditions existing at present were about as unsatisfactory as they could be. Subject to those conditions being satisfactorily carried out the plans would be approved."

County Advertiser 10/3/1906

"The adjourned annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday....

Mr. Thompson asked the Bench for sanction to proposed alterations at the OLD BUSH INN, Powke Lane, Blackheath. He mentioned that the plans were brought forward on 7th of February, and they were then approved subject to three alterations. One was that a door leading into a field at the rear of the house should be closed, another that a wall should be of a uniform height, and another that a staircase to the club room should be provided independent of the private staircase. The magistrates sanctioned the proposed alterations."

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

17th February 1907 - Albert Richard (b. 20/1/1907), son of *Decimus* and Mary Ann *Gaunt*, publican, Powke Lane.

County Advertiser 8/6/1907

"On Monday evening the officers and members of Court Little Band of Hope, No.4598, entertained the members of the juvenile branch to dinner at the court house, OLD BUSH INN, Powke Lane. In addition to the juveniles about 25 of the adult society sat down to a capital spread. The chair was taken by Bro. G. Parkes, CR, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. After the toast of 'The King,' which was loyally honoured, songs were given by Bros. Sam Parsons, W. Nock, Jas. Parkes, T. Powell, and Mater Allen Gaunt, and recitations by Bro. W. Bennett, and Masters Charlie Nock and Tom Gadd. Mr. Tinsley delighted both young and old with his funny humorous songs, and Mr. Hackett was a capable pianist. The juvenile society is in a flourishing condition, having funds amounting to over £3 per head, and great hopes are entertained of its future in supplying members to the adult court. A vote of thanks to the host (Bro. *D. Gaunt*) concluded a delightful evening."

County Advertiser 22/6/1907

"*Decimus Gaunt*, licensee of the OLD BUSH INN, Powke Lane, Blackheath, applied for a license to sell intoxicants at the Coombs Wood Football Ground, on the 22nd inst, on the occasion of a comic football match and sports. Inspector Gibbs opposed the application, and pointed out that these special facilities were an inducement for men to drink, and afterwards the publicans were troubled with them. The application was refused."

1911 Census

Powke Lane

- [1] *Decimus Gaunt* (51), publican, born Blackheath;
- [2] Mary Ann Gaunt (37), wife, married 14 years, born Brades Village;
- [3] Thomas Lawrence Gaunt (23), son, butcher's assistant, born Netherton;
- [4] Olive Maud Gaunt (22), daughter, born Netherton;
- [5] Daisy Gaunt (17), daughter, born Blackheath;
- [6] Joseph Allen Gaunt (13), son, school, born Blackheath;
- [7] Gladys Annie Gaunt (11), daughter, school, born Blackheath;
- [8] Doris Gaunt (10), daughter, school, born Blackheath;
- [9] Albert Richard Gaunt (4), son, born Blackheath:

Decimus Howard Gaunt married Louie White in the 2nd quarter of 1914.

Evening Despatch 10/2/1916

"The Licensing Sessions took place at Rowley Regis yesterday, when it was reported that there had been a decrease of 39 in the convictions for drunkenness.

The police objected to the renewal of the license of the OLD BUSH INN, Blackheath, on the ground that rabbit coursing was carried on there, and that large crowds of disorderly people assembled in the neighbourhood. The Bench renewed the license on the understanding that the rabbit coursing was discontinued."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/10/1930

“Norton Canes Fund for Dependants of Victims of the Disaster.

Yesterday’s contributions to the *Birmingham Gazette* and *Evening Despatch* fund for the relief of the families of the 14 men who lost their lives in the Norton Canes pit disaster came from many and varied sources.....

The Subscription List. Previously Acknowledged, £1,878 12s 10d.....

Customers, OLD BUSH REVIVED, Powke Lane, Blackheath, per Ed. Seaton, £1 16s 8d.”

Dudley Herald 3/1/1931

“*Walter Seaton Sykes*, of the OLD BUSH INN, Powke Lane, fractured his ribs in a collision between his car and another in Cake-more Road, on Christmas Eve.”

Dudley Herald 21/2/1931

“*Walter Seaton Sykes*, the OLD BUSH INN, Powke Lane, Blackheath, pleaded not guilty to supplying intoxicating liquor after permitted hours on January 24th, and the following pleaded not guilty to consuming the liquor in non-permitted hours on the same date: Job Allen (30), 366, St. Paul’s Road, Smethwick; Bert Robinson (24), 69, New England, Cakemore; William Love (29), 23, Simpson Street, Oldbury; Bernard Simcox (26), 8, Unity Place, Oldbury, and Fred Windmill, 10, Canal side, Oldbury.

Mr. J. T. Higgs, for the police, said that according to the Licensing Act, 1921, section 4, beer should not be served outside permitted hours, which, in that district, ended at 10pm. In this case beer was consumed at 10.55pm, and was undoubtedly permitted by the landlord, in the presence of two policemen. When PS Perkins and PC Eke went to the house on January 24th, a room at the back was fully lighted up, and contained six men and the landlord. The officers looked through a window which was not covered by a blind, and saw drinks brought in and placed in front of the customers, one of whom paid money. The policemen entered, and statements were made by *Sykes*, the men and the landlady. *Sykes* said ‘They are friends of mine, and I am entitled to have them here if I like.’ A licensee could not turn men into friends after 10 o’clock.

After evidence had been given by the officers, Mr. Millichip (West Bromwich) addressed the Bench for the defence, which was that the men were servants and friends.

The Chairman said that the licensee was found guilty of a technical offence, and would be dealt with leniently with a fine of £2 with £5s 5s costs. The opinion of the Bench was that such a conviction would not jeopardise the renewal of his license. Jones, Allen and Robinson would be dismissed on payment of 4s costs each, and Love, Simcox and Windmill would be fined 10s each.”

Decimus Gaunt died in the 1st quarter of 1937.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/10/1937

“How a film so gripped him that he enlisted in the French Foreign Legion was related at Old Hill Police Court, yesterday, when a 22-year-old lorry driver, Richard James Harvey, a native of Newport, Mon., but of no fixed abode, was sent to prison for six months, with hard labour, for stealing £96, the money of Sarah Jane *Glaze*, with whom he lodged at the OLD BUSH REVIVED INN, Powke Lane, Blackheath.

To PC Simonds, who took him into custody at Newport, after he had absconded from Blackheath with the stolen money, Harvey admitted the theft, and said that he had flown to Paris in the Imperial Airway liner *Horatio*. ‘I would have gone to Spain, only I had no passport,’ he added. He had only a penny in his possession when arrested.

PC Simonds said Harvey had been a source of constant trouble to his parents, who kept a second-hand shop in Newport. He was the only child and was spoilt. He had twice joined the Army, but on each occasion was discharged for having given a false age. In April 1936 he joined the French Foreign legion in the name of James after having sold his parents’ motor-car, which he took without their consent. A few months later his parents bought him out of the Legion at considerable expense. Harvey, continued the officer, was a young man of highly imaginative mind. Films excited and impressed him greatly and he visited a local cinema time and time again to see a film entitled ‘Legionnaire,’ which so gripped him that finally he joined the Legion.

It was reported that Harvey had been previously convicted and at the age of 18 was sentenced to 12 months for housebreaking and larceny.

In the case before the court yesterday he was stated to have taken the £96 from a drawer in an upstairs room during a few weeks that he was lodging at the inn. His wife, who had been staying with him, left before Harvey disappeared.

Harvey pleaded to be given a chance. ‘I am not asking it for myself but for my wife and kiddie,’ he said, adding that he would do any sort of work in order to get money with which to repay every penny to Mrs. *Glaze*.

‘It is a very bad case. There does not seem to be any hope for you at all,’ said the chairman, Mr. A. H. Bassano, who said six months was the maximum they could sentence him to.

Harvey, who was wearing a mackintosh which he had bought with some of the stolen money, took it off before being taken to the cells and handed it to Mrs. *Glaze*.”

1939 Register

44, Powke Lane

[1] *Malcolm Glaze*, date of birth 16/3/1879, licensee, married;

[2] Sarah J. *Glaze*, dob 25/8/1880, unpaid domestic duties, married:

Malcolm Glaze died in the 4th quarter of 1954.

Decimus Howard Gaunt died in the 3rd quarter of 1966.

A Cruising and Walking Guide to the Birmingham Canal Navigations - 1984

“.....The OLD BUSH REVIVED is a popular meeting place for canal societies, particularly the Coombeswood Canal Trust.....”

Dudley Canal Trust held meetings here.

Sandra Whitehouse was born in Beet Street, Blackheath.

A team from here played in the Dudley and Cradley Heath Football League. [1986]

It was refurbished and reopened in December 1988.

Two rooms were knocked into one during a seven month refurbishment in 2010.

It was reopened on 10th December 2010.

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.....

OLD BUSH REVIVED, Powke Lane, Rowley Regis.”

Express & Star 27/10/2022

“Black Country Ales has bought a pub in Rowley Regis. Refurbishment work on the OLD BUSH REVIVED in Powke Lane has already begun. The Kingswinford-based brewery and pubs business has yet to announce an opening date for the pub. The current building dates from 1906 and there has been a pub on the site for nearly 200 years.....”

Halesowen News 18/12/2023

“A thriving Rowley Regis pub is set to mark the anniversary of new owners taking over and giving it a complete transformation. The OLD BUSH REVIVED is celebrating a year since Black Country Ales bought it, on Friday December 22 with a party and live music. Since the brewery bought the pub on Powke Lane last December it has gone from strength to strength under the watchful eye of new landlady and landlord *Giorgia Johnson* and *Matt Crisp*, who took the helm at the same time.....”

[2023]

OLD CROSS GUNS

7, (6), Cradley Road, Five Ways, CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

Daniel Willetts

North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd. [1903]

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

Joseph Archer [1849]

Daniel Willetts [1864] – [1885]

George Hardy [1891] – [1892]

Thomas Charles (1893 – [1896])

Enoch Eley [1900]

Job Dunn [1901] – 1903);

John Edward French (1903 – 1904);

Walter Edwin Dunn (1904 – []

William Edward Jenks [] – 1905);

George Saunders (1905 – 1906);
Solomon Auden (1906 – []
Joseph Bloomer [1908] – 1910);
Joseph Frederick Homer (1910 – 1911);
Richard Dimmock (1911 – [1912]
Mrs. Mary Ann Homer [1916]
Joseph Bennett [1919] – 1920);
Henry Horan (1920 – 1921);
Joseph T Mallen (1921 – 1950);
Norman Plant (1950 – 1970)

NOTES

6, Cradley Road [1881], [1891], [1900], [1904], [1908], [1912]
7, Cradley Road [1921], [1924], [1932], [1940]

CROSS GUNS [1849], [1865], [1866], [1878], [1879], [1881], [1883], [1891], [1893], [1894], [1895], [1903], [1909], [1957],
[1970]
CROSS GUNS HOTEL [1930]

Daniel Willetts, beer retailer, Five Ways. [1864]
Daniel Willetts, beer retailer, Cradley Heath. [1868], [1872]

Birmingham Daily Post 16/7/1864

“At the Petty Sessions, held at Old Hill, on Wednesday, before Messrs. F. W. S. Barrs and C. Cochrane, William Baker was brought up on remand, charged with stabbing William Wood, on the 30th ult. Mr. Addison appeared for the prosecution. The circumstances as related by the prosecutor and several men who saw the occurrence were as follows. About half-past ten o’clock on the night of the 30th ult, the prisoner, prosecutor, and half a dozen others were in a beerhouse called the OLD CROSS GUNS, at Cradley Heath, in this parish. The prisoner is a shoemaker, and had just come from work, bringing with him a knife and several other tools used in the trade. In the course of the evening one of the men gave the prosecutor a rasp, which he handed to another man. The prisoner, on seeing the rasp in the hand of the third man, said it was his, and snatched it from him. Prosecutor upon this demanded the rasp back, but the prisoner refused to give it. Some words ensued, and prisoner lifted a jug from the table and threatened to strike prosecutor with it. One of the men took the jug from him, upon which the prosecutor pushed him down on the seat. The prisoner then took a knife from his coat pocket, and stabbed prosecutor in the abdomen. The prosecutor shortly became insensible, and the prisoner left the house at once. He was apprehended on the same night.

Mr. Hodgson, surgeon, who was called in to the prosecutor, stated that the wound was on the left side, at the bottom of the abdomen. The cavity of the abdomen had been penetrated, but the instrument it had been inflicted by had not touched the intestines. The wound was of a very dangerous character. He had attended the man since the time he received the wound.

The prisoner made no defence, but called the man with whom he went to the public-house to state what took place. According to this man’s statement he was not there all the time, and consequently did not see the end of the affair. The prisoner was committed to take his trial at the next Stafford Assizes.”

[At the Stafford Summer Assizes on 20th July 1864, William Baker was charged with feloniously cutting and wounding, he was found guilty and sentenced to nine months’ imprisonment with hard labour.]

Stourbridge Observer 7/1/1865

“On Tuesday afternoon last a serious explosion of gas took place, at the house of Mr. *Willetts*, CROSS GUNS INN. It appears that one of the main pipes in the street had, by some means, cracked, and the gas escaping found its way into Mr. *Willetts*’s cellars. On Tuesday afternoon, Mr. *Willetts* being out, Mrs. *Willetts* being afraid of the gas, which was almost enough to suffocate any one in the house, a neighbour, Mr. Hampton was called in. He immediately went down into the cellar No.1, with a candle in his hand. He found no gas there. He then proceeded to No.2. Immediately upon his entering this cellar, the gas, which had congregated, exploded with a loud noise, knocking Mr. Hampton down, and severely burning his hands and face. The gas then proceeded through the cellar No.1, up the steps, and sent Mrs. *Willetts*, who was standing near the door, up to the ceiling, knocking off the plaster with her head. Glasses, jugs, plates, and windows were all broken into pieces. The parlour floor was blown up, and the building damaged very much. The gas then proceeded along the side of the pipes into the house rented by Mr. Allen, where another explosion occurred, doing considerable damage to the clothes &c in the shop. In consequence, the inhabitants of Cradley Heath were deprived of the cheerful light of the gas.”

County Advertiser 28/1/1865 - Advert

“The Largest and Handsomest Pig in the county may be seen at Mr. *Willetts*’s CROSS GUNS INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 8/1/1866

“Samuel Jasper was charged with being disorderly on the 28th ult at the CROSS GUNS INN, Cradley Heath, and refusing to quit the premises when ordered to do so by the landlord, *Daniel Willetts*. Police-constable Styles proved the case, and defendant was

fined 5s and costs.”

County Advertiser 25/8/1866

“Rowley annual licensing meeting was held yesterday.....
The following are the new applications and their results.....
Daniel Willetts, CROSS GUNS, Cradley Heath, refused.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/8/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for Rowley Regis division was held on Friday, at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill.....
The following beerhouse keepers had been fined during the last five years.....
Daniel Willetts, CROSS GUNS, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 27/8/1870

“The annual licensing meeting for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division was held yesterday.....
The following beerhouse keepers applied for wine and spirit licenses.....
Daniel Willetts, CROSS GUNS, Cradley Heath. Application refused.”

1871 Census

Cradley Road – CROSS GUNS INN

- [1] *Daniel Willetts* (40), publican, born Cradley;
- [2] Maria Willetts (41), wife, born Kingswinford;
- [3] Alfred Willetts (17), son, born Kingswinford;
- [4] Caleb Willetts (13), son, born Kingswinford;
- [5] Emma Stalcock (18), general servant, born Kingswinford:

County Advertiser 8/8/1874 - Notice

“To the Overseers of the Poor, and the Superintendent of Police, of the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, and to all whom it may concern.
I, *Daniel Willetts*, Retailer of Beer, now residing at Cradley Heath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, do Hereby Give Notice that it is my intention to Apply at the General Annual Licensing Meeting, for the Division of Rowley Regis, to be holden at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, at Old Hill, in the said County, on the 28th day of August, next ensuing, at the hour of Eleven o’clock in the Forenoon of the same day, for a License to hold any Excise License or Licenses, to Sell by Retail, under The Intoxicating Liquors Licensing Act, 1828, and the Acts amending the same, all Intoxicating Liquors to be consumed either on or off the Premises, situate at Cradley Heath, in the said Parish, and known by the Sign of the OLD CROSS GUNS, which said premises are duly rated for the relief of the Poor, as by law is required, of which House and Premises I am the owner, and the same are now in my occupation.
Given under my hand this 29th day of July, 1874.
Daniel Willetts.”

County Express 29/8/1874

“The annual Brewster Sessions was held at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, yesterday morning.....
Daniel Willetts, landlord of the OLD CROSS GUNS INN, Cradley Heath applied for a spirit license, which was granted.”

County Express 25/8/1877

“After the business of the Petty Sessions had been disposed of the Annual Licensing Sessions were held.....
The application of Joseph Partridge, beerhouse keeper, of Five Ways, for a retail wine license, was opposed by *Daniel Willetts*, of the CROSS GUNS. The Bench, however, complied with the application.”

County Express 9/2/1878

“On Tuesday evening a meeting of the Cradley Heath Conservative Association was held at the house of Mr. *Daniel Willetts*, the CROSS GUNS INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath. Mr. C. Lander presided. After several speeches had been delivered, the following vote of confidence in the Government was unanimously passed and forwarded to Earl Beaconsfield: ‘That this meeting hereby express their entire confidence in the honour and ability of Earl Beaconsfield, and her Majesty’s Ministers, fully believing that the honour, integrity, and interests of the country will be zealously guarded by them, and that this meeting also express their contempt of the unpatriotic and obstructionist policy of the Gladstonian (Liberal) party in opposing the vote for supplies; which the Government are fully justified in asking for, in order to obtain, if possible a permanent peace, and preserve the welfare and dignity of the empire’.....”

County Express 12/7/1879

“Caleb *Willetts*, CROSS GUNS INN Cradley Road, Cradley Heath, was charged with having been drunk and disorderly at Cradley Heath on the 5th inst. Police-constable Sylvester saw defendant drunk at Five Ways about eleven o’clock on Saturday night last. He was disorderly and challenged a man to fight. He refused to go home when the officer told him. Defendant pleaded guilty. He was fined 1s and costs. This was his first offence.”

1881 Census

6, Cradley Road – CROSS GUNS

- [1] *Daniel Willetts* (50), publican, born Cradley;
- [2] Maria Willetts (50), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Caleb Willetts (22), son, fitter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Maria Willetts (13), niece, general servant, born Cradley:

Dudley and District News 5/5/1883

“*Daniel Willetts*, CROSS GUNS INN, Cradley Heath; John Robert Chatham, Cradley Heath; Thomas Parsons, Windmill End; John Payne, Blackheath; Joseph Attwood, Reddall Hill; John Cole and Benjamin Cole, Darby End; Samuel Holden, Netherton; and John Homer, Cradley Heath, all butchers or dealers, were charged with removing animals out of Worcestershire into Staffordshire without having first obtained a removal license. Mr. Homer defended in each case.

It was shown that a considerable number of sheep and pigs had been purchased by the defendants at Worcester fair, sent by rail to Cradley Station, and from thence driven to the premises of the defendants.

Attwood was fined 40s and costs; *Willetts*, Payne, and Homer 10s and costs each; and the other defendants 5s and costs each. Mr. Hingley said it must be understood that if any more cases were brought before the Bench, the defendants would be severely dealt with, as the matter, was becoming rather serious, and very expensive to the county.”

County Advertiser 5/9/1885 - Notice

“To the Overseers of the Poor, and the Superintendent of Police, of the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, and to all whom it may concern.

I, *Daniel Willetts*, Licensed Victualler, now residing at the CROSS GUNS, Cradley Heath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, Victualler, Do Hereby Give Notice that it is my intention to apply to the Adjourned General Annual Licensing Meeting for the Division of Rowley Regis, to be holden at the Public Office, at Old Hill, in the said County, on the 30th day of September next ensuing, at the hour of Eleven o’clock in the forenoon of the same day, for a Seven Days’ License to hold any Excise License or Licenses, to Sell by Retail under The Intoxicating Liquor Licensing Act, 1828, and the Acts amending the same, all Intoxicating Liquors to be consumed either on or off the Premises, situate at Cradley Heath, in the said Parish, and known by the sign of the CROSS GUNS, which said premises are of the annual value by law is required, of which House and Premises I am the Owner, and the same are now in my occupation.

Given under my hand this 31st day of August, 1885.

Daniel Willetts.”

County Advertiser 3/10/1885

“Mr. Waldron, on behalf of *Daniel Willetts*, of the CROSS KEYS [sic], Cradley Heath, applied for a six days’ license to be extended to a seven days’ license. In support of the application he urged that unless it was granted applicant would not be on an equal footing with his fellow publicans, and was already losing custom through having only a six days’ license. The application was granted.”

1891 Census

6, Cradley Road – CROSS GUNS

- [1] *George Hardy* (23), roller, ironworks, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Maria Hardy (20), wife, born Cradley;
- [3] Louisa Hardy (1), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Emma Harbach (15), niece, general servant, born Cradley;
- [5] Marie Payne (32), widow, boarder, musician, pianist, born Dublin, Ireland:

County Advertiser 4/11/1893 - Advert

“To be Let, the CROSS GUNS INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath. Free Home Brewing.
For particulars, apply to A. H. Sidaway, Auctioneer, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 30/12/1893

“At the Old Hill Police Court, at a special sessions, John Bishop (56), a tradesman, residing in Graingers Lane, was remanded on the charge of stealing a cask containing nine gallons of ale, the property of *Thomas Charles*, landlord of the CROSS GUNS INN. It was alleged that the prisoner took the cask and placed it on his cart. Prisoner stated that he took the cask for a lark. He was admitted to bail.”

County Advertiser 6/1/1894

“John Bishop of Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath, was charged with stealing a cask of ale, value 10s or 11s, the property of *Thomas Charles*, on the 26th ult. Mr. Waldron defended.

Complainant, who is the landlord of the OLD CROSS GUNS, Cradley Heath, had employed defendant on the day in question to fetch a load of lime to his house. He arrived at the inn about three o’clock, and emptied the lime at the top of the yard. Defendant afterwards stayed in the house for about two hours, and then went into the yard to take away his horse and cart. Complainant followed him and saw him put the barrel into the cart and drive away with it. Complainant went after the defendant without being perceived, and saw him in his yard. Complainant said to him ‘What game do you call this?’ to which defendant replied ‘I have not

put it in.' Complainant said 'Put what in?' and defendant said 'That barrel.' Complainant then went away, and defendant brought back the barrel about twenty minutes after.

Mr. Waldron said his instructions were very simple. His client, instead of going about his business of fetching this load of lime, called at two public houses. He also had some liquor at complainant's house, and by the time he was ready to go away was 'pretty mellow.' He stumbled over the barrel when he went into the yard, and in a moment of irritation put it into the cart. There was no felonious intent whatever, and this fact was, he (Mr. Waldron) submitted, borne out by the whole of the surrounding circumstances. Defendant was a decent working man, and he asked the Bench for leniency on his behalf. Defendant was fined 20s and costs."

County Advertiser 4/8/1894

"*Thomas Charles*, landlord of the CROSS GUNS INN, Cradley Road, Cradley Heath, was charged with being drunk and disorderly on the 24th ult.

Police-constable Brindley deposed to seeing defendant drunk and making a disturbance in the highway early in the morning in question

Mr. Ward, who defended, said defendant had been at a friend's house, and had had too much to drink. It was not a serious offence, however, like being drunk on his own licensed premises, or in any licensed premises. He was annoyed at the policeman watching the house.

It was stated that defendant had been previously convicted for a similar offence, and the Bench fined him 20s.

Mr. Bassano said as defendant was a publican he must be careful."

Birmingham Daily Post 23/8/1894

"The annual licensing sessions for Old Hill were held yesterday.....

Inspector Green stated that the licensed persons who had been convicted were.....

Thomas Charles, OLD CROSS GUNS, Cradley Heath.....

Mr. Bassano said the magistrates had decided to renew the licenses of the three publicans who had been convicted."

County Advertiser 30/11/1895

"Small Anchor Smiths.

On Wednesday evening last a crowded meeting of the members of the above trade was held at Mr. *Charles*'s, CROSS GUNS INN, Cradley Heath. The rules, as drawn up by the committee appointed for the purpose were read, and after a short discussion, it was resolved that they be passed, and placed in the printer's hands, with a view to having them registered directly. The question was then discussed as to the advisability of asking for an advance, seeing that the trade was improving, and that they had suffered several reductions during the late depression. It was eventually resolved that the secretary visit the employers, asking them to meet representatives of the men in conference, with a view to discussing an advance in wages."

Thomas Charles was also a brewer. [1896]

County Advertiser 1/8/1896

"*Thomas Charles*, landlord of the CROSS GUNS INN, Cradley Road, Cradley Heath, was charged with assaulting Police-constable Herbert John Hughes, on the 30th June, and further with being drunk on his own licensed premises on that date; the summons stating that he had been twice convicted of drunkenness within twelve calendar months. There were a cross-summons against the constable for assaulting *Charles*. Mr. J. W. Clulow (instructed by the chief constable) prosecuted, and Mr. Foster (instructed by Mr. S. Ward, Dudley) defended.

Mr. Clulow stated that on the night of the 30th June, at about 9-45pm, Police-constable Hughes visited the premises of the defendant in order to make inquiries as to a box of pipe cleaners which had been found on the defendant's yard, and which it was thought had been stolen. He went into the kitchen, and asked the defendant's daughter, who was in at the time, where her father was. The daughter went into the bar, and the defendant soon came out of the bar into the kitchen. As soon as he saw the officer he ordered him off the premises. The officer said, 'I found a box of instruments in your yard, and I have come to make inquiries about them.' *Charles* replied, 'It is a lie; you have been sent to catch me.' He then threatened that if the officer did not go out, he would put him out. The officer was about to go, when *Charles* struck him on the nose. He followed that up by another blow, which knocked off the officer's cap. They fell down several times together, and later on defendant tore the tunic of the officer. Of course there was a struggle, and there was no doubt that, either by a blow from one of his own customers, or by falling down on the bricks in the yard, defendant received an injury to the back of his head. Several of the customers came out and took *Charles* into the house, and the constable went away. Shortly after leaving he met Police-sergeant Newman, who visited the house with Police-constable Wynne. Defendant then said that the officer had been to the house and asked for some whiskey, and because he would not supply it, Hughes had struck him with his staff. The cross-summons against the policeman had been issued since the adjournment of the charge against *Charles*.

Police-constable Hughes said that at about 9-45 on the 30th June, he went to the OLD CROSS GUNS INN, by the instruction of his sergeant to make inquiries about some articles that had been found on defendant's premises that morning. When defendant came into the kitchen out of the vaults he was drunk and staggering. Upon witness stating what was his errand, defendant said, 'You have been — well sent here to catch me; go out of my — house.' Witness said he would go, and backed towards the door. Defendant rushed at him, and struck him on the nose, as a result of which both his eyes had been discoloured. When he reached the door the defendant struck him again on the side of the head, knocking him against the stairs-door. Out in the yard defendant again struck witness, knocked his hat off, and challenged him to fight. He rushed at witness, who caught hold of him, and put him

on the floor. Defendant then tried to bite and kick. Witness allowed him to get up several times, but on each occasion defendant rushed at him, and witness put him on the floor again, and held him. Witness did not hit defendant, nor draw his staff. Defendant struck John Parkes, one of the customers who came out, and Parkes retaliated with a blow on the mouth, which knocked defendant against the wall. Witness afterwards reported the matter to the sergeant, whom he met in the street. Cross-examined: He did not ask for twopenny-worth of whiskey, nor did he draw his staff and strike defendant.

Police-sergeant Newman said that on the night in question he saw Police-constable Hughes in the street. His mouth was bleeding, and his coat sleeve was torn, and on the following day his two eyes were discoloured. In consequence of his report, witness, accompanied by Police-constable Wynne, visited the defendant's house, and found the defendant in the kitchen, drunk. His mouth and the back of his head were bleeding. *Charles's* daughter said that Hughes had been to the house, and said her father was drunk. Defendant said that Hughes had been in and asked for some whiskey, and when he would not fill it, the officer struck him on the head with his staff, and had crippled him for life. When witness afterwards served the summons on defendant, he said it was his own fault.

Police-constable Wynne corroborated.

Sarah Homer and Annie Homer, servants at the defendant's house, and John Parkes, one of the customers, also gave corroborative evidence.

Mr. Foster said the case for the defence was a complete contradiction of the other story.

Mr. Bassano said the Bench were doubtful whether the defence should be proceeded with after the character of the evidence for the prosecution.

Mr. Foster, after consulting defendant, said the case must go on.

Defendant was called, and said that Hughes came to his house on the night in question, and asked for twopenny-worth of whiskey. Witness refused to fill it, and Hughes then drew his staff, and struck witness three times on the back of the head. Then they went into the yard and there was a fight. Witness hit Hughes several times, and Hughes hit him. As Hughes went away he said that nothing would come of it if his tunic had not been torn. When Sergeant Newman visited the house nothing was said by the officer about witness being drunk. He had had nothing to drink that day. Cross-examined: He rarely went without beer for a whole day. He had been charged four times, since he had been a publican, with being drunk. The reason he struck Parkes was that he was aggravated with him for assisting the officer, when the latter was holding him by the throat.

Joseph Mallen, James Hill, and other witnesses were called in support of the defendant's statement as to what happened in the yard, but there was no evidence for the defence as to what happened in the kitchen.

After a short consultation, the Bench dismissed the charge of assault against Hughes. They considered the charge of assaulting the officer was fully proved, and as it was an unprovoked assault on a police-constable in the execution of his duty, in the house of the defendant, they thought it called for a very considerable fine. As the costs were somewhat heavy, they would fine the defendant 40s and costs, and in the case of being drunk on his licensed premises, 10s including costs.

Further charges of allowing drunkenness, and of selling beer to a man named John Morgan, while in a drunken condition, were heard against the defendant. He was fined 10s including costs in the one case, and ordered to pay costs in the other, which was withdrawn.

The fines and costs in all cases, including solicitor's fees, amounted to £10 12s."

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.”

1901 Census

Cradley Road

[1] *Job Dunn* (42), chainmaker and publican, born Cradley;

[2] Mary J. Dunn (39), wife, born Glamorgan;

[3] William Dunn (20), son, chainmaker, born Cradley;

[4] Anne Dunn (18), daughter, born Cradley;

[5] David Dunn (15), son, chainmaker, born Cradley Heath;

[6] Maud A. Dunn (11), daughter, born Cradley Heath;

[7] Dorothy Dunn (6), daughter, born Cradley Heath;

[8] Ernest Dunn (9 months), son, born Cradley Heath:

County Express 4/1/1902

“Sick and Draw Clubs.....

CROSS GUNS HOTEL (Cradley Heath). The annual breaking-up dinner of this club took place on Saturday, Mr. and Mrs. *J. Dunn* as usual catering excellently for the wants of the members. Afterwards the auditors (Mr. A. Barnbrook and Mr. J. Jacks) presented the report and balance sheet, the members expressing satisfaction at the manner in which the books had been kept. Each member was entitled to 14s 0½d, which was considered very satisfactory, owing to the sick pay being unusually heavy. Business over, Mr. J. Jacks presided over the convivial part of the evening, Mr. J. Woodall and Mr. John Billingham contributing materially to its success by their singing of ‘On the banks of Allan Water’ and ‘Sweet spirit, hear my prayer’ respectively. Hearty votes of thanks were passed to the host and hostess, and the singing of ‘He’s a jolly good fellow’ for the chairman, ended a very pleasant evening.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/1/1903

“At the Rowley Regis Police Court yesterday, a case which had aroused considerable interest was heard in which *Job Dunn*, the landlord of the CROSS GUNS INN, Cradley Road, Cradley Heath, was charged with permitting drunkenness on the 10th inst. Mr. Clulow, who prosecuted on behalf of the police, stated that the case was the first under the new Licensing Act in the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division.

On Saturday night, the 10th inst, when making an inspection of the licensed houses in Cradley Heath, the police found a man named Arthur Banks drunk in the defendant’s tap room. It was not suggested that Banks was supplied with drink on defendant’s premises, but under the new Act it was for the defendant and his assistants to prove they had taken all reasonable steps to prevent a drunken man remaining on the licensed premises.

Police-constables Foulkes and Turner proved to finding Banks drunk on the premises.

Mr. W. H. Thompson, who represented the North Worcestershire Brewery Company, the owner of the defendant’s house, said Banks entered the house at the back without the knowledge of the defendant and his assistants. He was not supplied with drink, and when he was found by the defendant’s son in the bar, was ordered to leave, but he was stupid and would not do so. The defendant’s attention was called to him, and he asked him to go, but he would not, and shortly afterwards the police arrived. He submitted that all reasonable steps were taken to get rid of the man, and hoped the magistrates would not hold that the defendant was to blame.

After hearing a number of witnesses who bore out Mr. Thompson’s statement, the magistrates came to the conclusion that an offence had been committed. They did not regard it as a serious offence, but they wished it to be known that drunken persons must not knowingly be allowed to remain on licensed premises for a single minute. Defendant was fined 10s and £2 14s 6d costs.

Banks, for being drunk on licensed premises, was fined 10s.”

County Advertiser 14/2/1903

“On Wednesday the annual licensing session for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held at the Court House.....

Superintendent Spendlove had given notice that he should oppose the following licenses.....

Job Dunn, CROSS GUNS INN, Cradley Heath, permitting drunkenness, and not a fit and proper person.....

License renewed.”

County Advertiser 22/8/1903

“The following licenses of public houses in the district were transferred.....

CROSS GUNS INN, Cradley Heath, from *John Dunn* to *John Edward Trench*. In this latter case it was explained that the out-go-

ing manager was not present, and an application was made to the magistrates to excuse his absence. Mr. T. Cooksey (magistrates' clerk) said it was necessary that the out-going tenants or managers should be present to consent to the transfer of the licenses. This kind of thing was becoming too frequent, and if the out-going managers would not attend the Court the brewery firms had the remedy in their own hands, and they could obtain their presence by summoning them. Eventually the Bench granted the transfer, but Mr. A. H. Bassano intimated that in future no application would be considered unless the out-going manager or tenant was present to consent to the transfer of the license."

Indenture 28/10/1909

"All that messuage public-house and premises known as the CROSS GUNS together with the brewhouse yard gardens stabling and other buildings thereto belonging situate at the Five Ways Cradley Heath aforesaid and bounded in front by the highway from Cradley Heath to the Five Ways and having a frontage thereto of 8½ yards or thereabouts and which said premises contain in the whole by estimation 280 square yards or thereabouts."

County Express 3/12/1910

"At Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, the license of the CROSS GUNS INN, Cradley Heath, was transferred from *Joseph Bloomer* to *Joseph Frederick Homer*, the secretary of Cradley Heath St. Luke's Football Club."

1911 Census

Cradley Road

- [1] *Joseph Frederick Homer* (31), licensed victualler, manager, born Quarry Bank;
- [2] *Ada Homer* (32), wife, born Cradley Heath;
- [3] *May Homer* (6), daughter, school, born Old Hill;
- [4] *Maud Homer* (1), daughter, born Netherton:

County Express 30/9/1911

"At the Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday.....

The temporary transfer of the CROSS GUNS, Cradley Heath, from *J. Fred Homer* to *Richard Dimmock* was granted."

Joseph T. Mallen = Joseph T. Mallin

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/6/1930

"Carnival Queens.

Arrangements are nearing completion for the forthcoming hospital carnival weeks at Halesowen and Cradley Heath. Miss Iris Bowen, of Clock House, Halesowen, has been chosen as Halesowen's carnival queen, and Miss *May Mallen*, of the CROSS GUNS HOTEL, Cradley Road, will be the queen at Cradley Heath."

1939 Register

Cradley Road – OLD CROSS GUNS Public House

- [1] *Joseph T. Mallen*, date of birth 11/7/1890, blacksmith, married;
- [2] *Lily (Lillian) Mallen*, dob 25/1/1892, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] *Duncan Morris*, dob 24/9/1922, tool maker (apprentice), car works, single:

Joseph 'Joe' Mallen was married to Lil.

"For years he worked as a chainmaker and smith (retired 1960) at William Griffin's Triton Works. But it was his fame as a breeder of Staffords It was here that he founded the Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club in 1935."

Birmingham Daily Post 7/11/1944

"In some quarters 'Staffordshire' suggests knots; in other, pots – or Toby Jugs; but in a select yet growing circle 'the Staffordshire' is the bull-terrier. It is a circle whose centre is Birmingham and the Black Country. There was the cradle of the breed about a century ago, and there it has been saved from extinction and remarkably revived within the last ten years. The tale of the Staffordshire is told with authority and with entertaining detail by Mr. H. N. Beilby in a newly-published book, 'The Staffordshire Bull Terrier.'

Glamour is not peculiar to blonde young women; it attaches also to bad old sports. When bull-baiting, once a Royal sport, declined and was finally made illegal, it was replaced by dog fighting. This required a lighter and quicker breed of dog than the mastiffs and bull-dogs of the bull ring; so the bull-dog was crossed with the old English terrier. From this alliance, which took place very early in the nineteenth century, sprang the Staffordshire. When dog fighting and kindred blood sports fell under the ban, the Staffordshire, Mr. Beilby recalls, came to be 'regarded as a disreputable tyke with a murky past.' But the coal-miners and ironworkers of his own county cherished the Staffordshire – for ratting, if not for less laudable pursuits. And when, recently, distance began to lend enchantment, however spurious, to the dog-fight, the breed was still in existence and capable of revival. Most appropriately the hub of the revival was Cradley, and the headquarters chosen by the Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club was the OLD CROSS GUNS, Cradley Heath. If one can judge a race by its founders, it will be hard for the most eccentric breeder to undermine the Staffordshire's historic character; the four patriarchs of the race were Fearless Joe, Game Lad, Brindle Mick and Rum Bottle. The Club, however, appears determined to protect the breed from debilitating deviations from standard. Mr. Beilby gives an exact description of the approved type. But it is a relic of Cradley parochialism that he places first among faults the 'Dudley nose'?"

At the Birmingham 77th National Dog Show in December 1949, a Staffordshire bull-terrier named Tyke from the OLD CROSS GUNS was placed in the final of the breed.

Black Country Bugle 24/3/2021

Article by Dan Shaw

“.....A character references provided by Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries reads, ‘Mr. and Mrs. *J. T. Mallen* took over the management of the CROSS GUNS INN, Cradley Heath, on the 11th July, 1921, and remained there until November 1950. They went through the difficult period of the slump of 1929-30-31. They were a very popular couple and Mrs. *Mallen* was mainly responsible for the managing of the affairs of the Company, as Mr. *Mallen* combined his work as a shackle-maker.

There were rumours that cock-fighting and dog-fighting used to take place in the CROSS GUNS cellar during the early hours of the morning.

Mr. *Mallen* became a breeder of Staffordshire Bull Terrier dogs for which he became well known, and this drew trade to the house. Mr. *Mallen* was a great sportsman and a very popular licensee. His wife looked after him well and also took care of the public house.

We were sorry when they decided to retire from the CROSS GUNS INN but we were sure that they both deserved a rest.”

Warley News Telephone 12/9/1970

“.....Eighty years old *Joe* [Mallen] can look back on a lifetime amongst the folk lore and customs of one of Britain’s most fiercely individual areas.

For more than 29 years he was gaffer at the CROSS GUNS INN – a famous Black Country hostelry which stood at the Five Ways in Cradley Heath.

But pulling pints was only a part time occupation for Mr. *Mallen*; for 54 years he worked as a chainmaker and smith at William Griffin’s works in the town.

And when *Joe* entered the licensed trade, he was already well known for his interest and experience with the Staffordshire bull terrier.....

After film star Tom Walls managed to get the breed recognised at Crufts *Joe* won the first ever diploma for the best in the show with his dog ‘Cross Guns Johnson’.

That was in 1936, but three years later ‘Gentleman Jim’, the dog *Joe* named after the fighter James John Corbett, became the first champion Staffordshire bull terrier of the world.....

Nowadays Mr. *Mallen* lives on his own at Kinver. But he can be found most nights in one of the inns of Cradley Heath.....”

Joseph ‘Joe’ Mallen died in 1970, aged 80, and was buried at St. Peter’s Church in Cradley Heath.

Tipton Herald 14/12/1957

“A satisfactory report of the activities of Cradley Heath Whippet Racing Club, formed 12 months ago, was given at the annual meeting on Sunday at the CROSS GUNS INN, Cradley Heath There had been monthly races with appearances at fetes and carnivals all over the West Midlands Club membership was now nearly 50. Members of the club had worked hard and whippet racing is back on the map.....”

Norman Plant (1907 - 1995) was the founding treasurer and handicapper of the Cradley Heath Whippet Racing Club. He was a nephew of *Joseph Mallen*.

News Telephone 10/9/1970

“.....The HQ now uv the Credley ’Eath Whipit Rercin’ Club is the ’Olly Bush in High Street, but it wuz ut the CROSS GUNS frum 1956, wen it wuz founded, up till just abuv twelve months agoo.

Norman Plant the fishmon kept the CROSS GUNS frum 1950 to 1969 after ’is uncle *Joe Mallen* the bull terrier mon, ud bin pul- lin’ um in theer 29 ’ears! It’s a thousand to one on wherever bull terriers um meshuned the nerm of *Joe Mallen* un is fermus dog Gentleman Jim crop up.

Norman is treasurer uv the club ooh rerce Sundy mornins on the Belle Vale ens uv ’Aden’ill Park un E wuz a founder member.

Norman’s ferce is knowed all over the plerce in the whippet world.....”

Norman Plant – see also ACORN, Halesowen.

It closed in 1970.

It became a shop.

OLD DUN COW

10, (1), Gorsty Hill Road, (38, Gorsty Hill), OLD HILL

OWNERS

John George Cartwright and others, 75, Gorsty Hill
Frederick Smith Ltd. (acquired on 31st October 1941)
William Butler and Co. Ltd. (acquired on 12th October 1951)
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Sarah Smith [] – **1867**);
Elizabeth Cartwright* (**1867** – []
Sarah Parkes [] – **1868**);
Mrs. Eliza Cartwright* (**1868** – [1881]
Mrs. Elizabeth Cartwright* [1884]
Joseph Cartwright [1891] – [1896]
Mrs. Theresa Agnes Cartwright [1901] – **1923**);
William James Cartwright (**1923** – **1933**);
Henry Beskeen Treglown (**1933**);
Thomas Bishop (**1933** – **1935**);
George Frederick Cole (**1935** – **1938**);
Percy Edwin Smith (**1938** – **1950**);
John Henry Phipps (**1950** – **1954**);
George Harold Compson (**1954** – **1955**);
Alfred John Bounds (**1955** – **1958**);
Peter Mothersole Woods (**1958** – **1983**):

NOTES

38, Gorsty Hill [1881], [1891]
1, Gorsty Hill Road [1901], [1911]
1, Gorsty Hill [1912]
10, Gorsty Hill Road [1939], [1940]

DUNN COW [1867], [1880]
DUN COW [1872], [1884], [1896], [1904], [1908], [1912]
DUNNE COW [1891]

It had a beerhouse license.

It had a pigeon club.

* possibly the same person

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/4/1867

“Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, held an inquest on Saturday, at the DUN COW INN, Blackheath, on the body of Joseph Newton, aged 64, who met with his death under the following circumstances. Deceased was a resident in the neighbourhood, and had for some time complained of shortness of breath, and on Tuesday last he started to walk to the residence of Mr. Moore, of Hales Owen, his club surgeon. Whilst on the way he was seen by a Mrs. Lowe to stagger and fall. He was taken up and placed in a cart with a view of being conveyed to his residence, but he expired before arriving there. The jury thought it unnecessary to take medical evidence, and returned as their verdict, Died from Natural Causes.”

County Advertiser 12/10/1867

“On Wednesday morning an inquest was held by Mr. E. Hooper, at the DUN COW public house, Gorsty Hill, on view of the body of Joseph Parsons, aged 31, miner, residing at Rowley Regis. The deceased was injured by a fall of coal as far back as the 9th of June last, while working at the Tump Colliery. He lingered until the 7th inst, on which day he expired. No blame was attached to the managers, and a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Stourbridge Observer 15/2/1868

“An inquest was held at the DUN COW, Gorsty Hill, before E. Hooper, Esq, Coroner, touching the death of Sarah Whittall (82). From the evidence it appeared that deceased was in her house alone, when her clothes caught fire, on Monday week last, and she was so injured that she died on the following day.

Verdict, Accidental Death.”

County Advertiser 13/3/1869

“*Eliza Cartwright*, landlady of the DUN COW, Gorsty Hill, was fined 1s and costs, for selling liquor at prohibited hours on the previous Sunday.”

County Express 28/8/1869

“Yesterday, the annual licensing session was held at the Police Office.....

There were 87 applications for spirit license renewals. They were all renewed with the exception of *Elizabeth Cartwright*, which was suspended.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/9/1869 - Letter

“To the Editor of the *Birmingham Daily Post*.

Sir, in the *Daily Post* of the 30th August, it is stated that my license is suspended. I therefore beg to inform you that this statement is quite incorrect.

Your truly, *Eliza Cartwright*, DUN COW, Gorsty Hill, Hales Owen.”

1871 Census

Gorsty Hill

[1] *Eliza Cartwright* (52), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Rugeley, Warwickshire;

[2] William Cartwright (31), son, gas fitter washer, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Charles Cartwright (21), son, fitter on tube works, born Netherton;

[4] Eliza Sweeney (22), general servant, born Dudley:

Birmingham Daily Post 13/11/1871 - Advert

“Found, a large Black Retriever Dog, which the Owner may have by applying at DUN COW, Gosty Hill.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/8/1872

“An inquest was held at Mrs. *Eliza Cartwright*'s, the DUN COW INN, Gosty Hill, Rowley Regis, yesterday, on the body of James Allen, aged thirty-six years, a miner, in the employ of Mr. W. H. Dawes. It appears that the deceased was engaged in removing a nob in his employer's pit, at Black Heath, when a quantity of coal fell upon him, killing him instantaneously. The deceased leaves a wife and four children. After a short consultation the Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

County Advertiser 25/9/1880 - Advert

“Rowley Regis. Darby's Lane, Gorsty Hill.

Freehold Property and Desirable Garden Ground.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Homer, on Wednesday, September 29th, 1880, at the house of Mrs. *Cartwright*, the DUNN COW INN, Gorsty Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, at Seven o'clock in the Evening.....”

1881 Census

38, Gorsty Hill

[1] *Eliza Cartwright* (62), widow, licensed victualler, OLD DUN COW, born Rugby;

[2] James Cartwright (39), son, brewer, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Hannah Dunn (21), boarder, domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

Dudley and District News 16/7/1881

“Benjamin Smith, collier, Blackheath, was charged with being drunk, on the 4th of July.

PS Cooper said he saw him being led out of the DUN COW public house, in an intoxicated state. He was also charged with refusing to quit the same premises at the same time, but there being only one magistrate on the bench, this charge was adjourned till next week.

He pleaded guilty to being drunk, and was fined 2s 6d, with the alternative of seven days in prison.”

Dudley and District News 23/7/1881

“*Eliza Cartwright*, landlady of the DUN COW INN, at Gorsty Hill, Blackheath, was summoned for permitting drunkenness upon her licensed premises, on the 4th inst.

It appears that on the evening of the day mentioned PC Cooper visited the defendant's house in company with PC Brown, and they saw a man named Benjamin Smith being led out of the house, drunk, by two men. Inside the house they found six more men nearly drunk.

Mr. Shakespeare, who defended, stated that there was a club feast going on in the house that evening, and it was impossible on such occasions to keep an eye on every one in the room.

The Bench remarked that as it was festival time there ought to be some little latitude, and dismissed the case.”

Dudley and District News 6/8/1881

“Benjamin Smith, recently liberated from prison, for being drunk on the same date, pleaded guilty to refusing to quit the DUN

COW INN, Blackheath, on 4th July. The Bench, remarking that he had been already punished for the offence, dismissed the case.”

Dudley and District News 8/3/1884

“*Elizabeth Cartwright*, of the RED [sic] COW INN, Gorsty Hill, was charged with making an untrue entry in the brewery book, thereby defrauding the Inland Revenue to the extent of 6s 3d. Mr. J. B. Davies, supervisor, appeared in support of the summons, and Mr. Holberton was for the defence.

Mr. W. H. Stevenson, excise officer, stated that from an examination that he made on the 18th November last, he found that the grain and wort did not correspond with the entries in the book, to the extent of 56 and 46 per cent respectively, thus defrauding the Revenue of 6s 3d.

Arthur Aston, Inland Revenue officer, said he was directed to visit the house occupied by Mrs. *Cartwright*. Upon examination he found that there were six and a quarter bushels more grains in the mash tub, that being two bushels more than the quantity entered in the book. Four bushels would be rated at 12s 6d, while six bushels would be 18s 9d. By the untrue entry the Revenue had been defrauded out of 6s 3d. He had visited the house for three months and had not found a wrong entry before.

Mr. Holberton urged that the defendant’s son, who is now dead, used an extra quantity of malt in mistake, for which Mrs. *Cartwright* was sorry.

Defendant was fined £10 and costs.”

1891 Census

38, Gorsty Hill –DUNNE COW

- [1] *Joseph Cartwright* (46), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Teresa Agnes Cartwright* (40), wife, born Halesowen;
- [3] *Agnes Annie Cartwright* (19), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Joseph Edmund Cartwright* (18), son, clerk, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Eliza Cartwright* (14), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Hannah Cartwright* (12), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *Minnie Cartwright* (9), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] *Amy Cartwright* (7), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [9] *William James Cartwright* (5), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [10] *Lavinia Cartwright* (2), daughter, born Rowley Regis:

Birmingham Daily Post 26/1/1893

“Yesterday afternoon Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the DUN COW INN, Gosty Hill, respecting the death of Alice Turner (4). It appeared that on Saturday last the deceased’s nightdress caught fire during her parents’ absence. She was severely burned, and died on Monday. The Coroner thought there was great neglect on the part of the parents, for letting the child go down alone. Had there been a fire-guard the child might now have been alive. It was stated that the parents had since provided one. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

County Advertiser 27/11/1897

“On Thursday afternoon, Mr. A. A. Betham (deputy coroner) held an inquest at the DUN COW INN, Gorsty Hill, Blackheath, concerning the death of John Flowers (39), formerly residing at Lodgefield Road, Gorsty Hill, and who was found drowned in the Birmingham Canal, near Old Hill Railway Station, on Tuesday last.

Edwin Flowers, son, stated that deceased was a nail caster by trade, and he last saw him alive at 1.30 on Monday afternoon, when he left to go to Birmingham. He said he should return by the six ‘clock train, but did not, and witness stayed up till late at night for him, and he at last thought that on account of the denseness of the fog he might stop at his father’s house. Deceased was a temperate man.

In reply to Inspector Given witness said his father worked for Mr. G. B. Parkes, nail manufacturer, of Gorsty Hill, who also rented a coal wharf near the place where deceased was found. There were several chains near the wharf which bordered the towpath. He had heard that other persons had walked into the canal in consequence of the fog. One man named Christian James Allen fell in at the place where deceased was found, but he got out. The chains were not hanging up at the time. He considered that his father would not have fallen into the canal had the chains been up, but he could easily have walked into the canal when the chains were down. Witness had been told that the chains were not up. Deceased had never threatened to commit suicide. He left a widow and ten children.

Samuel Harris, of Tory Street, Blackheath, said he worked at the wharf. On Monday night he left at 4.30 and put the chain where he had been working at up. All who worked there should fasten the chains, and he believed they were all fastened. They were all fastened when he went to work early the next morning, when he saw the body floating in the water, and, with assistance, got it out and removed it to his home.

Inspector Given said the wharf belonged to the Canal Company.

Upon witness being asked whether he knew all that all the chains were fastened, a juryman interrupted, and said he saw one of the servants of the Canal Company fastening them at about seven o’clock.

Police-constable Mycock also gave evidence.

Inspector Given said the chains were, as a rule, fastened.

A juryman asked whether the police could visit the manufacturers using the wharf, and ask them to see that the chains were fastened.

Inspector Given: A representation from the jury would have more weight.

The Coroner said there was no doubt that by some means the deceased fell into the canal accidentally. There were no marks of violence on the body, so they could safely say that deceased had lost his way and tumbled into the water, and was drowned. They had got to consider whether there was sufficient safeguards to the public at the spot. There was a road running near the canal, and it was the duty of the Canal Company to fence their property. It was their duty to see that the place was protected so that the public did not lose their lives.

A jurymen said whilst there was not sufficient fencing, he considered that the road ought to be lighted. He knew there had been a good many persons drown at the spot. He thought, also, that the road was dangerous, but there were no lights.

Inspector Given said in 1895, from the month of May to December, there were no less than three persons drowned near the wharf. At that time representations were made to the Canal Company, and they made some alterations. The fencing was very low, but it was raised. These alterations were examined by the late coroner, Mr. E. Hooper, and he pronounced them satisfactory. Inspector Given suggested that the chain should be padlocked, as children might play near them and unhook the chains.

A jurymen said the road was a very dangerous one.

Inspector Given: There are scores of roads in the parish which are not lighted.

The Foreman of the Jury said he thought the road ought to be lighted from Old Hill Railway Station to the top of Gorsty Hill, as in the darkness anybody might walk into the canal before being aware of it.

The Coroner said it was a matter for the District Council.

The Jury eventually returned a verdict of Accidentally Drowned, and the Coroner said he would write to the Rowley Regis Rural District Council urging them to light the road, especially near the canal, and also ask the Canal Company to see that the chains are fastened and padlocked.

Inspector Given said the case was a distressing one. He understood that several clergymen were taking up the matter of behalf of the widow and family, and a subscription list had been opened.

The Coroner gave a donation of 2s 6d. Subscriptions for the widow will be thankfully received by Rev. W. B. Cheshire, The Manse, Old Hill. The case is a most deserving and distressing one. Deceased was a member and teacher in the Primitive Methodist Society, Gosty Hill. Ten children are left, two partially and seven entirely dependant upon the widow.”

1901 Census

1, Gorsty Hill Road – OLD DUN COW INN

- [1] *Teresa A. Cartwright* (50), married, innkeeper, born Halesowen;
- [2] *Joseph E. Cartwright* (28), son, clerk in tube works, born Blackheath;
- [3] *Eliza Cartwright* (24), daughter, born Blackheath;
- [4] *Hannah Cartwright* (22), daughter, born Blackheath;
- [5] *Minnie Cartwright* (19), daughter, born Blackheath;
- [6] *William J. Cartwright* (15), son, born Blackheath;
- [7] *Lavinia Cartwright* (12), daughter, born Blackheath:

Tipton Herald 26/9/1903

“*Thursa [sic] Cartwright*, landlady of the DUN COW INN, Gorsty Hill, was charged with selling whiskey to the prejudice of the purchaser.

Evidence was given similar to that in the last case. [Against Thomas James, GATE HANGS WELL, Old Hill.]

Mr. Van Tromp produced the analyst’s certificate, which showed that the sample of whisky was 9½ per cent more than the statute limit.

A similar fine [£1 and costs] was inflicted.”

1911 Census

1, Gorsty Hill Road – DUN COW

- [1] *Teresa Agnes Cartwright* (60), widow, licensed victualler, born Romsley;
- [2] *Eliza Cartwright* (34), daughter, born Rowley;
- [3] *Hannah Cartwright* (32), daughter, born Rowley;
- [4] *William James Cartwright* (25), son, brewer, born Rowley;
- [5] *Lavinia Cartwright* (22), daughter, born Rowley:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/10/1934

“Old Hill Licensing Justice yesterday granted a music and dancing license in respect of the new Liberal Club, Cradley Heath. Permission was also given for structural alterations at the VINE INN, Blackheath, the OLD DUN COW, Gorsty Hill, and the BULLS HEAD, Rowley.”

1939 Register

10, Gorsty Hill Road

- [1] *Percy E. Smith*, date of birth 26/12/1894, licensed victualler, DUN COW Public House, married;
- [2] *Alice M. (Mary) Smith*, dob 12/6/1900, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [4] *Frank Smith*, dob, 20/3/1928, at school, single:

Birmingham Daily Post 12/7/1954

“Blackheath police are anxious to trace the occupants of a car which, it is alleged, collided with three pedestrians, seriously injur-

ing two of them, late on Saturday night.

Fred Rollason (50) and his wife Frances (49) of Hillwood Road, and Mrs. Lizzie Joan Bannister (45) of Coombs Wood Buildings, Hill and Cakemore, were talking on the footpath outside the DUN COW INN, Gorsty Hill, Blackheath, when a car travelling towards Blackheath is stated to have swerved to its nearside and collided with the three.

Mr. Rollason had his skull fractured and his wife suffered from concussion and shock. Both are detained in Dudley Guest Hospital. Mrs. Bannister received slight bruising of the right arm.

A front nearside door handle which is thought to have been broken off by the impact was found on the scene. It has enabled the police to identify the car as a pre-1938 Ford saloon. The driver did not stop.

The police would also like to interview anyone who saw the accident.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/1/1958

“The licensee of a public house where food is not prepared or served is not entitled to sell ice cream.

This was decided at Old Hill yesterday when Rowley Regis Corporation summoned *Alfred J. Bounds*, licensee of the OLD DUN COW, Gorsty Hill, Blackheath, for storing ice cream with the intention of selling it without being registered for the purpose.

It was stated that although the Council had refused to grant *Bounds* a license he had continued to sell ice cream on the advice of his solicitors. For *Bounds*, Mr. F. H. Grove submitted that the Corporation’s permission was not needed.

The Town Clerk, Mr. J. Hilton, claimed that the only places entitled to sell ice cream were restaurants and licensed houses where meals were prepared.

The magistrates found that the premises were not a catering establishment within the meaning of the Act. *Bounds* was fined £5. Mr. Grove intimated that an appeal would be made.”

Peter Woods was married to May.

It closed in 1983.

It was converted into a house.

Sandwell Evening Mail 16/8/1991 - Advertising Feature

“This four-bedroom residence in Halesowen used to be a pub dating back to 1887. Formerly 56 Gorsty Hill Road has since been converted into a dwelling house with substantial workshops and store rooms at the rear – ideal for a self-employed person, say selling agents Taylors. The freehold property is gas centrally heated.

The accommodation comprises: Entrance lobby; hall; through lounge with feature stone fireplace and bar area with shelving and bar fittings; separate dining room; inner hall; large newly-fitted L-shaped breakfast kitchen with spacious breakfast area; four large bedrooms, bathroom with corner bath and separate shower.

Outside is a large 28ft garage, extra parking facilities at the rear for caravan/boat, toilet, pleasant rear garden and outbuildings.

Price: Offers around £87, 500 to include some carpets, curtains and light fittings.”

OLD ENGINE

71, Waggon Street, (Black Waggon Street), (Garratts Lane), OLD HILL

OWNERS

Thomas Darby, Old Hill
Frederick Weston, Old Hill
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

John Lewis [] – **1857**);
Nathaniel Hopton (**1857 – 1872**);
Enoch Westwood (**1872** – [1884]
Henry Barber [] – **1885**);
Eli Westwood (**1885** – [1890]
George John Farmer [1891] – [1892]
Stephen Deeley [1896]
Cotterill []
Frederick Weston [1897] – **1903**);
Eliza Perks (**1903 – 1905**);
Harry Bellfield (**1905** – [1909]
Rosson Knight [1911] – [1912]

Elon Turner [1914] – 1927);
Thomas James Insall (1927 – 1930);
Thomas Williams (1930 – 1931);
Harold Harbach (1931 – 1933);
Thomas ‘Tommy’ Bagley (1933 – 1939):

NOTES

WHIMSEY [1857], [1858], [1871]
ENGINE [1860], [1862], [1864], [1865], [1868], [1870], [1872], [1903]

The Masked Jazz Band was based here.

Birmingham Journal 20/12/1856 - Advert

“ENGINE INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, Rowley Regis.

To be Let, the above-named Old-licensed House. Fixtures &c to be taken to at a fair valuation. This is a first-rate opportunity for parties about embarking in the public business, being situated in a thick population and surrounded by numerous Works. There is a Sick Club attached to the house, with forty members and upwards.

For particulars apply to John G. Wright, Appraiser and Auctioneer, King Street, Dudley.”

Nathaniel Hopton = Nathaniel Hofton = Nathaniel Upton

Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/9/1857

“On Saturday morning last an inquest was held at the WHIMSEY INN, Garratts Lane, before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, on the body of Thomas Edwards. The deceased was a miner, aged thirty years, and worked in one of the British Iron Company’s pits. On the previous day he placed a shot (1lb of gunpowder) in some ironstone for the purpose of blowing it down. He had his face near it, and it exploded before he could get away, most severely injuring and cutting his head and face, and killing him on the spot. The deceased had been in the habit of firing shots, and the witnesses could not account for his mismanagement. As no person appeared to be blameable except deceased himself, a verdict of Accidental Death was recorded.”

County Advertiser 3/4/1858

“*Nathaniel Upton*, landlord of the WHIMSEY INN, Rowley, was charged with keeping his house open for the sale of liquors at illegal hours on Sunday, the 7th ult. Emma Sleeman stated that about two o’clock on the morning of the above-named day she went to the defendant’s house in search of her husband. She found him in the house in company with a woman named ‘Brown Ann,’ and there was a gallon of ale and half-a-pint of rum upon the table. Witness stated that defendant’s house harboured women of bad character. Defendant made a rambling defence, stating that the witness was totally unknown to him, and that what she had stated was quite untrue; but the Bench accredited her statement sufficiently to fine defendant 10s and costs.”

1861 Census

Garratts Lane

- [1] *Nathaniel Hopton* (48), tin plate cleaner, born Stonehouse, Gloucestershire;
- [2] Harriett Hopton (49), wife, born Bilston;
- [3] Jonothan Hopton (28), son, labourer at ironworks, born Cookley, Worcestershire;
- [4] William Hopton (20), son, tin plate cleaner, born Cookley, Worcestershire:

Stourbridge Observer 23/12/1865

“At the Petty Sessions on Wednesday, John [sic] *Hopton*, beerhouse keeper, of Black Waggon Street, Old Hill, was charged with assaulting George Morris, by throwing a potato in his ear-hole, on the 9th last. Complainant stated that he was in defendant’s house drinking, on the 9th inst. He bought some potatoes of a man who came in the house, and defendant picking up one of them threw it in his ear-hole, causing him to be a little deaf since that time. The Bench said it was a trumpery charge, and dismissed it.”

County Express 23/4/1870

“William Tucker was charged with assaulting Joseph Norman on the 6th inst. It appeared from the evidence of plaintiff and a witness, Joseph Round, that the plaintiff and defendant were in the WHIMSEY INN, Black Wagon Street, at half-past ten o’clock at night, and that after using threatening language defendant struck plaintiff.

Defendant said there was a pigeon club held at this public house, of which plaintiff was a member, and if anyone looked at them they would fetch a summons. He did not strike plaintiff.

The Bench were however of opinion that he did, and fined him a shilling and costs, in default of which he would be detained a fortnight.”

1871 Census

Wagon Street – WHIMSEY INN

- [1] *Nathaniel Hopton* (59), licensed victualler, born Stonehouse, Gloucestershire;

[2] Julia H. Hopton (59), wife, born Bilston:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/11/1871 - Advert

“Lost, November 6, Brown and White Bull-Terrier Dog, white feet, white throat, long ears, 40lbs weight; answers to the name of ‘Jack.’

Anyone bringing the same to *N. Hopton*, ENGINE INN, Old Hill, will be handsomely Rewarded.”

County Advertiser 7/12/1872 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Old-Licensed Public House, situate in Wagon Street, Old Hill, Rowley Regis, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by H. Detheridge, on Wednesday, December 18th, 1872, at the House of Mr. Joseph Whitmore, the GOLD-EN CROSS INN, Old Hill, at Five o’clock in the Afternoon, and subject to conditions then to be read.

All that convenient Old-Licensed Public House and Premises, known by the name of the ENGINE INN, situate as above, comprising Front Bar, Tap Room, Parlour, Cooking Kitchen, Large Club Room, Three Bed Rooms, Two Dry Cellars, Brewhouse, Stabling, Malt Room, Store Room, Wash and Soft Water Cisterns, Three Piggeries, and other Outbuildings, in the occupation of Mr. *Enoch Westwood*.

The House is situated in a good business locality, with enclosed Yard, is well supplied with water, and is worth the attention of small Capitalists.

For particulars, apply to Mr C. W. Collis, Solicitor, Stourbridge; or the Auctioneer, High Street, Brierley Hill.”

Enoch Westwood was also a greengrocer. [1873]

He issued tokens from here.

County Advertiser 1/8/1874

“Forestry. On Monday, the members of Court Miners’ Safety Lamp, No.5860, of the West Bromwich Miners’ District, with their friends, to the number of forty, met at dinner at Mr. *Enoch Westwood*’s, the ENGINE INN. After dinner Mr. D. Blunt, CR, was voted to the chair. After the usual complimentary toasts had been given and duly honoured, Dr. Ker, surgeon for the court, gave success to Court Miners’ Safety Lamp. The Secretary, Mr. J. Smith, briefly stated the progress the court had made since its opening. The court was founded in September, 1873, with a membership of twenty, and since that time fifteen more had been initiated, and the sum of £20 had been added to the funds. An enjoyable evening was spent by all present.”

County Advertiser 30/10/1875

“Forestry. On Monday last the members of Court Miners’ Safety Lamp, No.5860, of the West Bromwich Miners’ District, assembled at their court house, the ENGINE INN, Black Wagon Street, to a dinner which was given gratis by Mr. *Enoch Westwood*, host of the house and treasurer of the court. Upwards of seventy were present. Mr. Daniel Blunt was then called to occupy the chair. The secretary, Mr. John Smith, stated that the court had been opened about two years, and the number of financial members was 75, the average age of the members was 22 years, and the court was in a very prosperous condition. A vote of thanks was unanimously passed to the host and hostess of the house, and also to the chairman and secretary. This concluded the business, and during the remaining part of the day the members enjoyed themselves in various ways.”

Dudley Herald 29/4/1876

“On Wednesday evening a mass meeting of colliers from Old Hill, Rowley, and Blackheath was held in the large room attached to the ENGINE INN, Wagon Street, Old Hill. After a chairman had been elected, the meeting was opened with an address, delivered by Mr. Breakwell, upon the necessity of union among colliers to maintain their present rights, and to prevent encroachments upon them. The speaker concluded by moving ‘That the steps taken by the employers in reducing the men’s wages without notice is not in accordance with the Birmingham agreement as stated by the masters at the Dudley meeting.’ This was seconded and carried unanimously. A collier moved ‘That in the opinion of this meeting the men are entitled to fourteen days’ notice of the drop, and that at the next pay day they demand fourteen days’ notice if it is not given.’ This was also carried unanimously, with applause.”

County Advertiser 29/4/1876

“George Thompson was charged with being disorderly upon the licensed premises of *Enoch Westwood*, ENGINE INN, Old Hill, and refusing to quit when ordered to do so. Mr. Hayes prosecuted.

Enoch Westwood said that defendant came to his house on the 12th inst, drunk, and caused a disturbance. Witness ordered him to leave the house, but this he refused to do; and instead became very abusive. After ordering him to leave several times without effect witness told him he would put him out, on which defendant picked up a poker and threatened to cut his b— head off with it. The Bench said defendant was evidently a bad character, and they would endeavour to teach him a lesson. They fined him 20s and costs, or in default a month’s imprisonment.”

AND

“*Enoch Westwood*, landlord of the ENGINE INN, Old Hill, was charged with having opened his house for the sale of ale during prohibited hours on Sunday, the 16th inst. Mr. Hayes appeared for the defendant.

Police-constable Himan said he visited defendant’s house in company with Police-constable Wickstead at about 10am. He again went at about a quarter-past twelve o’clock in the day. He found about ten men in the house, who had ale before them. He asked defendant how it was that he opened so early, and he replied that it was opening time, or else his watch was not right. Witness showed him his watch, and defendant pulled out his which showed the time as twenty-five minutes to one o’clock. The time by the witness’s watch was twenty minutes past twelve, and he afterwards compared it with others, which showed it to be the right

time.

Cross-examined: Defendant told him that he closed the house the previous night when it was eleven o'clock by his watch. Mr. Hayes, in defence, said he should not deny any of the facts stated by the officer, but submitted that defendant acted in a bona fide manner. He was not aware that his watch was slow, and closed his house the night previous, turning out about seventy people, when his watch indicated closing time. Mr. Hayes was proceeding to call a witness to this statement, but Mr. Hingley said it had nothing to do with the case. Defendant was fined 5s and costs."

County Express 6/5/1876

"Daniel Williams, Thomas Bagley, Joseph Round, Joseph Southall, David Price, Samuel Williams, John Nailor, Joseph Hancox, Josiah Cooksey, and Samuel Tucker, were charged with drinking in the ENGINE INN, Old Hill, kept by *Enoch Westwood*, on the 16th April, during prohibited hours. Police-constable Himan proved seeing the defendants in the house, and they had several cups of ale before them. They pleaded guilty, and were each fined 5s and costs."

Birmingham Daily Post 6/7/1876

"The Proposal to Lengthen Colliers' Working Hours.

On Tuesday night a mass meeting of colliers was held at the ENGINE INN, Old Hill. After addresses, the meeting unanimously agreed (1) 'That, in the opinion of this meeting, eight hours is long enough for the miners to work in the mines, and that we pledge ourselves to maintain the eight hours principle.' (2) 'That, in the opinion of this meeting, the change sought by the masters in our working hours is unreasonable and unjust, and that we pledge ourselves to resist any encroachment in our working hours, and we ask the other districts to co-operate with us.'"

County Advertiser 9/9/1876

"Eli Bagley, a youth, charged Samuel Willetts, alias the Lawyer, with stealing 1s, his property.

The complainant said he lived at Old Hill, and worked under 'Noah,' meaning Mr. Hingley. On the 2nd inst he was at the ENGINE INN, Black Wagon Street, and the defendant was also there. He asked for a pint of ale, and offered a shilling in payment. Defendant snatched it out of hand and refused to return it. Supporting evidence was given. The defendant said that he and the prosecutor had been gambling, and the latter had lost 3d to him. He picked up the 1s to take out the 3d.

There was a further charge of being drunk and disorderly against the defendant, which was proved by Inspector Price.

The Bench considered the evidence on the first charge unsatisfactory, and discharged the defendant. They remarked that there was a good deal of gambling at public houses, which wanted sifting. They fined defendant 5s and costs for being drunk and disorderly."

County Express 16/9/1876

"*Enoch Westwood*, landlord of the ENGINE INN, Old Hill, was charged with having permitted drunkenness in his house on the 2nd inst. Mr. Stokes defended.

It will be remembered that last week a man named Samuel Willetts was charged at this court with having stolen 1s from the defendant's house, and it appeared from the evidence of a policeman that when apprehended Willetts was drunk; hence the charge.

The defence now set up was that Willetts feigned drunkenness immediately he was accused of theft, and that the landlord gave instructions for a policeman to be sent for, which he certainly would not have done had Willetts been really drunk, because he would have rendered himself liable to a charge.

Police-constable Sylvester was called, and he now stated that Willetts was drunk when apprehended on the charge of theft, and that he remained helplessly drunk until four o'clock the next morning.

Mr. Stokes said, assuming the man really was drunk the Bench could not convict unless there was evidence to show that his client knowingly permitted it. The Bench considered the case proved, and fined defendant £2 and costs."

County Express 25/8/1877

"After the business of the Petty Sessions had been disposed of the Annual Licensing Sessions were held. The Black List was first called on, and it appeared that the following were the publicans who had been convicted of offences against the Licensing Laws during the past year.....

Enoch Westwood, ENGINE INN, Wagon Street, Old Hill.....

License renewed with a caution from the Magistrates."

County Advertiser 3/8/1878 - Letter

"To the Editor of the *Advertiser*.

Sir. Having, in an unfortunate altercation between myself and William *Westwood*, stated that *Enoch Westwood*, his father, had passed the 'Bankruptcy Court,' which statement is not correct, I much regret saying it and hereby publicly withdraw it as desired. Signed by me, John Hill, Elbow Street, Old Hill.

To Mr. *Enoch Westwood*, Black Waggon Street, Old Hill."

1881 Census

71, Waggon Street

[1] *Enoch Westwood* (56), licensed victualler, born Rowley;

[2] Ann Westwood (57), wife, born Rowley;

[3] William Westwood (25), son, nail packer, caster, born Rowley;

[4] Eli Westwood (16), son, carpenter's apprentice, born Rowley;

[5] Sarah Ann Barker (15), domestic servant, born Rowley:

Evening Express 1/12/1881

"On Wednesday the District Coroner (Mr. E. Hooper) held an inquest at the OLD ENGINE INN, Black Dragon [sic] Street, Old Hill, on the body of Rowland Astbury, a boy four years of age.

It appeared that on Thursday the lad upset a quantity of paraffin oil down his clothing. The spirit afterwards caught fire from the flame of a lamp from which the oil was spilt, and the poor lad was burned in a most shocking manner.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.

Two jurymen named Morris and Weston, who had been summoned to attend the inquiry failed to put in an appearance when their names were called, whereupon the Coroner remarked that he had been frequently inconvenienced at that place by householders not attending when summoned as jurymen, and he felt it to be his duty to endeavour to put a stop to such neglect. He then fined the two absentees in the sum of 40s each."

Dudley and District News 13/5/1882

"*Enoch Westwood*, ENGINE INN, Wagon Street, Old Hill, was charged with unlawfully permitting drunkenness upon his premises on the 1st inst. Mr. Cooksey defended.

PC Rowlands said on the day mentioned about 7pm he visited the defendant's house and found a number of people upstairs drunk. He went again at 7.50 and found a man named William Pugh, of Wagon Street, Old Hill, drunk in the tap room. He called the landlady's attention to him, and she replied 'she did not know he had come back again after going to his tea.' Pugh had some drink in a cup before him. The landlady told him to go, and Pugh got up, but fell forward on to the seat. The landlady's son, John *Westwood*, kept him from falling and helped to take Pugh home.

PC Wickstead corroborated the evidence of Rowlands.

Mr. Cooksey said he admitted the facts given in evidence by the police, but he would not admit that his client was guilty because he did not know that Pugh was in the house and there was no proof that he had been served in defendant's house. He then quoted a decision which stated that if a man was drunk on licensed premises and had not been served on the premises when he was found, the landlord could not be convicted.

For the defence Ann *Westwood*, wife of defendant, said on the day mentioned a man named Pugh was in her house and went away about five o'clock; he was perfectly sober. She did not see him again until the police called her attention to him in the kitchen.

Witness had no occasion to go into the kitchen, but the girl Barber attended to the customers there. In the kitchen there were Walker, Perkes, Skitt, and others sitting at the table near Pugh.

By Superintendent Woollaston: Pugh came in about three pm and left at five, and was perfectly sober.

By Mr. Cooksey: There were about 14 persons sitting in the kitchen, and it was possible that she could not recognise all.

Sarah Ann Barber said she waited in the kitchen and saw Pugh there. He went out and came in again afterwards, but she did not supply him with any drink. She supplied a man named Benjamin Walker with a cup of ale. There were a number of men sitting at the table by Pugh. When the police came the second time and pointed out Pugh to the landlady he was sober.

Benjamin Walker said he was in defendant's house and saw Pugh there. When Pugh came in he did not ask to be served with ale, but he drank out of witness's cup. When he came in he walked quite steady, and was not noisy. He had been in about a quarter of an hour before the officers came in and called attention to him.

By Superintendent Woollaston: When the officers came in Pugh was sober. She saw him fall on the table, and she thought he fell because perhaps he could not find his legs. (Laughter.)

By the Bench: She saw Pugh led out of the house, but could not say from that circumstance that he was drunk.

John Perkes said when the police came in he heard the landlady tell them that she had not served Pugh with anything to drink.

Witness sat next to Pugh, who did not ask for any ale, but drank out of Walker's jug. William Wellings said he saw Pugh at Red-dall Hill at 6.30pm, and he was then sober.

Defendant having been convicted in 1866 and 1876, the Bench said they would take into consideration his good behaviour during the past six years, and fine him £5 and costs."

Dudley and District News 20/5/1882

"William Pugh was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of *Enoch Westwood*, OLD ENGINE HOUSE INN, Wagon Street, Old Hill, on the 1st inst, and was fined 2s 6d and costs, or in default 7 days."

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.....

Enoch Westwood, OLD ENGINE INN, Wagon Street, Old Hill, open during illegal hours, fined 5s and costs; permitting drunkenness, fined 40s and costs; permitting drunkenness, fined £5 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 Chair-

man 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 5/1/1884

"*Enoch Westwood*, landlord of the OLD ENGINE INN, Wagon Street, Old Hill, was fined 10s and costs for being drunk on his own licensed premises on the 27th ult. PC Rowlands proved the case."

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 presented the black list.....

Mr. Cooksey applied for the renewal of the license of *Enoch Westwood*, OLD ENGINE INN, Old Hill, against whom there were four convictions. The application 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. James Willetts, BLUE BALL, *Enoch Westwood*, OLD ENGINE, Sarah Morris, PIG AND WHISTLE, Old Hill, Philip Mansell, BULLS HEAD, Windmill End, and Elisha Waring, SEVEN STARS, Tividale."

Dudley and District News 27/9/1884

"*Enoch Westwood*, landlord of the ENGINE INN, Waggon Street, Old Hill, was summoned by the Inland Revenue authorities for mixing sugar in nine gallons of wort after an account of the wort had been taken and the duty charged thereon. Mr. Davies, of the Inland Revenue, appeared to prosecute, and Mr. Cooksey defended.

Evidence given by Robert Collins, officer of the Inland Revenue, stationed at Old Hill, went to show that on the 22nd June the defendant made an entry to mash on the 23rd 12 bushels of malt at six am, and to dissolve 24lbs of sugar at eleven am, and a similar quantity at one. Witness examined the quantity of the products in the two vats, and found it to correspond with the entries. On the following day the supervisor and witness visited the brewery and found a quantity of sugar on a cask. Witness heard defendant say he had put about a pound of sugar into a cask into which wort had been running from out of the second vat. Samples of the wort were taken, and it was found to contain sugar, which had increased it considerably in gravity. The quantity was also increased. Loaf sugar was found in the cellar.

Arthur Aston corroborated.

Mr. Cooksey admitted that the defendant had used one pound of sugar in the racking of the beer. It was the custom, he believed, to use loaf sugar for the purpose of refining the beer. It had been defendant's custom to enter so many pounds of sugar, but not use the whole in the mashing. Whatever defendant had done he had done in ignorance of the law.

John *Westwood*, son of the defendant, said he did not mash the 48lbs of sugar entered, but only 42lbs. He always kept back 6lbs for racking purposes.

Mr. Davies stated that the defendant had not the slightest right to adopt such a course. The reserve sugar to put it in afterwards was to commit an offence under the Act.

The Bench thought they must convict in this case, to show the trade that they could not act the same as the defendant had done. Fined 40s and costs."

Dudley Mercury 4/1/1890

"*Eli Westwood*, landlord of the OLD ENGINE INN, Waggon Street, Old Hill, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 7th ult. Mr. Waldron defended.

Police-constable Ingley said he visited the house on the day in question, and found a man named Nock drunk in the club room. When spoken to Nock struck witness.

Two witnesses stated that there was a meeting of the Foresters' Club in the club room, and Nock drank out of the same can as the others.

Mr. Waldron submitted that there was no evidence that the landlord knew that Nock was there. The members were only entitled to a pint of ale, and the landlord would not think that any man would get drunk.

Defendant said that he had no control over the room whilst the Foresters' meeting was being held. Only the members were allowed in the room. Nock was perfectly sober.

By Inspector Walters: He was a member of the Club.

Thomas Rollinson, rivet maker, said that when he saw Nock he was sober.

Rueben Bagley said that Nock was sober.

William Cusac swore the Nock was sober.

The Bench said that they had no doubt as to the drunkenness of Nock, but the question was whether the circumstances were such that the landlord knew that he was drunk. The Bench had decided to dismiss the case."

AND

"Benjamin Nock, Old Hill, was charged with assaulting Police-constable Ingley, and also with being drunk on licensed premises on the 7th ult. Defendant was fined 2s 6d, including costs, for the assault; and 2s 6d and costs for the drunkenness."

County Express 17/5/1890

“The home of a working man named John Darby, in Waggon Street, Old Hill, was the scene of a fire on Saturday night, which resulted in two children being suffocated. Darby, his wife, and five children have resided for some time past at No.10 Waggon Street. About eight o’clock on Saturday night Mrs. Darby put the three youngest children – John, aged six years; Joseph, aged three years; and Ann Maria, seven years old – to bed. All three of the children were placed in one bed in a back room upstairs. The other two children – James and Mary Ann, aged thirteen and nine years respectively – were afterwards left with a neighbour, and the parents then locked up the house and went to Cradley Heath market. During their absence nothing appears to have been heard by the neighbours of the children who were locked inside the house. When the parents returned home about 9.40 the father, upon opening the door, discovered that the house was filled with dense smoke. An alarm was raised, and several of the neighbours ran in. Upon going upstairs it was found that the bed on which the children had been placed two hours before by their mother was on fire, but the children were missing. A few minutes later the three were found lying upon the floor of a small room adjoining the bedroom, apparently dead. Joseph Aspbury, Joseph Naylor, and Lavinia Thompson, assisted by the father, immediately carried the children into a neighbour’s house, when it was found that Joseph was dead, while John died shortly afterwards. Dr. Key, assistant to Dr. Standish, was called, and rendered what assistance he could in the case of Ann Maria, who after a time recovered consciousness.

Police inspector Bishop and four constables were promptly upon the scene with their fire appliances, but the flames had in the meanwhile been subdued by buckets of water. The police ascertained that after their parents left the house on Saturday night the deceased child John obtained some matches, and, striking one of them, he threw it at his sister, the result being that the bedclothes caught fire, and the children were quickly enveloped in flames. The girl ran into the small room adjoining followed by two boys; and it is thought that, the house being a small one and the smoke so dense, the children were overcome before they could raise an alarm or escape from the house. There were no marks of burns upon either off the bodies. The melancholy occurrence caused a painful sensation in the district.

On Monday morning Ann Maria Darby, aged seven years, died from the effects of injuries received on Saturday night at her father’s house, Old Hill. The child was found in an unconscious state at the top of the stairs. Restoratives were applied, and with difficulty she was brought back to consciousness. During Sunday night the poor little girl frequently complained that her brother John ‘did it,’ meaning that he set the bed on fire, and that she told him he ought not to have done it.

On Tuesday afternoon Mr. F. W. Topham (Deputy Coroner) held an inquest at the OLD ENGINE INN, Old Hill, respecting the deaths of the three children.

The father of the children, John Darby, said on Saturday evening his wife put the three children to bed, after which he and his wife locked up the house to go to market. They left about eight o’clock, and returned home about half-past nine. Witness then described finding the house full of smoke and breaking the bed room window. He said they had been in the habit of leaving the children in bed whilst they went to market.

The Coroner said it was a very unwise thing to do, although he believed it was customary in that district.

Witness, continuing, said when he could not find his children he raised an alarm, and Joseph Aspbury ran upstairs and found them. Ann Maria informed him on Sunday that the bed was set on fire owing to John throwing a lighted match on to it. He could not say where the match was obtained from.

Joseph Aspbury, miner, said that on going into Mr. Darby’s bed room he found the two boys on the floor in their night dresses.

The youngest was dead, but the other groaned once. He found one of the beds smouldering.

Inspector Bishop said the bed linen was badly burned. Ann Maria told him on Sunday that her brother John got out of bed and obtained a lighted match and threw it at her and her little brother when in bed. The bed linen became ignited, and she took the boys into her father’s bed room, where they were overcome by smoke.

A juryman said he could not help thinking that the parents were to blame for leaving matches within the reach of young children.

The Coroner expressed the hope that the parents in that and adjoining districts would discontinue the practice of locking their children in the house on Saturday nights unattended. It was very sad that three children should have lost their lives in the manner described.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Deaths.”

1891 Census

71, Waggon Street

[1] *George J. Farmer* (22), licensed victualler, born Dudley;

[2] *Sarah J. Farmer* (22), wife, born Rowley Regis:

George John Farmer was born in 1869.

He died in 1940.

The Era 12/9/1896 - Advert

“Wanted, Known Carl Hartley, Conjuror and Illusionist, and Madame Hartley, the only Armless Midget in the World who performs with her Feet, open for Waxworks, Side Shows, and Public. Liberty Sept. 21st.

Write, or wire, Hartley, OLD ENGINE INN, Old Hill, Staffs.”

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.”

County Advertiser 22/5/1897

“Hannah Westwood, married, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, was charged with unlawful and disorderly conduct on the licensed premises of *Frederick Weston*, at the ENGINE INN, Wagon Street, Old Hill, on the 16th May.

Mr. Ward prosecuted, and said that on Sunday last Westwood’s husband went for a walk with the complainant, and in the evening, at about nine o’clock, defendant went to the WAGON [sic] INN. She said something to her husband, who went out of the house.

Defendant then turned to the landlord and used a very vile expression with regard to him, and upon that complainant ordered her to leave the premises. She refused to leave, and went towards the kitchen. She found a couple of respectable women there, and she used practically a similar expression towards them. Subsequently she did go out.

Complainant substantiated the statement of Mr. Ward, and Mrs. Allport, Wellington Street, Old Hill, Joseph Adams, and George Goode also gave evidence in support of the charge.

No evidence was given in defence.

Frederick Weston was charged with assaulting Hannah Westwood on the 16th May.

Complainant said her husband was out with the defendant on the date in question. He took some money with him, and when he returned he had made away with £11. In the evening she went to the ENGINE INN and found her husband there. He was not sober, and she said to him, ‘You had better come out of it.’ She had reason for going there, as her husband had been out of work for the last eight weeks, and had made away with over £30. He sat at the public house for eight or ten hours at a time, and she had found him playing at tippet and cards. It had almost been the ruin of her home. She asked her husband to come out. He drank threepenny worth of whiskey and a bottle of lemonade, and left, and she followed her husband away. Immediately her husband got home he left again, and she went to *Weston*’s, and said she would see who was there if it cost her her life. It would be about five minutes past nine when she went to the kitchen door, and she asked whether there was anybody there who belonged to her. No one spoke beside Mr. Allport, and he called her a soft ——. She accused him of getting money from her husband. She then went away, *Weston* followed her up the street. He called her some vile manner, and she then struck him in the face. He caught hold of her by the throat, and struck her a blow on the jaw. Several women broke his hold, and he caught hold of her again in the same place. When he loosed her she fell on the door step, and was unconscious. She went back again to the ENGINE INN, and told *Weston* that she should make him pay for it.

Mr. Ward: Did you give him two black eyes? – Witness: One.

Mr. Ward: He has two. – Witness: I would have given him three if I could.

Mr. Ward: You struck him a violent blow? – I did.

Complainant said she was first cousin to the defendant.

Maria Stringer, Wagon Street, said she was at her door on Sunday evening, and she saw complainant in the street. *Weston* fol-

lowed her up the street in his shirt sleeves. *Weston* called complainant bad names, and she struck him. He then struck her, and caught hold of her throat, and they had to pull him off.

Elizabeth Thompson corroborated.

Mr. Ward submitted for the defence that the defendant went outside to order the complainant off, and she struck him violently, and then he pushed her away.

Samuel Thompson said he saw Mrs. Westwood deliberately strike *Weston* before *Weston* struck her.

Enoch Hadley corroborated.

Frederick Weston was then charged with being drunk and disorderly in the public highway on the 15th inst. Mr. Ward defended.

Mrs. Hannah Westwood gave evidence that *Weston* was drunk when she went into the house.

Inspector Given and Police-constables Wickstead and Buckler gave evidence in support of the charge.

The Bench said that there was some difficulty in arriving at the real facts of the case. They had no doubt in the charge of assault that Mrs. Westwood, under great provocation, struck *Weston*, and they regarded the other charges as not proven. The three cases would therefore be dismissed.”

County Advertiser 29/5/1897

“*Frederick Weston*, landlord of the ENGINE INN, Wagon Street, Old Hill, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 8th inst. Mr. Ward defended.

The evidence for the prosecution was that some time after seven o’clock at night on the date named George Hickman, who lived in Wagon Street, saw Noah Brettell in charge of a float containing pigs, which he was taking to defendant’s house. Just as Hickman got near him he fell off the float, and Hickman, going to his assistance, saw that he had had beer. Brettell then went up the entry with the float. About half-past ten the same night Inspector Given visited the house, and upon going in saw Brettell standing up against the counter, to which he was holding for support. The Inspector at once saw Brettell was drunk. The landlord was behind the bar by the beer machine, and there was another man standing by the side of Brettell. Between the two on the counter there was a pint cup full of ale, which had just been drawn. The Inspector drew the landlord’s attention to the man, and said to him, ‘That man is drunk, anybody can see that,’ going immediately afterwards into the passage. The landlord followed him, and said, ‘Well, he is not all that drunk. He can stand.’ Brettell then went away from the house. The next day Inspector Given went to the house in company with Police-constable Buckler, and cautioned defendant about harbouring a man named Westwood, and said to the landlord, ‘You know the reason.’ Defendant replied, ‘Do you think anything will come of this job last night?’ The Inspector said, ‘I am really surprised at you asking such a question. There was a man quite drunk, with only the width of the counter between you and him, with a pint of ale in front of him which had just been drawn. Any person with half an eye could see that he was drunk.’ Defendant replied, ‘I really did not think he was so bad. I will tell you the truth about it. We had been out all day together to Bewdley, to buy some pigs. We did not come back till nearly eight o’clock. You know how it is when there is a deal. Brettell stopped to finish the business, and I did not think he was so bad. I hope nothing will come of it. It is the first stain I have ever had on my character.’

A little girl who went into the house stated that Brettell was drunk.

Mr. Ward, for the defence, contended that the charge had not been fully made out. Defendant and Brettell had been out during the day on business, and he should call witnesses who would say Brettell was sober.

Defendant and three witnesses were called, who deposed to the man Brettell being in a sober condition.

The Bench fined defendant 20s and costs, and Brettell 10s and costs.”

County Advertiser 28/8/1897

“The annual licensing sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Rowley Regis were held on Wednesday, at the Police Court, Old Hill.....

The licenses, they had decided, would be all renewed.

The following were the licensed victuallers who had been convicted.....

Frederick Weston, ENGINE INN, Wagon Street, fined 20s and costs for permitting drunkenness on the 26th May.”

County Advertiser 27/8/1898

“On Sunday afternoon the annual hospital parade and open-air service, arranged by the various friendly societies in Old Hill and the surrounding district took place. Processions were formed at different points of members of the Foresters, the Free Gardeners, and provident societies, numbering altogether about 1,000, and these, accompanied by the Blackheath, Halesowen Temperance, and Old Hill Bands, paraded the principal streets of the locality, after which they marched to a field in Garratts Lane, lent for the occasion by Mr. A. Sidaway, where a special service was held. Addresses were delivered by the Revs. E. Brewer, MA (vicar of Old Hill), and W. B. Cheshire (Primitive Methodist). A collection was made along the route and at the service in aid of the Guest Hospital, Dudley Dispensary, and Birmingham Eye Hospital, this realising £25 14s 5³/₄d.

The following was the order of procession issued by the committee. The Blackheath Village Band will start from the WHITE LION INN, Powke Lane, at 1-45 prompt, proceed down Garratts Lane, calling for societies at the BRITISH OAK INN, Tabernacle, DUKE WILLIAM INN, and VINE INN, turning across Queen Street on to the old football ground (by kind permission of Mr. W. H. Jarvis). The Halesowen Temperance Band will start from the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Wrights Lane, at 1-45 prompt, proceed round Cherry Orchard Street, into Wrights Lane, turning down Wagon Street, calling at the OLD ENGINE INN, proceeding down Elbow Street and King Street, across Halesowen Road, to the old football ground. The Old Hill Band will start from the CROSS INN at 1-45 prompt, calling for societies at Trinity Schools and GEORGE HOTEL, proceed across Lawrence Lane, turning up New Street, Ridding Street, Pear Tree Street, Pear Tree Lane, thence into Reddal Hill Road, calling at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, and proceeding to the old football ground. A grand procession will be formed as follows.....”

1901 Census

71, Waggon Street

[1] *Frederick Weston* (37), publican, born Old Hill;

[2] *Mary Jane Weston* (39), wife, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 1/3/1902

“The annual dinner of the Old Hill Friendly Societies Service Committee was held at the ENGINE INN, Old Hill, on Monday evening, and advantage was taken of the occasion to make a presentation to Mr. L. Hall Flemings, who for four years was hon. secretary to the movement. Mr. D. Blaunt, chairman of the committee, presided, and Mr. P. Simpson (vice-chairman) was in the vice-chair.

Mr. B. Bennett, of Netherton, proposed the toast of ‘Success to the Old Hill Friendly Societies’ Service.’ The toast was warmly received, and Mr. G. Cresswell, the secretary responded. Following this came the chief item of the evening – the presentation of a handsome marble timepiece to Mr. L. Hall Flemings. Mr. E. H. Boilstone made the presentation, and in doing so referred to Mr. Fleming’s connection with the service since its inauguration, and to his excellent work as secretary during the four years he held the office.

The clock bore the inscription ‘Presented to Mr. L. Flemings in recognition of his past services as hon. secretary of the Old Hill Friendly Societies’ service. February 1902.’ Mr. L. Hall Flemings, in thanking the committee for their handsome gift, said from the commencement of that combined effort by the friendly societies in Old Hill to help forward the work of the Hospitals, for four years he had worked hard to bring each year’s service to a successful issue, and with the aid of hard-working committees, success had been achieved, and the amounts they had obtained compared favourably with those obtained in other districts, and in fact exceeded many of them. They could look back with pride and satisfaction on the work that had been accomplished. When he resigned he had not the faintest idea of receiving anything at their hands, and the value of it had amazed him. He gratefully accepted it, as a reminder of the many happy hours he had spent among them. He would continue to do his utmost for the annual service, and in conclusion again thanked them for their present. During the evening a musical programme was gone through Mr. L. Burgess presiding at the piano.”

County Advertiser 6/8/1904

“On Thursday night Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest at the ENGINE INN, Wagon Street, Old Hill, touching the death of William Priest (57), miner, formerly residing at Wagon Street, Old Hill, who died under singular circumstances on Tuesday night. It appeared from the evidence that on the night in question, deceased visited the ENGINE INN, but left about 9-30. He was walking near his home when he suddenly fell backwards to the ground, and injured his head. He was picked up in an unconscious condition, and removed to his house, but died about two hours later without regaining consciousness. Dr. Mitchell, who was called in, attributed death to the rupture of a blood vessel, caused by the fall. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

County Advertiser 27/8/1904

“On Sunday afternoon the eighth annual parade and service arranged by the various friendly societies in the Old Hill district took place under favourable circumstances. The proceedings commenced with a large procession.....

The Cradley Heath Salvation Army Band started from the ROSE AND CROWN INN, proceeded down Reddal Hill Road as far as the BRIDGE INN, turning across Plant Street, Lawrence Lane, Trinity Street, picking up another society. Afterwards they marched by way of Elbow Street and Wagon Street to the field, calling at the KINGS HEAD INN and ENGINE INN for societies.....

Upon arrival at the field a grand procession was formed..... This paraded the principal streets of the locality for some time, after which they proceeded to a field in High Street, kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. A. E. Sidaway. Here a service was held, the chair being occupied by Dr. T. E. Mitchell. Notwithstanding the threatening state of the weather there was a large attendance..... A collection was made upon the route, and at the service, on behalf of the Dudley Guest Hospital, Dudley Dispensary, Birmingham Eye Hospital, Birmingham General Hospital, Birmingham Ear and Throat Hospital, and the Old Hill Nurses Fund.”

Harry Bellfield = Harry Belfield

County Advertiser 21/7/1906

“Friendly Societies Parade. It is proposed to hold the annual parade on Sunday, August 19th.....

The courts are hoping to secure greater success this year than before, as the claims for notes for the various hospitals are almost greater than the funds will allow, and they sincerely hope the public will rally round them and give them all the support possible. The next meeting will be held at the ENGINE INN, Wagon Street, on Wednesday next, at 7-30, and all those who are interested are cordially invited to attend.”

Tipton Herald 17/4/1909

“The annual meeting of the Perseverance Sick and Draw Club, held at the OLD ENGINE INN, Old Hill, took place on Tuesday, when about 40 members sat down to an excellent repast given by the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. *Harry Bellfield*, after which the usual business was gone through. Mr. Samuel Edwards was elected secretary, with Mr. *H. Bellfield* treasurer. There was a big addition of new members. The rest of the evening was taken up in harmony.....”

Tipton Herald 24/7/1909

“Mr. R. Marshall (coroner) held an inquest at the Dudley Town Hall on Tuesday morning, relative to the death of William Belfield (65), of 20, Queen Street, Quarry Bank.

Harry Belfield, licensee of the ENGINE INN, Wagon Street, Old Hill, son of the deceased, said his father had been an inmate of the Guest Hospital for about a week, he had been a sufferer of sciatica. A few days ago he saw his father in the hospital, when he seemed much concerned because the doctor had told him he would have to undergo an operation.

John Avey, of Chapel Street, Netherton, a fellow patient of the deceased at the Guest Hospital, said that about half past four on the afternoon of the 19th inst he went round to the back of the coal shed of the hospital buildings. He heard groans, and upon going round a corner saw the deceased on his knees with a pool of blood in front of him. Witness ran for a nurse, and eventually the deceased was taken into the hospital. It was found that he had cut his throat, and though then alive he soon expired.

The Coroner: Did he ever say to you that he was in dread of an operation? – No, sir.

Edith Riglands, a nurse at the Guest Hospital, deposed to being called to the deceased by the last witness. She found him in the state described. Deceased had been told that an operation upon him was contemplated.

Another nurse named Kate Conwell said that she noticed that the deceased was strange in his manner. He seemed frightened of an operation, although she told him that it would be all right and that he would be a better man after.

Inspector Burford said that he received a telephone call from the Guest Hospital on Monday evening, and upon arriving at that institution he was conducted to the rear of the building, where he saw a pool of blood, in which there was a table knife. Belfield was lying dead in one of the wards.

Dr. Kelly said that deceased had cut his windpipe, and therefore there was no hope of recovery.

A verdict of Suicide whist of Unsound Mind was returned by the jury.”

1911 Census

71, Waggon Street – OLD ENGINE INN

- [1] *Rosson Knight* (51), timber sawyer and publican, born Old Hill;
- [2] Hannah Knight (46), wife, married 26 years, assisting in the business, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] John Williams (27), step-son, coal miner, loader below, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Edith Knight (24), daughter, nail maker, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Hannah Knight (20), daughter, nail maker, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Ellen Knight (18), daughter, nail maker, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] William Knight (14), son, errand boy, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] Joseph Knight (12), son, school, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 27/5/1916

“At Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, *Elon Turner*, licensee of the ENGINE INN, Wagon Street, Old Hill, was charged under the liquor Control Order with supplying intoxicants which had not been ordered and paid for by persons, with supplying intoxicants during the period his premises should be closed, with permitting intoxicants to be consumed on his premises during the time they should be closed. Three Old Hill men, Joseph Smith and Charles Parish, Wagon Street, and Joseph Patrick, High Street, were charged with consuming intoxicating liquors which had not been ordered and paid for, and with consuming intoxicants during a period when the premises should be closed. Mr. J. Walter Clulow appeared to prosecute instructed by the chief constable, and Mr. Waldron defended.

Mr. Clulow said under the Defence of the Realm Act the King in Council had power during the continuation of the present war to issue regulations for securing public safety and defence of the Realm, to take effect in any area for the purposes of the control by the State of the sale and supply of intoxicating liquor within the area, and for increasing directly or indirectly the efficiency of labour in such areas and preventing the efficiency of labour in such areas from being impaired by such sale and supply. The defendant was charged with three offences under the Central Control (Liquor Traffic) Order of 11th November 1915, and the Prosecution proposed to proceed first on the charge against the landlord of ‘treating’. At 10.30 on the 11th inst Inspector Myatt went to the public house, and in the tap room he saw defendant and three men, the latter having two pint cups, both of which were partially filled with beer. When asked why the men were allowed on the premises, *Turner* said ‘I am sorry; they have not been in long. It should have been cleared away.’ Parish said ‘I have been to the pictures, and I have just called in to have a drink. You haven’t much time to drink up when they come out.’ The men drank up the ale, and went away. The other men said that when the landlord was turning them out at 9.30 they commenced a conversation about pigs, and they remained there till 10.30, when the inspector called. *Turner* told Inspector Myatt that he gave them some ale for which he did not charge them. They were all customers and he did not think he was doing wrong. He was sorry, but he would plead guilty, and he hoped the fine would not be heavy. Inspector Myatt gave evidence in support of this statement. Replying to Mr. Waldron, witness said *Turner* had been in charge of the house for over two years, and had wrought a great improvement in the conduct of it.

For the defence Mr. Waldron pleaded guilty. After closing time there was a conversation over some pigs, and *Turner* rather foolishly allowed the men to remain, and gave them a pint of beer. There had been no wilful breaking of the law, and it was only goodwill on the part of the licensee, which had got them all into trouble. In a great many towns the order was regarded as a dead letter, and he thought a reasonable penalty would meet the merits of the case.

The Chairman (Mr. C. W. Bassano) said the Bench believed it was due to want of thought, but they must mark the seriousness of the offence, and impose a penalty which would deter other people. *Turner* was fined 40s in the first case with special cost of £4 4s 0d, and the other two cases would be withdrawn on payment of costs. The three men would each be fined 15s 6d in the first case, and the second would be withdrawn on payment of costs.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/7/1930

“Cradley Heath’s Hospital Carnival week concluded on Saturday in brilliant weather with a streets parade. It was probably the most spectacular the district had witnessed, and it was estimated that over 30,000 people lined the route of the procession. The heat during the afternoon and evening was so oppressive that scores of people were overcome, and had to receive treatment, while there were two or three cases of sunstroke which necessitated medical attention.

Included in the procession were 24 jazz bands, made up of nearly 2,000 performers, their picturesque attire providing a remarkable spectacle. They came from all quarters of the Black Country, and the first prize, which carried with it the Price Challenge Cup, was won by the OLD ENGINE, Old Hill.

One of the most novel and interesting of the tableaux was entitled ‘From Childhood to Age,’ and was entered by the residents of Tibbetts Gardens, one of the poorer quarters of the district. Its central figure was Mrs. Round, who is 99 years of age.....”

A Special Removal of this house [license] to a house to be known as the RED LION, Tividale, was made on 6th December 1939.

OLD HILL

OLD HILL

OWNERS

LICENSEES

William Thomas [1841] – [1842]

NOTES

Check QUEENS HEAD.

OLD HOUSE AT HOME

30, (21), [Cherry Orchard](#), OLD HILL

OWNERS

Alfred Cockin

Alfred Henry Cockin, 43, Beauty Bank, Old Hill (acquired on 19th April 1939)

Darby’s Brewery Ltd. (acquired on 14th April 1944)

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Michael Cockin [1871] – [1881]

Alfred Cockin [1889] – **1921**;

Alfred Henry Cockin **(1921 – 1931)**;

Thomas Williams **(1931 – 1944)**;

Lawrence Reginald Hackett **(1944 – 1947)**;

Caleb Hardwick **(1947 – 1954)**;

William Smith **(1954)**;

John Henry Moore **(1954 – 1955)**;

Horace Pratt **(1955 – 1958)**;

NOTES

21, Cherry Orchard [1881], [1891], [1901], [1912]

30, Cherry Orchard [1911], [1939], [1940]

It had an ante '69 beerhouse license.

1871 Census

Cherry Orchard

- [1] *Michael Cockin* (51), bricklayer and beer retailer, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Eliza Cockin* (47), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Mary Cockin* (17), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Ellen Cockin* (15), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Hannah Cockin* (6), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Alfred Cockin* (3), son, born Rowley Regis:

Stourbridge Observer 28/10/1871

"*Michael Cockin* was charged with, that he, being a person duly licensed to sell beer by retail, did unlawfully permit drunkenness in his house, on the 15th inst, at Cherry Orchard. He was further charged with having his house open for the sale of beer during prohibited hours.

Police-constable Cox said on the above date he visited defendant's house at 3.30pm. He saw a man come out of the front door, who, when he saw witness, turned back, and kicked the door. Witness found the front door fastened, and heard footsteps in the house. The landlady said, 'Make haste out the back. They are at the front door.' She then opened the door, and on the officer going in he found a man named Ezekiah James in a back room, quite drunk. A jug containing about half a pint of ale stood on the table in the same room. The landlady said she did not fill any drink to James. He had it before he got to her house.

Defendant said he was sorry it happened; but he was from home.

Fin'd 20s and costs for opening the house, and the other case was withdrawn."

Stourbridge Observer 4/11/1871

"Thomas Perks was charged with being in a beerhouse kept by *Michael Cockin*, at Cherry Orchard, on the 15th ult, during prohibited hours. Police-constable Cox said on the above date he saw defendant come out of *Cockin's* house during prohibited hours. The case was dismissed."

County Advertiser 20/9/1873

"Old Hill. Miners Association. On Monday last the members belonging to this society held their first anniversary at Mr. *Michael Cockin's*. An excellent dinner was provided, after which Mr. William Fenney was called to the chair, and Mr. Westwood to the vice-chair. The secretary, Mr. Joseph Westwood, read the report which showed that the Society was in a very prosperous condition. Several speeches were delivered by the officers, impressing upon the minds of the members the desirability of still keeping united and of working harmoniously together."

1881 Census

21, Cherry Orchard

- [1] *Michael Cockin* (61), beer seller and bricklayer, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Eliza Cockin* (57), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Hannah Cockin* (16), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Alfred Cockin* (13), son, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 30/10/1886

"Mr. Edwin Hooper (South Staffordshire Coroner) held an inquest at the OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Cherry Orchard, respecting the death of George Harris (64), chainmaker, Cherry Orchard. On Saturday morning the deceased was seized with violent pains in his chest, and died before medical aid could be obtained. A surgeon who saw the deceased attributed death to heart disease. The jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes."

County Advertiser 20/11/1886

"Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest on Monday, at the OLD HOUSE AT HOME, touching the death of James Smith (30), labourer, of 52, Cherry Orchard. Fanny Smith, wife of the deceased, stated that on the 12th of October her husband met with an accident whilst employed at Mr. Bassano's Colliery, Haden Hill. George Willetts said the deceased was pushing an iron boat with a shaft, when it slipped, and he fell across the boat causing serious injuries to his stomach, from the effects of which he died on Friday last. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

West Bromwich Weekly News 22/1/1887

"On Monday afternoon Mr. Edwin Hooper (South Staffordshire Coroner) held an inquest at the OLD HOUSE AT HOME INN, Cherry Orchard, respecting the death of William Price (54), miner, who had been killed by a fall of coal at the Haden Hill Colliery, belonging to Messrs. Bassano and Co. Mr. B. Scott (Government Inspector of Coal Mines) was in attendance.

The evidence showed that deceased was an experienced workman, and on Friday morning he was engaged with other workmen in a stall in getting coal. After removing a tree a lump of coal fell from the roof, and whilst deceased was in the act of removing the lump of coal several other lumps of coal fell from the roof on to the deceased, breaking his neck and also one of his legs.

Mr. Scott said the colliery was well managed, and no other person was to blame but the deceased himself, as he should have got out of the place after removing the tree.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

It was the headquarters of Haden Hill Victoria Cricket Club, the forerunner to Old Hill CC. [1889]

Alfred Cockin was the treasurer.

County Express 7/6/1890

“Thomas Gill, Wagon Street, Old Hill, was charged with being disorderly on the licensed premises of *Alfred Cockin*, and refusing to leave, and was fined 2s 6d and costs.”

1891 Census

21, Cherry Orchard – OLD HOUSE AT HOME

[1] *Alfred Cockin* (23), publican and warehouseman, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Hannah Cockin (22), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Arthur H. Cockin (1), son, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Ada Tromans (15), niece, domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 17/8/1895

“The Borough Election. A dinner took place at the OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Cherry Orchard, on Wednesday night, to celebrate Mr. Brooke Robinson’s victory at the election. Mr. *Cockin* presided, and Mr. King occupied the vice-chair. In addition to the usual toasts selections of music were rendered.”

Alfred Cockin, beer retailer, Cherry Orchard. [1896]

County Advertiser 17/7/1897

“On Wednesday evening, Mr. A. A. Betham (deputy coroner) held an inquest at the OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Cherry Orchard, Old Hill, concerning the death of Robert Edward Feakes, aged three months, whose parents reside at Cherry Orchard, Old Hill, and who died on the 10th inst. Mr. S. Farmer was foreman of the jury. The jury, having been sworn, went to view the body, and upon their return Inspector Given pointed to one of them and said he had not viewed it. The Coroner then ordered him to do so, and remarked that he must not try to evade viewing the bodies; as long as the law remained in its present state he should have to enforce it. The Juryman expressed his regret but said he had a strong objection to viewing bodies.

Pamela Feakes, wife of Alfred Feakes, identified the body, and said the child had been healthy from birth. On the 9th inst he was put to bed at eleven o’clock, and at 9-15 the following morning she left him lying in bed asleep. About 10-30 witness went upstairs again and found deceased still fast asleep. Upon going up three quarters of an hour later she found him dead in bed. A doctor was called in. Deceased had not suffered from fits.

Police-constable Edwin Wynn said he had made all necessary enquiries into the case and found no suspicious circumstances connected with it. The parents were respectable persons.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

County Express 17/3/1900

“A supper in connection with the Miners’ Protection Society took place last week at the OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Cherry Orchard, Old Hill. After supper a miner was voted to the chair, and the Secretary, Mr. B. Winwood, made some remarks upon the extravagantly high price of coal, which he said, had been arbitrarily raised by the employers without a corresponding rise in wages for the miners. He protested against coal being increased so much, and said it was very hard upon the poorest people.....”

1901 Census

21, Cherry Orchard

[1] *Alfred Cockin* (33), publican, brewer, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Hannah Cockin (32), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Arthur Cockin (11), son, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Elsie Cockin (8), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[5] *Alfred Cockin* (2), son, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Emily Bagnal (17), servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 15/2/1902

“Reuben Walker, Clifton Street, Old Hill, was charged with maliciously wounding Zachariah Harris, a miner, of Cherry Orchard, Old Hill, on February 1st.

Mr. Cooksey explained to the Bench that inspector Hodgkinson had ascertained there was no evidence of a knife having been used, and suggested the charge should be reduced to one of common assault.

Harris told the Bench that he went to the OLD HOUSE AT HOME INN with a friend and found defendant there. Defendant accused witness of being too idle to work, and on account of his conduct the landlord had to eject him. About five minutes later witness went out to go home, when defendant called to him, and upon going to defendant he struck witness a blow in the chest. Witness struck back in self-defence. They closed together and fell down, and while on the floor defendant struck him with something in the ribs, causing a wound four inches long, which was, however, not very deep. Witness also received three wounds in the back and the thigh, the one in the thigh also being some four inches long. Witness did not see any knife.

Defendant denied using any knife, and said any injuries complainant received were got by his falling on some cinders. The Bench fined defendant 40s and costs.”

Alfred Cockin, beer retailer, 21, Cherry Orchard. [1904], [1912]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/6/1905

“Freddy Lawrence has already found many opponents for billiard matches, the proceeds of which are to go to the Albion Shilling Fund.....

From friends and customers of Mr. *Alfred Cockin*, OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Old Hill, 20s.

Mr. A. Cockin, 5s; Mr. Edward Foley, 5s; Mr. Michael Cockin, 2s; Mr. Arthur Cockin, 1s; Mr. David Cockin, 1s; Mr. George Baker, 1s; Mr. Simeon Perks, 1s; Mr. J. Danks, 1s; Mr. George Bladen, 1s; Mr. F. Rudge, 1s; and Mr. Walter Underhill, 1s.”

County Advertiser 29/12/1906

“Sick and Draw Clubs.....

On Saturday the members of the club held at the OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Old Hill, had their annual meeting. The club has been in existence for eleven years, and has some seventy members. Mr. R. Ashman and Mr. C. Smith, the auditors, announced that the accounts allowed a draw of 11s 2d for each member.....

At all these meetings the chairmen, the secretaries, the auditors, and the hosts and hostesses were formally thanked, and besides the speeches there were songs. All seem to have spent convivial evenings.”

County Express 8/8/1908

“On Sunday afternoon there was held the twelfth annual service promoted by the united friendly societies in the Old Hill district. The occasion was favoured with brilliant weather, and there was a large attendance at the services. The proceedings opened with a large procession, which aroused considerable interest in the district. The Old Hill Ironworks Band started from the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Wrights Lane, at one o'clock, and proceeded to the OLD HOUSE AT HOME INN for sick and draw club, through Cherry Orchard, calling for Court Robin Hood's Cave and BRITISH OAK sick and draw club; by way of Wagon Street, calling for Success-to-the-FOX-HUNT Lodge; Elbow Street for Court Benjamin and KINGS HEAD sick and draw club; Halesowen Road, calling for Provident Institution, and on to the field. The Cradley Heath Salvation Army Band started from COOKSEY'S HOTEL at one o'clock with Snowdrop Lodge, by way of Halesowen Road, calling for Court Loyal Marlborough; Bank Street, Queens Street, High Street, and on to the field. The Cradley Heath Town Prize Band started from the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill, with Court Robin Hood the Brave; by way of Reddal Hill Road, calling for the WHY NOT sick and draw club, and on to the BRIDGE INN for Welcome to the Bridge Inn Lodge, across Plant Street, Lawrence Lane, Clyde Street, Petford Street calling for Druids Society; Pear Tree Street, Riddings Street, New Street, Halesowen Road, calling for Court Royal Sherwood and Rechabites Society and ROYAL EXCHANGE sick and draw club; High Street to the field. A grand procession was then formed.....”

County Express 7/1/1911

“On Wednesday celebrations were held at the house of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur [sic] *Cockin*, the OLD HOUSE AT HOME, on the occasion of the coming of age of their son, Mr. Arthur *Cockin*.....”

1911 Census

30, Cherry Orchard

- [1] *Alfred Cockin* (43), licensed beer retailer and brewer, born Old Hill;
- [2] Hannah Cockin (42), wife, married 21 years, born Blackheath;
- [3] Arthur Handel Cockin (21), son, carpenter and joiner, born Old Hill;
- [4] Elsie Eliza Cockin (18), daughter, born Old Hill;
- [5] *Alfred Henry Cockin* (12), son, school, born Old Hill:

Dudley Chronicle 1/1/1916

“Munition Workers Entertained. Christmas Party at Old Hill.

The directors of Messrs. John Johnson Ltd, Standard Works, Old Hill, entertained their workpeople, together with their wives and sweethearts, to dinner at Wrights Lane School, Old Hill, on Thursday A capital spread was provided by Mr. and Mrs. *Cockin*, of the OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Cherry Orchard.....”

A charabanc trip, for customers, to Matlock was made in 1920.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/10/1930

“Yesterday's contributions to the relief fund organised by the *Birmingham Gazette* and *Evening Despatch* for the 14 victims of the Norton Canes colliery disaster were from many and varied sources.....

Licensed victuallers and their customers and social clubs continue to give splendid assistance, as today's list shows.....

Customers, OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Old Hill, per A. *Cocklin* [sic], £1 1s 3d.”

Thomas Williams was also a brewer.

1939 Register

30, Cherry Orchard (3 of 5)

[1] *Thomas Williams*, date of birth 29/4/1886, licensed victualler, married;

[2] *Hannah Williams*, dob 10/5/1888, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Vera (Williams) Reid*, dob 28/5/1921, tailoress, coat hand, single;

Lawrence Reginald Hackett – see also DUKE WILLIAM.

Caleb Hardwick – see also CROWN.

It was referred to the Compensation Authority on the grounds of redundancy on 5th March 1958.

The license renewal was refused on 24th July 1958.

Compensation was paid on 24th December 1958.

The house closed on 31st December 1958.

Demolished

OLD HOUSE AT HOME

25, Reddal Hill Road, Reddal Hill, OLD HILL

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Joseph Sidaway [1861] – [1879]

Joseph Barnsley [1880] – [1881]

NOTES

1861 Census

Reddal Hill

[1] *Joseph Sidaway* (23), publican, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Emma Sidaway* (21), wife, born Dudley;

[3] *James Sidaway* (1), son, born Rowley Regis:

Joseph Sidaway, retailer of beer, Reddal Hill. [1862]

Stourbridge Observer 11/2/1865

“On Wednesday night last, at the Public Office, a man named John Harris, was charged by *Joseph Sidaway*, of OLD HOUSE AT HOME public house, Old Hill, with stealing a pig’s foot out of his house.

From the evidence adduced, it appears that on the 6th instant the prisoner went to *Sidaway*’s house, and represented himself as destitute and in want of food. His tale roused the sympathies of those present. The landlady gave him something to eat, and some of the company present gave him some ale. After having partaken of these, he became very abusive, so much so that the landlord was obliged to turn him out. When he had gone the pig’s foot was missed.

Mrs. *Sidaway* then in company with police-constable Daulmen went in search of him. They found him at the CROSS public house, just in the act of cooking the stolen pig’s foot. Upon Daulmen searching him, 4s 8d was found in his possession.

The magistrate said it was a very bad case, and in compensation for the heartless conduct he had displayed, they should sentence him to fourteen days’ imprisonment.”

Stourbridge Observer 14/4/1866

“At Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, *Joseph Sidaway*, of Reddal Hill, was summoned by the Police charged with having his house open on the night of the 3rd of April, after eleven o’clock. He pleaded guilty, and this being his first offence, he was ordered to pay the costs.”

Stourbridge Observer 14/11/1868

“*Joseph Sidaway* was charged by Superintendent Mills with keeping his house open for the sale of beer on the night of the 7th inst, after the hour of eleven o’clock.

Police-constable Robinson said that there were four men in the house at 20 minutes past eleven o’clock.

Defendant was ordered to pay the costs.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/8/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for Rowley Regis division was held on Friday, at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill.....
The following beerhouse keepers had been fined during the last five years.....
Joseph Sidaway, OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Reddall Hill.....
The following applications were made for alehouse licenses.....
Joseph Sidaway, OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Reddall Hill. Application refused.”

County Express 27/8/1870

“The annual licensing meeting for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division was held yesterday.....
The following beerhouse keepers applied for wine and spirit licenses.....
Joseph Sidaway, OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Reddall Hill. Application refused.”

1871 Census

Reddall Hill

- [1] *Joseph Sidaway* (33), publican, beer seller, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Emma Sidaway (31), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Daniel Sidaway (9), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Alice J. Sidaway (7), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Mary Ann Sidaway (5), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Agnes L. Sidaway (1), daughter, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 13/9/1873

“*Joseph Sidaway*, landlord of the OLD HOUSE AT HOME public house, Reddall Hill, was charged with permitting porter to be consumed on his premises during prohibited hours. Mr. Stokes defended.
Police-constable Cooper said that about half-past twelve o’clock on the night of the 26th ult, he visited the defendant’s house in company with Police-inspector Price, and there found two men named Johnson and Andrews drinking. He requested them to leave, but the defendant tried to prevent them going out. The defendant was also charged with having been previously convicted. Mr. Stokes said he would plead guilty to that charge, but not guilty to the present one.
Police-inspector Price corroborated the evidence of the other officer.
In defence Mr. Stokes, in defence, said that Andrews was a traveller, and was staying at the house for the night. Johnson being an intimate friend of his, asked permission of the landlord to spend the night there with him. This the landlord consented to allow. He submitted that there had been no infringement of the Act. The defendant was fined 40s and costs, and his license to be endorsed.
Samuel Johnson was fined 1s and costs for being found in the house.”

County Advertiser 27/9/1873

“Adjourned Licensing Meeting.....
Joseph Sidaway, landlord of the OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Old Hill, and William Billingham, landlord of the RAILWAY TAV-ERN, Cradley Heath applied for the renewal of their licenses. Superintendent Mills said there had been two convictions against each of the applicants. The licenses were granted.”

County Advertiser 29/8/1874 - Advert

“OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Reddall Hill.
To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. T. Homer, on Tuesday Next, September 1st, 1874, at the house of Mr. *J. Sidaway*, Household Furniture, Iron Bedsteads, Chainmakers’ Tools, Beer Machine, Hops, &c, &c.
Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13//8/1877

“On Thursday a meeting of operatives in the chain trade was held at the OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Reddall Hill, Old Hill, for the purpose of considering the best means of putting down a new kind of truck which had arisen on the trade. It appears that some of the masters are in the habit of forcing the men (though perhaps not directly) when they come to work to buy from them a quantity of gledes at the most exorbitant price. The men are compelled to accept the gledes under fear of losing their future orders, and pay the master 50 or 60 per cent more than the proper prices. It was urged that a load of gledes purchased from a master cost 18s 6d, while the same could be obtained for 9s or thereabouts. A petition to the Government was suggested, but it was thought advisable not to adopt this until other proceedings had been taken. Circulars will be sent round the district to explain what is intended to be done, and the masters refusing to abolish the ‘glede system,’ as it is called, will be served with notices, prior to stronger measures being resorted to. A committee to carry out the work was formed.”

County Express 23/11/1878

“Edward Johnson, coal-loader, was charged with having assaulted Harry Stevens on the 11th inst, at Reddall Hill. The complainant deposed that on the 11th inst the defendant assaulted him in the OLD HOUSE AT HOME public house by striking him without provocation. Defendant in reply to the charge informed the Magistrates that the defendant and some others were playing a game

called 'tippet,' complainant losing, refused to pay the amount he had lost, and made use of an argument why he should not. He (defendant) then told complainant that if he had been playing he should have given him a 'smack;' complainant then rose from his seat, and he (defendant) gave him a 'box.' Fined 2s 6d and costs."

County Express 26/4/1879

"William Tilley, William Garratt, and *Joseph Sidaway*, were charged with having assaulted Jos. Riley on the 24th ult. Mr. Roskell, of Stourbridge, appeared for the complainant, and Mr. Hayes defended Sidaway.

Complainant said that on the day in question he went to the OLD HOUSE AT HOME public house, kept by the defendant *Sidaway*, about two o'clock in the afternoon. Whilst he was there one of the defendants challenged him to fight. He refused to do so and a brawl then commenced. Complainant left the house and left his coat behind him. He walked back to the house and asked the landlord *Sidaway* for the coat. The landlord refused to give it to him and then struck complainant. Five or six men, defendants among the number, then rushed to the complainant, and he was assaulted and bruised very severely. He would not swear that Garratt assaulted him. The police afterwards came to the house, and the men endeavoured to escape.

Corroborative evidence was given and Mr. Hodgson, surgeon, gave evidence showing that the complainant had received very serious injuries.

Mr. Hayes urged in extenuation that though complainant had been assaulted he had provoked the assault. He denied his client's participation in the offence. He called witnesses to prove that the landlord was not in the house at the time of the assault.

Riley was then charged with being disorderly and refusing to quit the house of *Joseph Sidaway* on the 24th ult.

The landlord said the defendant Riley came into his house and asked for some 'gloves' to box with. Witness then told him he had none. The defendant afterwards became disorderly and challenged several men in the house to fight. Witness then requested him to leave, and Riley refused to do so. Complainant then went out of the house, and the assault which Riley had complained of commenced.

Mrs. *Sidaway* gave confirmatory evidence.

The Bench considered the case against the three defendants very clearly proved, and as there had been previous convictions against the landlord, they fined him £3 and costs, and Garratt and Tilley 20s and costs. The charge of refusing to quit was dismissed."

County Advertiser 3/5/1879

"*Joseph Sidaway*, landlord of the OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Reddall Hill, was charged with being drunk and disorderly at the Cross, Old Hill, on the 24th ult. Police-constable Wickstead proved the offence, and Mr. Hayes pleading guilty on behalf of the defendant, and fine of 5s and costs was inflicted."

County Express 8/11/1879

"In the Dudley County Court, Mr. W. O. C. Addison, solicitor, filed a petition for liquidation on behalf of *Joseph Sidaway*, beer-house keeper, 25, Reddall Hill, Old Hill. The liabilities are estimated at £1,000; assets not yet known."

London Gazette 25/11/1879

"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 *Joseph Sidaway*, of No.25, Reddall-hill, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, 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 offices of Mr. W. O. C. Addison, of No.142, High-street, Brierley Hill, in the county of Stafford, Solicitor, on the 5th day of December, 1879, at twelve o'clock at noon precisely.

Dated this 20th day of November, 1879.

W. O. C. Addison, 142, High-street, Brierley Hill, Solicitor for the said *Joseph Sidaway*."

County Advertiser 1/1/1881 - Advert

"Staffordshire. Freehold Public House, Reddal Hill, and Dwelling Houses, Cherry Orchard, Old Hill, Rowley Regis.

Mr. H. King is instructed to Sell by Auction, on Monday, January 17th, 1881, at the CROSS INN, Old Hill, Rowley Regis, at Six o'clock in the Evening subject to conditions then to be produced.

Lot 1. All that well accustomed Public House, known as the OLD HOUSE AT HOME, with Yard, Stabling, Brewhouses, and Premises, as now occupied by Mr. *Joseph Barnsley*; and also the Two Tenements adjoining, occupied by John Baynham and William Nock; and a Chain Shop at the back, occupied by John Perks.

The property contains an area of 720 square yards, and is situated at Reddal Hill, on the main road from Old Hill to Five Ways, in the midst of a very populous and thriving district....."

1881 Census

25, Reddall Hill Road

[1] *Joseph Barnsley* (30), publican, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Ruth Hadley (20), general servant, born Halesowen:

Lion Road, Totnals, (Lion Colliery), (Gorsty Hill), OLD HILL

OWNERS

Thomas Poole

LICENSEES

Mrs. Mary Wright [1845] – [1850]

John Wright [1851] – [1854]

John Hickman [] – **1858**;

George Hall (**1858** – []

John Knight [] – **1878**);

William Priest (**1878** – **1880**);

Maria Hadley (**1880** – **1881**);

John Barnett (**1881** – []

Alfred Heath [1892]

Henry Heath [1891] – [1892]

James Shaw [1896] – **1903**);

George Neath (**1903** – **1906**);

Thomas Perks (**1906** – **1911**);

NOTES

It was originally Lion House, the home of Joseph Griffiths, butty collier, c.1830.

Mrs. *Mary Wright* was also a brickmaker. [1845]

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/8/1846

“On Monday an inquest was held at the LION INN, Rowley, before George Hincliffe, Esq, coroner, on the body of James Cooper, aged five years. It was believed that the deceased had accidentally fallen into the Birmingham and Netherton canal, and the jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned.”

1851 Census

Lion Colliery

[1] *John Wright* (31), victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Eliza Wright (32), wife, born Copnall, Staffordshire;

[3] Eliza Wright (5), daughter, born Oldbury;

[4] Harriot Wright (3), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Lucy Wright (5 months), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Hannah Walters (13), house servant, born Netherton:

John Wright was also a brickmaker. [1854]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/3/1870

“At the Old Hill Police Court, yesterday, a nailer, named Thomas Hackett, was brought before Messrs. Barrs and Hingley, for cutting and wounding Samuel Priest. No evidence was taken, on account of the inability of the injured man to attend, and the prisoner was remanded for three weeks. It appears that a day or two ago Priest and Hackett were drinking together at the LION INN, Old Hill. They were referring to the depression of trade, and Priest was very dejected, and expressed a wish that he was dead. At length he urged the man Hackett to cut his throat, and, we are told, paid for a pint of ale as an inducement. The request being repeated, Hackett took up a knife which lay on the table, and inflicted a serious wound in the throat of Priest. When apprehended by Police-constables Robinson and Parkins, Hackett said he had only did it for a lark. Mr. Bennett, an assistant of Mr. Malins, surgeon, has twice been in attendance on the injured man, who remains in a dangerous condition.”

County Advertiser 16/4/1870

“The charge against Thomas Hackett of cutting the throat of Samuel Priest, in March last, was again called on, and adjourned to permit of a settlement of the case.”

County Express 29/9/1877 - Advert

“The LION INN and Premises, and Eight Other Freehold Dwelling Houses and a Quantity of Building Land, Part of the Old Lion

Colliery Estate, at Old Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis.

Messrs. Bateman and Son beg to announce their instructions to Offer for Sale by Auction, on Monday, the 8th day of October, 1877, at Six o'clock in the Evening, at COOKSEY'S HOTEL, Old Hill, and subject to conditions of Sale, the Old-Licensed Inn, Outbuildings, large Garden and Premises, and Eight other Dwelling Houses, Gardens, and Premises, and about Two and a-half Acres of Freehold Land, part of the Old Lion Colliery Estate, at Old Hill aforesaid, which will be divided into convenient building lots, with good frontages to Wrights Lane and other Roads and newly laid out streets, and varying in quantity from 300 to 600 square yards in each.

This land is well situated for building purposes on each side of the Netherton and Halesowen Railway, and within a few minutes' walk of the Old Hill Station.

Plans and descriptive particulars are in course of preparation, and in the meantime and further information may be obtained from Messrs. T. and J. Simcox, Solicitors, 20, Waterloo Street, Birmingham; or the Auctioneers, Dudley; and from Mr. Daniel Wright, the FIELD HOUSE, Oxford Street, Dudley; Mr. John Wright, the SPORTSMAN INN, Gosty Hill, Old Hill; or Mr. Joseph Wright, the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Wrights Lane, Old Hill."

London Gazette 20/6/1879

"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 Priest*, of the OLD LION INN, Old Hill, in the county of Stafford, Licenced Victualler, Breeze and Coal 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. William Shakespeare, 55, Church-street, Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, on the 1st day of July, 1879, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 13th day of June, 1879.

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

Dudley Herald 19/7/1879

"At the Dudley County Court, on Tuesday, a petition in liquidation was filed by *William Priest*, of the OLD LION INN, Old Hill, publican and coal dealer. The liabilities are represented as being £1,000, and the assets are not known. Mr. Shakespeare is the solicitor for the debtor."

Dudley and District News 20/11/1880

"On Monday, the district coroner, held an inquest at the OLD LION INN, Old Hill, touching the death of Thomas March, three years and four months old, the son of a miner living in Old Lion Road. It appeared that on the previous evening the mother of the deceased went from home, leaving him in charge of an elder brother about 13 years old. The latter, during his mother's absence, had occasion to leave the house for a short time, but hearing his brother screaming he ran back into the house and found him in flames. Before they could be extinguished the deceased was severely burned on different parts of his body, and succumbed to his injuries somewhat later. Before his death he told his mother that he was playing with a lighted spill, and that his clothes caught fire. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

County Advertiser 10/12/1881

"Mr. T. Cooksey, Old Hill, made application on behalf of *John Barnett*, late a detective sergeant in the Southport Police, for the transfer to him of the license of the LION INN, Old Hill, from *Maria Hadley*. An interim authority to the same applicant was declined a fortnight ago, but Mr. Cooksey now produced certificates of character, very respectably signed, and the Bench granted the transfer."

County Advertiser 28/10/1882 - Advert

"OLD LION INN, Old Hill.

To Let, with immediate possession, this well-known genuine Full-Licensed House, doing an excellent paying trade of which proof can be given. Rent £25. The Premises are very commodious and well-fitted, and consist of Bar, Tap and Club Rooms, Kitchen, large Garden, Piggeries, and Stable; excellent Brewing Plant. Free.

Apply, Herbert Humphries, Auctioneer, Brierley Hill."

Birmingham Daily Post 29/6/1883 - Advert

"OLD LION, Old Hill; full licensed. Incoming low for lease, licenses, furniture, fixtures, good brewing plant. Large garden, piggeries, every convenience. Doing good trade; proof given. Satisfactory reasons given.

Apply on premises."

County Advertiser 28/7/1883 - Advert

"The OLD LION, Old Hill.

To be Let, with immediate possession, the above excellent Old-Licensed Inn, with convenient premises – surrounded by Messrs. Hingley's Ironworks, extensive Anchor and Tube Works, and Collieries – present takings average £10 weekly. Rent, including half an acre of Garden, £25; lease of premises 4 years unexpired, with option of further term of 7 years. Valuation only required, which will not exceed £100.

Apply on the Premises, or to Insull and Son, Valuers, Brierley Hill."

County Advertiser 29/9/1883 - Advert

“The OLD LION, Old Hill.

To be Let, with immediate possession, the above excellent Old-Licensed Inn, with convenient Premises, surrounded by Messrs. Higley’s Iron Works, extensive Anchor and Tube Works, and Collieries. The present takings average £10 weekly. Rent, including half an acre of Garden, £25. Lease of Premises four years unexpired, with option for future term of seven years. Valuation only required.

This is a genuine concern, and will bear investigation, and is being disposed of solely on account of another engagement. Apply at once, Insull and Son, Auctioneers and Valuers, 28, High Street, Brierley Hill.”

Dudley and District News 8/12/1883

“Mr. T. Cooksey applied for the license of the LION INN, Cherry Orchard, Old Hill, to be transferred from *John Barnett* to *Alfred Heath*.

The police objected to it on the ground that the applicant did not reside on the premises. The applicant intimated that he was going to reside on the premises, and the application was adjourned for a month.”

1891 Census

70, Old Lion Wharf, Lion Road

- [1] *Henry Heath* (51), blacksmith (journeyman) and licensed victualler assistant, born Churchill, Worcestershire;
- [2] *Ruth Heath* (51), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Mary J. Heath* (24), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Edwin Heath* (19), son, general labourer, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Ruth E. Heath* (13), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Rowland H. Heath* (11), son, errand boy, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *Harriet T. Heath* (9), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] *Caroline Heath* (6), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 30/4/1892

“*John Knight*, miner, Wagon Street, Old Hill, *James Powell*, Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, and *William Powell*, labourer, New Street, Old Hill, were charged with stealing two cwt of coal belonging to the Birmingham Canal Company, and *Henry Heath*, landlord of the OLD LION INN, with receiving the same, knowing it to have been stolen, on March 19th. *Mr. Barrow* (Messrs. Wragge & Co.) Birmingham, prosecuted, and *Mr. A. E. G. Pritchard* defended *Heath* on behalf of *Mr. W. Waldron*.

A discussion took place on an application for an adjournment by *Mr. Pritchard*, on the ground that *Heath* was only served with the summons on Monday night, and no time had been allowed to get up the defence.

The application was ultimately refused.

Mr. Barrow said the two *Powells* and *Knight* were in the OLD LION INN on the day named, and asked *Heath* if he could do with a bit of coal. The latter asked where they would get it from, and they said out of the canal. The landlord lent them his wheelbarrow, and they brought the coal from the canal, for which he paid 1s, which they spent in beer. The proceedings were instituted more in the interests of traders than the canal company, because not unfrequently boatmen acted in complicity with such men as the prisoners, and threw the coal into the canal, out of which it was subsequently fished. Police-constable *Insley*, *William Green*, and *Thomas Nock* gave evidence in support of the charge, and *Mr. Pritchard* for the defence, urged that *Heath* had no felonious intent whatever in purchasing the coal for which he paid the full market price. The Bench fined the defendant *Heath* 40s and costs, and the other three defendants 10s and costs each.”

County Express 5/6/1897

“On Monday morning the lifeless body of a boy named *James Bennett*, aged 8 years, was found in the Birmingham Canal in the Lion Road, Old Hill. The deceased was last seen alive about five o’clock on the Sunday afternoon, and was then playing with other boys on the towing path, and the body was not found till Monday morning, when an uncle saw a hat floating on the water and recognised it. A search followed, and the body was found close to. The deceased was subject to fits. An inquest was held on Wednesday evening, by *Mr. Edwin Hooper* (district coroner), at the LION INN, Lion Road, near Rowley, when the jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned.”

1901 Census

Lion Road

- [1] *James Shaw* (54), publican, born Old Hill;
- [2] *Sarah Shaw* (54), wife, born Old Hill;
- [3] *Joseph Shaw* (22), son, general labourer, born Old Hill;
- [4] *John Shaw* (20), son, fitting maker, born Old Hill;
- [5] *Elizabeth Shaw* (16), daughter, born Old Hill;
- [6] *Hannah Shaw* (12), daughter, born Old Hill;
- [7] *Matilda Hodgkiss* (15), domestic servant, born Old Hill;
- [8] *Ethel Palmer* (4), granddaughter, born Old Hill:

County Express 8/6/1901

“*James Shaw*, landlord of the OLD LION INN, Old Hill, was charged with permitting drunkenness on May 21st. *Mr. Clulow*

prosecuted. Inspector Hodgkinson said he and Police-constable Plant visited the house and found a man named George Tromans drunk in the house. The defence was that the defendant had not been supplied in the house, and had been ordered out, but had refused to go. Defendant was fined 10s and costs, which included solicitor's fee. George Tromans, Lion Road, Old Hill, for being drunk on premises was fined 10s."

County Advertiser 26/7/1902 - Advert

"To Brewers And Wine And Spirit Merchants.

Announcement Of Highly Important Sale By Auction, of The Kates Hill Brewery, Dudley, with the 10-quarter Fixed Plant, and Five Old-licensed Freehold Houses, and One Short Leasehold Beerhouse, viz.

The MALT SHOVEL INN, Office, and Dwelling-House adjoining the Brewery.

The JUNCTION INN, Watsons Green Road, Dudley.

The BIRD IN HAND, High Street, Kates Hill, and adjoining Houses and Premises.

The JOLLY CRISPIN, Gornal, and Two Cottages adjoining.

The LION, Old Hill.

The LEVIATHAN, Summerhill, near Princes End (Short Leasehold).

The Freehold 15-Quarter Malt House, Residence, Stabling, Coach-houses, and other Buildings and Land running through from George Street to Owen Street, Kates Hill, Dudley.

The Freehold 10-Quarter Malt-House, immediately opposite.

Alfred W. Dando had received instructions to Sell By Auction, at the DUDLEY ARMS HOTEL, Dudley, in One Lot, on Tuesday, August 12th, 1902, at Seven o'clock in the Evening precisely (unless in the meantime an acceptable offer is made by private treaty), subject to Conditions of Sale then to be produced, the above very important Trading Concern.

The average payments for Beer Duty the last three and a half years have exceeded £1,000 per annum; in addition a considerable Malting and Wine, Spirit and Cigar Trade is done.

The Licensed Houses are situated in good populous districts, within easy reach of the Brewery, the concern being of genuine character and particularly worth the attention of those desirous of embarking in the trade, or established companies wishing to increase their businesses.

Further particulars may be obtained of Mr. Thomas Cooksey, Solicitor, Old Hill; Messrs. Smith, Bagott, and Co., Solicitors, High Street, Dudley; Messrs. Jobson and Marshall, Solicitors, Wolverhampton Street, Dudley; or the Auctioneers, Wolverhampton Street, Dudley. Telephone No.56."

County Advertiser 28/4/1906 - Advert

"The OLD LION INN, Old Hill, to Let. £18 per year. Large Garden. Low Ingoing."

County Advertiser 29/9/1906

"William Tomkiss, of Lion Road, Old Hill, was charged with being disorderly and refusing to quit the licensed premises of the OLD LION INN, Old Hill, kept by *Thomas Perks*, on the 22nd inst. The landlord alleged that defendant and his brother were drinking in the house, when they fell out over contributing to the support of their parents. Witness ordered them to leave, but defendant refused to go. Defendant was fined 20s, including costs."

Tipton Herald 6/11/1909

"Mr. G. C. Lewis on Monday morning held an inquest in the OLD LION INN, Lion Road, Old Hill, on the body of Emily Turley, of that vicinity, who died last Friday morning, after having given birth to a child. Mr. A. E. Sidaway was the foreman of the jury. Charles Turley, Lion Cottages, Lion Road, Old Hill, blacksmith, told the court that his wife was 44 years of age. He knew she was to give birth to a child, but not when. He had made no arrangements about a doctor or a midwife. He had been at play three months. He sent for the midwife, Mrs. Moy, on the Thursday, and she remained in the house from 9.30 to 12. Shortly after one o'clock, however, deceased appeared to have a fit, and when he spoke to her she did not reply. Then he sent for Mrs. Moy again, and she sent him for the doctor. His wife, however, died before the doctor arrived. She had had 21 children altogether, but only nine had been born alive.

Mary Jemima Moy, certificated midwife, said she was sent for to attend Mrs. Turley shortly after 9 on Thursday night. The child was born at 10 minutes to 10, but it was dead.

The Coroner: How was the mother? – She was all right, but very cold. Shortly after two o'clock they sent for me again. The woman was then 'all of a ruck' as if there had been a struggle. She had no convulsions while I was there.

Dr. T. M. Tibbetts said the husband sent for him about 2 on the Friday morning. The woman was then dead. He thought she died from puerperal convulsions.

The Coroner: There was no neglect on the part of Mrs. Moy? – Oh no, there can be no reflection on her.

A verdict was given in accordance with the doctor's evidence.

Dr. Tibbetts remarked that the great pity was that owing to poverty people were afraid of engaging a nurse or a doctor. They did nothing until the climax, when they knew somebody would go."

Birmingham Mail 8/2/1911

"The annual general Licensing Sessions for the Old Hill Petty Sessional Division were held today....

The whole of the licenses were renewed excepting the OLD LION INN, Old Hill, BEEHIVE INN, Hawes Lane, Rowley, and the CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Cradley Heath, which were deferred until the adjourned licensing sessions in order that notices of objection can be served upon the owners on the ground of redundancy."

1911 Census

Lion Road – OLD LION INN

[1] *Thomas Perks* (64), innkeeper, born Old Hill;

[2] *Emma Perks* (61), wife, married 41 years, born Old Hill:

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/7/1911 - Notice

“The Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910. County Of Stafford.

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 6th day of July, 1911, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below, all Persons Claiming to be Interested in the said Premises for the purpose of the Payment of Compensation under the said Act (other than the Licensee and the Registered Owner of the said Premises) are required to send to the Compensation Authority Notice of their Claims before the 21st day of August, 1911, for the purpose of enabling the Compensation Authority to ascertain in manner provided by the Licensing Rules, 1910, the Persons entitled to Compensation under the said Act, in respect of the said Premises.....

OLD LION INN, Lion Road, Old Hill. Full license. Licensee, *Thomas Perks*. Registered Owner, *Thomas Poole*.”

Lichfield Mercury 5/1/1912

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

The County Licensing Committee presented their annual report.....

The Committee at the supplemental meeting went in great detail into all the figures submitted to them upon which the persons interested claimed compensation, and heard upon oath evidence put forward by the claimants. The Committee consider that the amounts of compensation agreed upon were satisfactory, both from the point of view of the parties interested, and the compensation fund. The Committee fixed the compensation as follows.....

OLD LION INN, Old Hill, full, £600.

The money has been apportioned among the interested parties and paid.”

OLD RED LION

Powke Lane, BLACKHEATH

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Thomas Clough [1862]

NOTES

PACK HORSE

6, (4), Peartree Lane, (4, Pear Tree Street), (Lawrence Lane), OLD HILL

OWNERS

John Tibbetts [1909]

Cheshire's Brewery Ltd. (acquired in 1909 for £2,760.)

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. [1951]

LICENSEES

Thomas Hingeley [1827]

Joseph Barnsley [1846] – [1862]

Benjamin Harris [1864] – [1865]

David Willetts [1871]

Joseph Partridge [1873] – 1877);

John Tibbetts Snr. (1877 – 1897);
John Tibbetts Jnr. (1897 – 1910);
Jesse Grigg (1910 – 1911);
Alfred Bowkley (1911 – 1921);
George Thomas Owen (1921 – 1950);
J Nock [1920s] ?
Frank Albert Victor Miles (1950 – 1954);
John Henry Hatfield (1954 – 1957);
Sidney Vernon Fowkes (1957 – 1960);
Oswald Austin Lester (1960 – 1961);
Joseph William Daniel Cook (1961 – [1965])

NOTES

Lawrence Lane [1854], [1861], [1862]
4, Peartree Lane [1901], [1908]
6, Peartree Lane [1912], [1924], [1932], [1939], [1940]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 2/4/1827 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Building Land.

To be Sold by Auction, by Jesse Wright, on Wednesday the 11th day of April, 1827, at the dwelling house of *Thomas Hingeley*, known by the sign of the PACK HORSE, in Lawrence Lane, near Old Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, at three o'clock in the afternoon, subject to such conditions as will then be produced.....”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 19/10/1846 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Messuages and Premises, near Old Hill.

To be Sold by Auction, by Ferdinando Lea, on Monday next, the 26th day of October, at the house of Mr. *Joseph Barnsley*, the OLD PACK HORSE, at Laurence Lane, Old Hill, at six o'clock in the afternoon, and subject to such conditions as well be then produced.....”

1851 Census

Peartree Lane

- [1] *Joseph Barnsley* (26), licensed victualler, born Rowley;
- [2] Margaret Barnsley (26), wife, born Rowley;
- [3] Mary Maria Barnsley (1), daughter, born Rowley;
- [4] Elizabeth Foxall (17), house servant, born Rowley:

County Advertiser 16/8/1856 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale at the PACK HORSE INN, Pear Tree Lane, near Old Hill, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Hawkins, on Monday next, August 18th, 1856, the whole of the Public House Fixtures, stock of Ale and Spirits, Household Furniture, Chamber and Parlour Chairs, Mahogany and other Tables, Pianoforte, Quantity of Casks, Brewing Utensils, and other effects belonging to Mr. *Joseph Barnsley* (under a distress for rent).

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock in the morning.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 29/9/1856 - Advert

“In Re *Joseph Barnsley*, a Bankrupt. Sale at the Old Hill Tube Works, near Dudley.....”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 12/11/1856

“(From the *Gazette* of Tuesday, November 11). Bankruptcy Annulled.

Joseph Barnsley, publican, Rowley Regis, Staffordshire, and tube maker, Newtown, Worcester.”

Aris' Birmingham Gazette 17/11/1856

“Birmingham Bankruptcy Court.

In re *Joseph Barnsley*, Rowley Regis, gas-tube manufacturer. In this case, the fiat having been annulled, the meeting advertised for the last examination of the bankrupt did not take place.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 25/7/1857 - Advert

“Insolvent Debtor, to be heard at the Shire Hall, Warwick, in the county of Warwick, on Monday, the 17th day of August, at 10 in the morning precisely.

Joseph Barnsley, late of the PACK HORSE INN, Laurence Lane, Old Hill, in the parish of Rowley Regis, near Dudley, in the county of Stafford, in lodgings, Manager at Gas Tube Works; previously of the PACK HORSE INN, Laurence Lane, Old Hill aforesaid, Licensed Victualler, and during the same time occupying premises called the Old Hill Tube Works, New Town, near Dudley, aforesaid, part of such premises being in the county of Stafford and other part in the county of Worcester, Gas Tube Man-

ufacturer.

John Sherwood, Insolvent's Attorney. Spencer Street, Leamington."

1861 Census

Peartree Lane – PACK HORSE INN

- [1] *Joseph Barnsley* (36), publican, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Margrate Barnsley* (36), wife, born Amblecote;
- [3] *Joseph Barnsley* (14), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *William H. Barnsley* (5), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Charles H. Barnsley* (3), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Hannah Cartwright* (19), house servant, born Rocks Hill;
- [7] *Ann Westwood* (13), house servant, born Rowley Regis:

1871 Census

Peartree Lane – PACK HORSE

- [1] *David Willetts* (38), chain master and victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Catrina* (?) *Willetts* (32), wife, born Trowbridge;
- [3] *Katie Willetts* (6), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Edith Willetts* (5), daughter, born Rowley Regis:

John Tibbetts Snr. was also a brewer.

County Express 3/8/1878

"Forestry. A meeting was held at the PACK HORSE INN, Old Hill, on Monday, to establish a new court in connection with the Dudley and Cradley Heath district. Bro. Thomas Homer, DS, presided, and opened the proceedings with a few pertinent remarks on Forestry. There were between 30 and 40 present. After the cloth had been withdrawn the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were duly honoured. The health of the host and hostess were heartily drunk. Bro. F. Neale, PCR, responded. Bro. John Owen, PCR, livened the meeting with songs and harmony which was indulged in until eleven o'clock, when the singing of the National Anthem brought the proceedings to a close."

County Advertiser 18/1/1879 - Advert

"Valuable Freehold Property at Old Hill.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. T. Pateshall, at the house of Mr. *John Tibbetts*, the PACK HORSE INN, Old Hill, on Wednesday, the 29th day of January, 1879, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions....."

1881 Census

4, Pear Tree Lane – PACK HORSE

- [1] *John Tibbetts* (43), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Mary Tibbetts* (43), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *John Tibbetts* (15), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *William Tibbetts* (8), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

West Bromwich Weekly News 5/11/1881

"Mr. E. Hooper held an inquest on Monday, at the PACK HORSE INN, upon the body of *Amos Tromans* (3), whose parents reside in Pear Tree Lane. The mother of the deceased said on the 26th ult she placed a pot containing boiling water near the fireplace. The child fell backwards into the pot. The usual remedies were applied and a doctor was sent for, but the child died on Friday. The Coroner said it appeared strange to him how such a large child could fall into such a small pot. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/4/1882

"Some further Privy Council orders have been issued for the prevention of cattle disease in Staffordshire, the most recent declaring an infected area in the parishes of Croxall and Elford. Only two outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease have been reported to the Chief Constable this week. One of these has occurred at Birchfield, Handsworth, among cattle belonging to Mr. James Lake, this being the second outbreak among Mr. Lake's cattle within a short period. The outbreak occurred at Shut Lane End Farm, Whitmore. Cases of Pleuro-pneumonia have been reported from Hare House Farm, Bradney; Abbey Grove, Wetley Rocks; and Marl Pit House Farm, near Uttoxeter, one animal having been slaughtered in each case. Similar outbreaks were reported from Marl Pit House Farm, in September and October. A serious outbreak of swine fever has occurred at the PACK HORSE INN, Old Hill."

County Advertiser 3/6/1882 - Advert

"Reddal Hill, Old Hill. Valuable Freehold Dwelling Houses.

Mr. T. Pateshall is instructed to Sell by Auction, at the house of Mr. *John Tibbetts*, the PACK HORSE INN, Old Hill, on Monday, the 12th day of June, 1882, at Six for Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions....."

County Advertiser 15/9/1883

“Benjamin Fellows, Hampstead, West Bromwich and Daniel Weaver of Cradley Heath, were charged with being drunk and disorderly, and they were further charged with assaulting *John Tibbetts*. Both defendants had their faces marked. The evidence showed that they were drunk outside the PACK HORSE. They wanted to re-enter the PACK HORSE, but were prevented by the landlord because he thought they had had enough to drink. Weaver struck the landlord on the mouth, cutting his lip through; and *Tibbetts* knocked Weaver down ‘because he was obliged to.’ The other defendant then struck *Tibbetts* who retaliated. From the appearance of Fellows’ features Fellows appeared to have got the much worse of it. Weaver pleaded he had never been there before.
Mr. Bassano: It has been a long time since that you have forgotten; you were here in 1876.
Weaver: Well, I’ve never been in this place before. (Laughter.)
Defendants were each fined 5s and costs for the assault, and 2s 6d and costs for being drunk.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/11/1883

“A well attended meeting of miners was held at the PACK HORSE INN, Old Hill, on Friday night, to consider the wages question and the attitude assumed by the employers with reference to the notices for an advance. Mr. H. Southall presided. Mr. B. Winwood (agent) having addressed the meeting, the following resolutions were unanimously passed: ‘That this meeting strongly condemns the threatening attitude evinced by the coal-masters at their meeting on Thursday as unjust, cruel, and tyrannical in the extreme, in wanting to ignore the legal notice issued to them on behalf of the working miners by the duly authorised agents of our association.’ ‘That we come out on strike unless the employers concede us an advance of 10 per cent on the present rate of wages, at the expiration of the fourteen days’ notice.’”

County Advertiser 24/1/1891

“On Tuesday afternoon Mr. Edwin Hooper (South Staffordshire Coroner) opened an inquest at the PACK HORSE INN, Old Hill, respecting the death of Henry Stringer (40), miner, Plant’s Green, Old Hill, who had died from the effect of injuries received through an explosion of gunpowder at No.23, Saltwells Colliery, belonging to the Earl of Dudley. Sylvia Stringer, the widow, stated that the deceased was an experienced miner, and he left home on the morning of the 10th inst at five o’clock to go to his work at the colliery. He returned at half-past seven o’clock, and remarked, ‘I have got it.’ She afterwards saw that he was shockingly burned about the face, chest and arms. Dr. Higgs, of Dudley, the colliery surgeon, was sent for, and he arrived at about one o’clock. In the meantime she dressed the burns with oils.
The Foreman of the jury: Did your husband come by himself in such a state? – Witness: He did.
A Juryman: He ought not to have been allowed to go home in such a state.
The Coroner said he should not call any further evidence that day, because as death had been caused by an explosion it was his duty to report the death to the Home Office.
The injuries were described by the jury as being of a shocking character, and the Coroner said the deceased must have endured great agony.”

County Express 31/1/1891

“Mr. Edwin Hooper (Coroner) held an adjourned inquest at the PACK HORSE INN, Old Hill, on Monday, respecting the death of Harry Stringer (40), miner, who died from injuries received through an explosion of gunpowder at the Saltwells Colliery, Cradley Heath, belonging to the Earl of Dudley. Mr. W. B. Scott (the Government Inspector of Coal Mines) represented the Home Office. Harry Shilton stated that he was employed as a loader at No.23, Saltwells Colliery. On the 10th inst, the deceased commenced to work in a gate-road. Witness received from the underground manager (Mr. Bayliss) a quantity of powder, which he handed to the deceased, who was standing in the working place. He saw the deceased move away, and immediately afterwards heard an explosion. Deceased said, ‘I have got it,’ and witness said, ‘How did you do it?’ and he replied, ‘It is through hurry and bustle.’ The deceased at the time held a lighted candle in his right hand.
By Mr. Scott: The powder was in paper. Usually the powder was in canisters. It was not customary to carry it about in a loose fashion.
Joseph Haywood, miner, said, he saw the deceased with a ‘bobbin’ of powder and a lighted candle in his left hand, and immediately afterwards heard an explosion. He went into the working place, and saw deceased lying on the ground. Witness helped him up, and deceased said, ‘I am done for.’
The Coroner: Didn’t it occur to you that it was a dangerous thing to carry the powder and the candle in the same hand?
Witness: It did, but I did not have the opportunity of telling him to put the candle in the other hand.
Thomas Bayliss, underground manager, said the powder was conveyed into the pit in an iron box. When in the workings he took it out of the box and forwarded it to the blowers in the paper.
The Coroner: Which is the same as being loose. – Witness: I do not think so.
Mr. Scott: But you know it is wrong to carry to carry gunpowder about the pit in a loose fashion. The law provides that it shall be carried in a case or canister.
Witness: I have only done what is customary. The blowers are experienced men, and they know how to deal with gunpowder. The Coroner said he should have to send on the evidence to the Home Office. He considered that the deputy-manager was very blameable, he having disregarded the regulations. Men’s lives were not to be trifled with in this way, and those holding responsible positions were expected to observe the law.
In reply to Mr. Scott, witness said he did not know that the rules provided that the powder must be taken to the blower in a can.
The Coroner: This only shows that you have not read the rules as you should have done.
Witness: I have ben connected with mines for forty-three years, and this is the first accident I have had.

Dr. Higgs, of Dudley, described the injuries which resulted in deceased's death.

The Coroner, in summing up, said the jury would have to decide whether there was culpable negligence or not. It had been clearly proved that the rules had been disregarded, and it would be his duty to report the fact to the Home Office, and he had no doubt Mr. Scott would also take some action in the matter.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and the foreman added that they were of opinion that the under-manager was greatly to blame for giving the powder out in the way he did, and requested the Coroner to censure him.

The deputy-manager was called into Court, and the Coroner informed him of the decision of the jury.

The deputy-manager said in future he would always have the powder carried to the men in cans.

Mr. Scott remarked that he had no idea that at the present time gunpowder was carried about in a loose fashion in pits."

1891 Census

4, Pear Tree Street

[1] *John Tibbetts* (53), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Mary Tibbetts* (53), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *John Tibbetts* (25), son, victualler's assistant, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *William Tibbetts* (18), son, victualler's assistant, born Dudley:

County Advertiser 7/12/1895 - Advert

"PACK HORSE INN, Pear Tree Lane, Old Hill, Staffs.

E. H. Boilstone is instructed to Sell by Auction, at the above Address, on Tuesday Next, December 10th, a quantity of Furniture, Grocer's Fixtures, Harness, &c, comprising Mahogany Centre Table, Leaf Dining Table, Sewing Machine, Cane-seated and other Chairs, Swing Glass, Counter, Flour Scales and Weights (by Avery), Fixtures, Casks of Soda, Set of Pony Harness, Horse Collars, Chaff Machine, &c.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.

Auctioneer's Office, Old Hill."

County Advertiser 8/8/1896

"On Thursday morning Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the PACK HORSE INN, Lawrence Lane, Old Hill, respecting the death of *George Birks* (37), a bricklayer, residing in Lawrence Lane, Old Hill, who died suddenly whilst following his employment on Monday afternoon last. Mr. E. B. Marten represented the Mines Drainage Commissioners under whom deceased was employed.

Before the inquiry commenced, the coroner called the attention of the jury to the fact that the body was in a very bad state, and considering the smallness of the room in which it was lying he thought it would be well for them to dispense with the practice of viewing it. He had seen the body himself, and he considered there was sufficient evidence of identification without troubling the jury to see it. He pointed out that in an adjoining room to where the body was lying, his wife was very ill, and he thought what he had suggested was the wisest course to pursue. A mortuary in that district was most necessary. He had been in communication with the local authorities with regard to the erection of such a building, but up to the present nothing had been done in the matter. It was very unsafe for a body to remain in such a small house.

The jury decided not to view the body.

Edward Tranter, a foreman in the employ of the Mines Drainage Commission said he had known the deceased ten years. He was a bricklayer by trade. On Monday, the 3rd inst, deceased commenced work about six o'clock in the morning. Everything went well until about a quarter past four in the afternoon, when deceased was engaged putting some timber in a trench, when he gradually fell forward. He was employed in a trench eleven feet deep. When witness saw the deceased fall, he ran to his assistance and conveyed him into the cabin. Witness had heard deceased complain of a pain in the chest, which he thought was indigestion. For this complaint deceased said he had taken some *Mother Seigel's Syrup*. He sent for two medical men, but neither of them appeared, and deceased shortly afterwards expired. Deceased's wife had only recently been confined, and there were altogether six children left fatherless.

Police-constable *Wickstead* said the death of the deceased was reported to him about ten o'clock on Monday night. He had made every enquiry respecting the matter and had found no suspicion of any kind connected with the man's death. He had known deceased for many years, and had always considered him a healthy man. There was no mortuary, and the body had to be taken home where there is a widow and six small children. There were only two bedrooms in the house. Witness examined the body but found no marks of violence upon it.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.

The Coroner intimated that he should again communicate with the District Council asking them to build a mortuary."

John Tibbetts Jnr. married *Ada Talbot* in the 3rd quarter of 1897.

County Express 2/10/1897

"Old Hill Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

The transfer of the license of the PACKHORSE INN, Peartree Street, Old Hill, was granted to *John Tibbetts*, jun, his father retiring from the business."

1901 Census

4, Peartree Lane

- [1] *John Tibbetts* Jr. (35), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
[2] *Ada Tibbetts* (29), wife, born Rowley Regis;
[3] *Maria Brooks* (24), general servant, born Rowley Regis:

Smethwick Weekly News 22/11/1902

“Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest yesterday at the PACK HORSE INN, Pear Tree Lane, Old Hill, regarding the death of Henry Homer (47), chainmaker, formerly living at Lawrence Lane, Old Hill, who committed suicide by hanging himself at his home on Thursday morning. The evidence showed that for several years past deceased had suffered from severe pains in his stomach, and had been heard by his step-son (William Davies) to say that he wished he was dead. Recently he had not followed his usual occupation, and on Thursday morning a neighbour named Ellen Birks discovered deceased hanging from the bedsteads in his bedroom, a silk handkerchief being tied round his neck. Deceased was quickly cut down, but death had taken place. The jury returned a verdict of Suicide whilst of Unsound Mind.”

Tipton Herald 6/11/1909

“The PACK HORSE INN, Old Hill, and the dwelling houses adjoining, the property of Mr. *John Tibbetts*, where for 30 years Mr. *Tibbetts* and his late father have carried on business, was, on Wednesday evening, in the clubroom at the VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill, offered for sale by public auction by Mr. Albert E. Sidaway, auctioneer, of Cradley Heath. Messrs T. Cooksey and Co., Old Hill and Blackheath, were the solicitors for the vendor. There was a very large attendance. Bidding commenced at £2,000 and at £2,760 the lot was knocked down to a representative of Cheshire’s Brewery Co.”

County Express 2/4/1910 - Advert

“Sale of Brewing Plant, at the PACK HORSE INN, Old Hill.

A. H. Sidaway is favoured with instructions from Messrs. Cheshire Brewery, Ltd., to Sell by Auction, on Wednesday, April 6th, 1910, the Valuable Brewing Plant and Effects, comprising Botts Improved Refrigerator, with Drainer and Fittings, 2ft 11in, by 2ft 6in; Wort Pump, Mash Rule and Ladle, Copper-bottom Sieves, Wort Banjo, Hop Press, Bushel Measure, Two Collecting Vessels (about 320 gallons and 90 gallons), Two Copper Attemperators, Barm Tubs and Skimmers, Racking Taps, Eleven well-made 60-gallon Casks, Six 120-gallon Casks, Two 100-gallon Casks, Two 30-gallon Casks, Eleven Wine and Spirit Casks, Finings Machine (Barrel Size), equal to new; Five Finings Barrels, Perforated False Bottom to Copper, Malt Mill, Scoop, Steelyards (up to 3cwt), Horizontal Boiler 7ft 6in by 2ft 6in, 20-Round Ladder, and numerous other Effects.

Sale to commence at 11 o’clock.

Auctioneer’s Office: Cradley Heath.”

Alfred Bowkley was also an undertaker.

County Express 23/12/1911 - Advert

“Servant (good) Wanted, about 18 to 20 years, to assist in bar; one used to the trade preferred.

Apply, Mrs. *A. Bowkley*, PACK HORSE INN, Old Hill.”

Dudley Chronicle 8/11/1913

“*Alfred Bowkley*, PACK HORSE INN, Old Hill, applied for a copy of a license which had been lost, and this was granted by the Bench.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 13/11/1915 - Advert

“Bar General Wanted, about 18; one used to Business preferred; references required.

Apply, Mrs. *A. Bowkley*, PACK HORSE INN, Old Hill.”

It had a cricket team. [1920s]

County Express 22/10/1921

“Mr. G. C. Lewis (coroner) held an inquest at the PACK HORSE INN, Old Hill, on Thursday, relative to the death of John Whyley (67), blacksmith, of Lawrence Lane, who died on Monday following a fall at his home on the 7th inst.

It was sated that deceased had a fainting turn and made an endeavor to go into the yard, but he collapsed in the doorway, and it subsequently transpired that he had broken his left thigh.

Dr. A. W. Tibbetts said death was due to congestion of the lungs as a result of the man’s confinement in bed.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

George Thomas Owen was christened Thomas George Owen.

He was born in Hereford in 1878.

He was known as Tommy.

He married Florence Annie Green (d. 23rd June 1944) in 1903.

They had previously managed the Laurels in Hockley and the Salmon in Edgbaston.

He died on 3rd August 1957.

1939 Register

6, Peartree Lane – PACK HORSE INN

- [1] *George Thomas Owen*, date of birth 18/8/1878, publican, married;
- [2] Florence A. Owen, dob 27/3/1881, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] Charlotte Barnsley, dob 22/4/1911, bar general, single:

Frank Miles – see also OLD COURT HOUSE, Tipton.

John Hatfield was married to Jessie.

The license was transferred by Ordinary Removal to the TIMBERTREE c.1960s
Closed
Demolished

PACK HORSE

(Lower) Rowley Village, ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Hannah Hingley [1834]
Benjamin Pearson [1849] – [1850]
Mary Maria Pearson [] – 1858;
Joseph Barnsley (1858 – []

PAINTERS ARMS

High Street, Four Ways, CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

LICENSEES

James Davis [1852] – [1865]

NOTES

James Davis = James Davies

Worcestershire Chronicle 21/4/1852

“On Wednesday, the members of the Free and Easy Club, held at the PAINTERS ARMS, Cradley Heath, met together and dined at the above house. The dinner was served up in a style that did credit to Mr. and Mrs. *Davies*. After the removal of the cloth, the chairman, Mr. W. Wiltshire, and vice-chairman, Mr. Martin, of Dudley, proposed the usual loyal toasts, and Mr. W. Jones then made a good speech in promotion of the objects of the club, which are harmony among themselves and good will to their neighbours. The evening was spent in the most pleasant manner, and the party gave a hearty vote of thanks, with musical honours, to Mr. and Mrs. *Davies*, for the manner in which they had provided for the comforts of the club.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 7/7/1852

“On Wednesday last the members of the Reading Society held at the PAINTERS ARMS, Cradley Heath, with those of the Harmonic Club, met together and dined. The dinner was served up in a style which conferred great credit upon Mr. and Mrs. *Davies*, the host and hostess. After the removal of the cloth the usual loyal toasts, with a great number of other sentiments, recitations, speeches, and songs, were given, and the party passed a very pleasant afternoon together. A hearty vote of thanks was given to the landlord and landlady for the manner in which they had provided for the comfort of the society. Mr. Wm. Kendrick presided as chairman, and Mr. H. Talbot as vice-chairman. The society has not been established above three months, yet they are enabled to

purchase ten newspapers every week, and numbers at the present time upwards of 30 subscribers.”

Worcester Journal 24/3/1855

“Cradley Heath Reading and Harmonic Society.

The members and friends of the No.2 Money Society, held at the PAINTERS ARMS INN, Cradley Heath, to the number of forty, dined together on Monday last, to commemorate the re-establishment of the Reading and Harmonic Society, held at the above house, which has been re-opened after having been suspended for some time, and now numbers more than twenty members. Under the presidency of Mr. W. Wiltshire, a very agreeable evening was spent.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/8/1855

“Stewponey Annual General Licensing Meeting, for the granting and renewing of licenses, took place on Tuesday last.....

There were 30 applicants for spirit licenses, out of which number the 11 under-mentioned were successful.....

James Davis, PAINTERS ARMS, Rowley Regis.”

Worcester Journal 26/1/1856

“Dudley Petty Sessions.....

William Jones, a young man, residing at Cradley, was charged with obtaining, under false pretences, from Messrs. Cartwrights’ porter stores, High Street, a barrel of ale. Mr. Cartwright, jun, stated that prisoner came to their rooms on the 1st December last, and ordered a barrel of ale to be sent to Mr. *Davies*’s, the PAINTERS ARMS, Cradley; but, in consequence of prosecutor’s man being out, it was not then sent; and, in the evening of the same day, prisoner called for it himself, with a horse and cart. Mr. Cartwright, soon after Christmas, called on Mr. *Davies* with the account, and it was then found out that the ale had not been ordered by him, and he knew nothing about it. The prisoner was also charged with stealing a tub, a wheelbarrow, and two cast-iron wheels, the property of Mr. Stephens, of Great Barr. Mr. C. Baker and Mr. Trueman, of New Town, brokers, proved that the prisoner had sold the different articles to them just before Christmas. The prisoner made no defence, and was committed for trial on both charges.”

Worcester Journal 8/3/1856

“Worcestershire Adjoined Epiphany Sessions Pleaded Guilty.....

William Jones, 26, charcoal burner, to stealing two iron wheels, two wheelbarrows, and a tub, at Dudley, the property of John Stephen Joseph. There was another charge of obtaining ale by false pretences against the prisoner, which was withdrawn. Four months’ hard labour.”

County Advertiser 26/9/1857

“Mr. Smith, solicitor, of Dudley Port, applied, on behalf of *James Davies*, Cradley Heath, for a renewal of the license of the house which he formerly kept at that place, called the PAINTERS ARMS. Granted.”

Brierley Hill Advertiser 28/8/1858

“To be Sold Privately, all that Old Licensed Public House and Premises, at the Four Ways, Cradley Heath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, having a frontage of eleven yards to the highway leading from the Four Ways to the Five Ways, consisting of four rooms on the ground floor, five bed rooms, stabling, coach house, yard, shopping and premises in the occupation of *James Davis*.

Apply to Mr. Homer, Solicitor, Brierley Hill.”

1861 Census

High Street

[1] *James Davis* (55), plumber and glazier, born Ashperton, Herefordshire;

[2] Eliza Davis (47), wife, born Cradley;

[3] James Davis (22), son, painter, born Cradley;

[4] Eliza Davis (19), daughter, scholar, born City of Worcester;

[5] Leah Davis (17), daughter, scholar, born City of Worcester;

[6] Thomas Edwin Davis (12), son, painter, born Rowley;

[7] Benjamin Davis (10), son, scholar, born Rowley;

[8] Ellen Davis (3), daughter, scholar, born Rowley;

[9] William Stringer (18), servant in trade, born Ludlow, Shropshire;

[10] William Barnett (26), visitor, stage manager, born Bradford, Yorkshire;

[11] Elizabeth Barnett (23), visitor, born Piccadilly, London:

James Davies was also a painter, glazier etc. [1864], [1865]

County Advertiser 7/1/1865 - Advert

“PAINTERS ARMS INN, High Street, Cradley Heath.

To be Let, with immediate possession, the above Old-licensed Inn. It contains good Front Liquor Shop, Front and Back Parlours and Kitchen, on ground floor; Club Room, and Five lofty Bed Rooms over same; and excellent dry Cellaring under the whole House; also, roomy Brewhouse, Stabling, Yard, &c. Being double-fronted, it is well adapted for two trades. Has not changed hands during the past twelve years. A few Fixtures and Plant only to be taken to.

Apply to Mr. Chandler, Auctioneer, Cradley Heath.”

PEACOCK

Providence Street, Four Ways, CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Eliza Davies [1861]
Joseph Davis [1867]
William Weaver [1869]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

1861 Census

Darby and Pargeters Colliery

- [1] *Eliza Davies* (32), married, beerhouse keeper, born Rowley;
- [2] *Louisa Bridgwater* (15), daughter, chainmaker, born Rowley;
- [3] *Charles Bridgwater* (12), son, chainmaker, born Rowley;
- [4] *Hannah Bridgwater* (10), daughter, scholar, born Rowley;
- [5] *Joseph Davies* (2), son, born Rowley;
- [6] *Alfred Ganet* (21), boarder, chainmaker, born Rowley;
- [7] *John Pillow* (18), boarder, chainmaker, born Kingswinford;
- [8] *Elizabeth Jasper* (22), house servant, born Cradley;

Stourbridge Observer 7/9/1867

“*Joseph Davis*, of the PEACOCK INN, Cradley Heath, was charged by Superintendent Mills with refusing to admit the police on the night of the 30th ult. From the evidence of Police-constables Shenstone and Marriott, they heard a noise in the defendant’s house of some persons talking. Witnesses rapped at the door, and were refused admittance. They went away and returned in ten minutes, and the door was then open. Fined 10s and costs.”

Stourbridge Observer 14/12/1867

“*Joseph Davis*, landlord of the PEACOCK INN, Cradley Heath, was charged by Superintendent Mills with refusing to admit the police on the night of the 1st inst.

Police-sergeant Powner said that he was at the defendant’s house after one o’clock at night. He heard voices, and rapped at the door. They refused to let him in. He afterwards saw seven persons get over the wall at the back of the house, and the door was then opened. When witness rapped at the door, he cried out, ‘Police.’ Defendant has been fined 10s and costs for a similar offence within the last six months.

Defendant, in answer to the charge, said that he opened the door in less than a minute after the officer rapped. Fined 40s and costs.”

County Advertiser 7/12/1867

“At the Police Court, Old Hill, on Wednesday, before Messrs. Moore and Barrs, a young man named John Siviter, a collier, residing at Reddal Hill, was charged with unlawfully assaulting *Hannah Bridgwater*, with intent to commit a rape. The complainant, who is about twenty years of age, stated that she lived with her stepfather, at the PEACOCK beerhouse, Cradley Heath. On the previous Saturday night, about twelve o’clock, she left her father’s house to go to Old Hill in search of her brother. She did not find him, and in about half an hour started home again. When near the Four Ways, the defendant jumped suddenly upon her, caught hold of her round the neck, and attempted to throw her down. After a short struggle, witness was thrown to the ground, and the defendant then attempted the serious offence with which he was charged. Prisoner several times told her that he would take her life if he failed to effect his purpose. Witness struggled to the best of her ability, and screamed ‘Murder.’ The struggle lasted about a quarter of an hour, when a watchman, named Clarke, came up and pulled prisoner away from witness. Some of the underclothes witness wore at the time were produced in Court, and their torn condition unmistakably showed that the struggle was of a very severe nature.

The Bench asked if Clarke was in attendance to give evidence.

Sergeant Powner replied that he (Clarke) had been threatened with violence if he gave evidence.

An officer was sent in search of Clarke, but as he was not forthcoming, the Bench ordered a summons to be issued to warrant his presence in Court.

The case was then adjourned till next week, prisoner being admitted to bail.”

County Advertiser 14/12/1867

“At the Police Court, on Wednesday, John Siviter, collier, of Reddal Hill surrendered to his bail on a charge of unlawfully assaulting a young woman named Hannah Bridgwater, on the morning of the 1st inst. Mr. Burbury was for the defence.

The circumstances of the case, which were of a very aggravated nature, were detailed in the columns of the *Advertiser* last week, and it is therefore unnecessary to recapitulate them here. The adjournment was made in order that a man named Clarke should be summoned to give evidence. On Wednesday Clarke deposed that he heard screams of ‘Murder’ at the time in question, and on running to the spot from whence they proceeded, he found the prosecutrix on the ground, and the prisoner beside her.

Police-constable Shenstone also gave evidence to the effect that when he apprehended prisoner he made a statement tantamount to an admission of his guilt.

Mr. Burbury cross-examined the prosecutrix and the other witnesses with considerable skill, but did not shake their testimony in any material point.

Witnesses were heard for the defence, whose evidence principally went to show that prosecutrix and prisoner had previously been on intimate terms. This, however, was stoutly denied by the prosecutrix.

The Bench committed the prisoner for trial at the Sessions.”

County Advertiser 4/1/1868

“Staffordshire Sessions.

John Siviter (20), miner, was sent to prison for three months, for criminally assaulting Hannah Bridgwater, on the 1st of December, at Cradley Heath.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/8/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for Rowley Regis division was held on Friday, at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill.

Mr. Mills, in his report of the beerhouses, said the houses of *William Weaver*, PEACOCK, Cradley Heath were disorderly.”

County Advertiser 19/2/1870 - Advert

“Providence Street, Four Ways, Cradley Heath. Business Dwelling House and Premises.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Hawkins, on Tuesday, March 1st, 1870, at the house of Mr. Weston, VICTORIA INN, Dudley Wood, Cradley Heath, at Six o’clock in the Evening, subject to conditions then to be read.

All that substantially-built, roomy Dwelling House and Premises, situate in Providence Street, formerly used as a public house, and known as the PEACOCK INN, comprising Front Tap Room, Bar, large Kitchen, Three Bed Rooms, large Club Room, Cellar, Brewhouse, Two Chain Shops, with five hearths; large walled-in Yard, with pair of entrance gates; and Pumps of Hard and Soft Water, in the occupation of *William Weaver*.

Further particulars may be obtained from Mr. Thomas Homer, Solicitor, Brierley Hill and Colley Gate; or to the Auctioneer, Brierley Hill.”

PEAR TREE

40, (31), Cherry Orchard, OLD HILL

OWNERS

Richard Pearson

Daniel, Harry, and Ernest Hackett, Old Hill

Ernest Hackett

Wilfred Pritchard (acquired on 10th March 1939)

Ansells Ltd. (acquired on 12th December 1947)

LICENSEES

John Pearson [1860] – [1881]

Mrs. Elizabeth Pearson [1891] – [1901]

Richard Pearson [1911] – **1926**;

Ernest Hackett (**1926 – 1933**);

Wilfred ‘Freddie’ Pritchard (**1933 – 1959**);

Kezia Pritchard (**1959 – 1963**);

June Sheila Tilley (**1963 – 1965**);

Robert Wallace (1965 – []

NOTES

It was known locally as “Freddie’s”.

It was near the Lion Colliery.

It had an ante '69 beerhouse license.

1861 Census

Cherry Orchard

- [1] *John Pearson* (39), charter master, born Dudley;
- [2] *Elizabeth Pearson* (39), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] *Richard Pearson* (15), son, coal miner, born Dudley;
- [4] Sarah Pearson (12), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Elizabeth Pearson (9), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] John Pearson (8), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Ann Pearson (6), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] Joseph Pearson (4), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [9] Ellen Pearson (3), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [10] William Pearson (1), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [11] James Pearson (2 months), son, born Rowley Regis;

County Advertiser 30/3/1867 - Advert

“Cherry Orchard, Old Hill, Rowley Regis.

To Charter Masters, Hauliers, and Others.

Mr. Chandler will Sell by Auction, on Wednesday Next, April 3rd, 1867, at Eleven o'clock, a large quantity of Pit Tools, Twenty-three Wood Skips, 22in gauge; Ninety-five Iron Rings, Blacksmiths' Anvil, 3cwt 1qr 3lbs; Bellows, Vice and Tools, Six active Draught Horses, Seven Sets Gearing, Horse Net, Chaff Engine, an excellent Two-horse power Steam Engine, and other valuable Effects, removed for convenience of Sale to the premises of Mr. *John Pearson*, Cherry Orchard aforesaid, by the direction of Messrs. John and James Pearson, who have completed their contract at the Eagle Colliery, Powke Lane, and have no further use for the same.”

1871 Census

Cherry Orchard

- [1] *John Pearson* (48), miner and beer retailer, born Dudley;
- [2] *Elizabeth Pearson* (49), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] John Pearson (18), son, miner, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Ann Pearson (16), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Joseph Pearson (14), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Ellen Pearson (12), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] William Pearson (11), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] James Pearson (10), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [9] Mary Pearson (8), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [10] Margaret Pearson (5), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [11] Tamar Pearson (3), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

Dudley Herald 4/11/1876

“On Wednesday night a representative meeting of colliers was held at the PEAR TREE INN, Old Hill. After several speeches, the following resolutions were unanimously carried: ‘That in the opinion of this meeting the masters have dealt unjustly with the miners of the district, in not giving them the advance asked for.’ (2) ‘That in the opinion of this meeting the colliers should pledge themselves in connection with other districts, to agitate until they have the advance.’ (3) ‘That the meeting pledges itself to carry out the above resolutions.’

On Thursday night there was a similar meeting at Great Bridge.”

Dudley Herald 12/4/1879

“Worcestershire Easter Quarter Sessions.....

Albert Wheeler was charged with stealing 19s in money, on the 15th February, the property of Isaacher Allfot and others, and on the same day stealing £1 0s 2d, the money of Isaacher Allfot. Mr. Streeten prosecuted; Mr. Selfe defended.

In November, 1878, the men of the New British Iron Company, Old Hill, were out of work, and the members of the Miners' Union of the Old Hill district determined to raise a fund for assisting them by subscriptions. A meeting was held at the PEAR TREE public house, Old Hill, which is kept by Mr. *John Pearson*, who became treasurer of the fund. Persons were appointed to visit dif-

ferent collieries in the district and receive subscriptions. The prisoner, who was one of the men out of work, received a collecting book on the 6th February, and he visited several pits where he received the money he was now charged with stealing, he not having paid it over to the committee or anyone else.

Mr. Selfe, for the prisoner, contended that there was no case to go to the jury if they took it in the terms of the indictment.

The Chairman said that embezzlement could be substituted for larceny. A long legal argument ensued as to whether prisoner was a servant in the employ of the prosecutor, Mr. Selfe contending he was not, but a member of the committee exercising certain functions. On the other hand Mr. Streeten maintained that he was a servant of Mr. *Pearson*.

Prisoner was found guilty of embezzlement as a beneficial owner, and he was sentenced to six months' hard labour."

1881 Census

31, Cherry Orchard

- [1] *John Pearson* (58), beer seller, born Dudley;
- [2] Elizabeth Pearson (59), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] Mary Pearson (18), daughter, nail maker, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Margaret Pearson (15), daughter, nail maker, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Mary S. Griffiths (4), grand-daughter, born Rowley Regis:

1891 Census

31, Cherry Orchard – PEAR TREE INN

- [1] *Elizabeth Pearson* (69), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Dudley;
- [2] Margaret Egan (25), visitor, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Joseph Easthope (15), grand-son, coal miner, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Francis S. Egan (7 months), visitor, no birthplace given:

1901 Census

31, Cherry Orchard

- [1] *Elizabeth Pearson* (79), widow, publican, born Dudley;
- [2] Sarah Pearson (11), grand-daughter, born Old Hill;
- [3] Joseph Pearson (8), grand-son, born Old Hill;
- [4] May Easthope (9), grand-daughter, born Cradley:

Elizabeth Pearson died in the 1st quarter of 1902.

1911 Census

40, Cherry Orchard

- [1] *Richard Pearson* (65), beerhouse keeper, born Netherton;
- [2] Rachel Pearson (60), wife, married 41 years, assistant in the business, born Tividale;
- [3] Gertrude Pearson (24), daughter, assistant in the business, born Stambermill;
- [4] William Ewart Pearson (18), son, catcher to gun barrel maker, born Stambermill:

Dudley Chronicle 26/8/1911

"A meeting of the Old Hill Parade Committee was held on Thursday last week at the BRITISH OAK. Mr. Sam Edwards was in the chair, and Mr. M. Bagley was vice-chairman. It was resolved that the offer of the Rev. C. L. Tack to conduct a service in the Tabernacle on behalf of the parade on September 3rd be accepted, and also the offer of Councillor Fry to preside at the organ. Messrs. Edwards and Partridge were deputed to arrange with two artistes to give their services.

Dr. Tibbetts is to be asked to preside.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Tom Edge for his excellent services in regard to the flower stalls, a similar compliment being accorded Inspector Needham and his staff.

The 5s prize for the best turnout at the parade was won by the PEAR TREE Sick and Draw Club, and Mr. J. H. Taylor, who received it on their behalf, handed it over to the funds."

Richard Pearson, beer retailer, 40, Cherry Orchard. [1924]

1939 Register

40, Cherry Orchard

- [1] *Wilfred Pritchard*, date of birth 22/11/1900, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] Kezia Pritchard, dob 18/7/1901, domestic duties, unpaid, married;
- [4] June S. (Pritchard) Tilley, dob 16/12/1934, at school, single:

Wilfred 'Freddie' Pritchard was married to *Kezia* (Kitty).

It was featured in a TV documentary entitled 'Joe, the Chainmaker'.

A publicans license was granted on 4th March 1953, and confirmed on 24th April 1953.

Closed

It was demolished in 1968.

PEAR TREE

6, (2), Mincing Lane, ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

Archdeacon Crump, Church Stretton
Ansells Ltd. (acquired on 25th April 1934)

LICENSEES

William Merriss [1859] – **1878**);
Richard Merriss (**1878 – 1907**);
Mrs. Martha Merriss (**1907 – [1912]**)
Joseph Mallin [1919] – **1926**);
William Taylor (**1926 – 1934**);
William Chilton (**1934 – 1946**);
Frederick Richard Mason (**1946 – 1949**);
Harry Herbert Sutton (**1949 – 1952**);
Bert Southall (**1952 – [1965]**)
Carol Burke [1991]
Terence James Burke [1994]

NOTES

OLD PEAR TREE [1864], [1870], [1872]
PEAR TREE [1861], [1940]

It had an ante '69 beerhouse license.

William Merriss = William Merris

Black Country Bugle (1983)

'Memories Of Holt Farm' by Kathleen Moyle-Shinon

“.....You mention the OLD PEAR TREE INN which was situated in Mincing Lane and was kept by my uncle, Mr. *William Merriss* and also the Harrolds, William and Martha Harrold being my grandparents I discovered that *William Merriss* farmed 50 acres at the PEAR TREE INN in 1861. It was NOT formerly Holt Farm My great grandmother Harrold was a sister of *William Merriss*.”

Black Country Bugle

'The Old Whiteheath Pear Tree'

“.....Despite such intensive farming activity, Mr. Edward Harrold, born at Holt Farm, 74 years ago, still remembers hay making and other rural activities there. One of his earliest tasks was to fetch cider from his aunt Martha at the OLD PEAR TREE to quench the thirst of field labourers at harvest time. In his mother's time, Holt Farm possessed no running water and she had the daily task of carrying whatever was needed in the household from Mincing Lane Wells (opposite the PEAR TREE).....”

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.....

William Merris, beerseller, two quart and three pint deficient measures, 2s 6d and costs.”

William Merris, retailer of beer, Mincing Lane. [1862]

William Merriss, beer retailer, Mincing Lane. [1864], [1865]

He was only described as a farmer. [1861]

1861 Census

Mincing Lane

- [1] *William Merris* (49), farmer of 20 acres and beerhouse keeper, born Oldbury;
- [2] Rebecca Merris (53), wife, born Halesowen;
- [3] Mary Merris (23), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Elizabeth Merris (20), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Richard Merris* (17), son, born Rowley Regis;

William Merriss was described as a farmer and beer retailer, Mincing Lane. [1868], [1870], [1872]

Stourbridge Observer 10/8/1867

“A fatal accident occurred on the 2nd inst, to a youth named Thomas Robins, aged fifteen. It appears that deceased was a collier, and worked in the Rowley Hill Colliery. On the above date he was at work down the pit, when a fall of coal took place, and so injured him that he died in ten minutes after the occurrence. The poor fellow was got up out of the pit and taken home. An inquest was held on Monday last at the PEAR TREE INN, Mincing Lane, on the body, before W. H. Phillips, Esq, Coroner. Mr. Baker, the Mining Inspector, was present in consequence of having received an anonymous letter, as to the state the pit was in. He said that he had been down the pit in consequence of receiving that letter, and found that the contents of that letter were untrue. He considered the pit to be in proper working order. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1871 Census

Mincing Lane

- [1] *William Merris* (59), farmer of 23 acres, employing 1 man and 1 boy, and publican, born Oldbury;
- [2] Rebecca Merris (63), wife, born Halesowen;
- [3] Phoebe Merris (21), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Ellen Levett (7), grand-daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Ann Knight (15), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 24/8/1878

“An inquest was held on Wednesday, by Mr. E. Hooper, at the PEAR TREE INN, Mincing Lane, Rowley, touching the death of a pikeman, named Edward Robinson, aged 38. Deceased was employed at the Yew Tree Colliery, and on Monday night, a little before eight o’clock, he was engaged with another miner, named Perks in excavating a small ‘inset’, 75 yards below the surface of a water pit, a cage being hung from the top on a level with the place. In order that descent might be made into another shaft the cage was drawn up, and the deceased and his companion being busily engaged with their work apparently forgot this fact. They pushed a tub laden with earth to the cage as they thought, and the deceased, who was nearest, before he could recover himself, the tub over-balanced and fell, carrying him with it. Deceased fell a distance of more than two hundred yards into a deep ‘sump’ filled with water. It was some time after the accident before the body could be recovered. After hearing the evidence, the jury were satisfied that no blame attached to anyone but the deceased himself, and a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

County Advertiser 9/11/1878 - Advert

“PEAR TREE INN, Mincing Lane, Rowley Regis.

Mr. E. Smart is instructed to Sell by Auction, on Wednesday, November 20th, 1878, the Farming Stock, Household Furniture, and Effects, belonging to the Representatives of the late Mr. *William Merris*, including 5 capital Shorthorn Dairy Cows, Root Pulper, Chaff Engine, Spring Trap, Tables, Chairs, Clocks, Bedsteads, Chests of Drawers, capital Mangle, Dairy Requisites, and numerous other Effects.

Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock sharp.

Catalogues may be obtained of the Auctioneer, Halesowen.”

County Express 25/12/1880

“An inquest was held at the PEAR TREE INN on Wednesday last, on the body of Richard Cole, collier, Mincing Lane, Blackheath. The deceased was in the employ of the Rowley Station Colliery Company. A few weeks ago he broke a blood vessel in trying to lift a tub, and was supposed to have died from the effects. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the evidence.”

1881 Census

2, Mincing Lane – PEAR TREE INN

- [1] *Richard Merris* (37), farmer (57 acres), born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Elizabeth Merris (35), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] William Merris (11), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Mary Merris (9), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] William Emmings (18), farm labourer, born Kings Norton;
- [6] Mary Ann Baker (18), farm labourer, born Warley Wigorn:

County Express 10/7/1886

“Considerable excitement and curiosity have been occasioned lately in the neighbourhood of White Heath, Black Heath, and Rowley, owing to the spreading of a report that claimants to the Shenstone estates have been discovered in the humbler walks of life in that locality. The story, which certainly has a touch of romance about it, is to the effect that recently, owing to certain information which was published concerning the Court of Chancery, some important documents have been discovered in the possession of a descendant of the renowned Shenstone family. A number of people, living at the present time at White Heath and Rowley, claim relationship to Phillis Shenstone, who resided many years ago at the PEAR TREE, in Mincing Lane. A notice in the *Daily Post* respecting the Court of Chancery, in which it is said the name of Shenstone appeared, was the cause of the enquiry being instituted. According to the family legend a Mr. Isaac Parkes, who died at Rowley about fourteen years ago, told some of his relatives immediately before his death that the Shenstone Walks were left to them, and that they would find the will and deeds of the property in a family Bible. Mr. Joseph Parkes, of Rowley, appears to have been in possession of this family Bible, which on being searched recently yielded up some rather curious documents, and which are now forming the subject of a strict investigation. Sewn up between the title page and the cover of this Bible were found what is supposed to be a copy of this will and two sheets of old parchment. The writing is almost obliterated, and although various means have been tried it cannot be deciphered. Mr. Joseph Hadley, nailer, of Rowley, and Mr. Samuel Dingley, labourer of White Heath, whose wife is interested in the matter, are making enquiries, and efforts are being put forth to obtain an interpretation of the mysterious writings. A Birmingham solicitor has been consulted, and the Rev. F. Keatch, vicar of Black Heath has also taken great interest in the case, and has been to London for the purpose of investigating it. Efforts are now being made to procure the certificates of the birth and marriage of Phillis Shenstone, and it is expected that these will prove valuable in tracing the lineage. The parties concerned are very sanguine that the strange documents just brought to light will turn out to be authentic.”

1891 Census

6, Mincing Lane

- [1] *Richard Merris* (47), farmer, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Elizabeth Merris (45), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] William Merris (21), son, farmer, born Halesowen;
- [4] Ada Merris (4), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Julia Cotterill (48), domestic servant nurse, born Oldbury;
- [6] Rebecca Brookes (19), general servant, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] James Bennett (23), farm labourer, born Stow in the Wold, Gloucestershire;
- [8] William Jordan (22), farm labourer, born Hartlebury, Worcestershire:

Richard Merriss, farmer and beer retailer, Mincing Lane. [1896], [1900], [1904]

County Advertiser 18/3/1899

“On Wednesday afternoon Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest at the PEAR TREE INN, Blackheath, on Ann Westwood (60), late of Mincing Lane, and who died suddenly on Sunday night. A girl named Sarah Cole stated that she went with deceased to Whiteheath. When coming back she seemed to be very ill, and stopped to rest twice, the last time on a doorstep. Eventually she had to be carried home, and died shortly afterwards. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

1901 Census

6, Mincing Lane – PEAR TREE INN

- [1] *Richard Merris* (57), farmer, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Martha Merris* (46), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] Ada Merris (14), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Louisa Longhurst (23), domestic servant, born Worcester;
- [5] Charles Dix (24), carter on farm, born Oxfordshire;
- [6] Ernest Shaw (18), cowman on farm, born Staffordshire:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/9/1903

“Mr. H. A. Pearson (South Staffordshire Coroner) held an inquest at the PEAR TREE INN, Whiteheath, Rowley Regis, relative to the death of Thomas Carter (61), who had died from injuries received at the Rowley Hall Colliery.

The deceased had for some time past been employed as a banksman in the colliery, and on the 14th ult he assisted several other men to remove a boiler plate weighing about 5cwt. He subsequently complained that he had strained himself, and made a remark to the effect that he did not consider some of the boiler men free from blame. On the 17th ult he was attended by Dr. Freer, who found him bruised about the shoulders and suffering from spinal meningitis and paralysis. He died on the 23rd inst.

In reply to Mr. Atkinson, the Government Inspector of Coal Mines, Ricard Stokes, a boilermaker, stated that there was no doubt the deceased from the position in which he stood had to bear a large proportion of the weight, and if he had ‘let go’ it would no doubt have fallen on his feet. The men were not to blame for the accident.

The jury exonerated the men who assisted the deceased in removing the plate, and returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

County Advertiser 26/1/1907

“The following licenses of public houses in the division were transferred.....

PEAR TREE INN, Mincing Lane, Rowley, from *Richard Merris* (deceased) to *Martha Merris*.”

1911 Census

6, Mincing Lane

[1] *Martha Merris* (59), widow, publican, born Cradley;

[2] Charles Rogers (18), farm labourer, born Darlaston:

Mrs. *Martha Merriss*, beer retailer and brewer, Mincing Lane. [1912]

Joseph Mallin, licensed retailer of ale, beer, porter, cider and tobacco to be consumed on the premises.

He died in 1956.

His son Joseph was killed on the first day [21st March 1918] of the Second Battle of the Somme, whilst serving with the Worcestershire Regiment.

William Taylor, Pear Tree Farm, in August 1926, was fined £10, together with £2 17s costs, for selling milk that contained 9.41 per cent of added water.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/11/1930

“The generous support which workpeople have given to the *Birmingham Gazette* and *Evening Despatch* Norton Canes Pit Disaster Fund found another expression yesterday in a donation of £50 from the sick, dividend and benevolent society of the employees of Verity’s Limited, of Plume Street, Aston.

With collections and raffles other bodies of workpeople continue to show a practical sympathy for the dependants of the 14 miners who lost their lives.

The Subscription List. Previously Acknowledged, £2,257 7s 0d.

Customer, PEAR TREE INN, Mincing Lane, Blackheath, £1 4s 0d.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 2/5/1936

“A change in the habits of women drinking, who, it was stated, now preferred wine to beer and stout was a reason for the increase in the number of applications for wine licenses, when the County Licensing Confirmation Committee met at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Tuesday. Sir William Goodwin (Chairman) presided. Of the 18 applications heard by the Committee, seven were in respect of wine licenses.

PEAR TREE INN, Mincing Lane, Rowley Regis.

Announcing that the applications were confirmed, the Chairman said they were all very much on the same lines – that ladies required wine, and he supposed they had to meet modern necessities.”

Closed

Demolished

It was rebuilt in 1938.

An Ordinary Removal of a Publican’s License from the MINERS ARMS, Tividale, was granted on 2nd March 1938, and confirmed on 17th May 1938.

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/5/1938

“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 licence. 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.”

1939 Register

6, Mincing Lane

[1] *William Chilton*, date of birth 7/7/1897, licensed victualler, ARP warden, married;

[2] Ellen B. Chilton, dob 12/12/1901, bar general, married;

[4] Mary Pritchard, dob 17/8/1910, bar general, single;

Birmingham Mail 5/12/1942 - Advert

“Bar General or Barmaid to live in or out modern house good home.

PEAR TREE, Mincing Lane, Black Heath.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/6/1944 - Advert

“Bar General Wtd. refs. essential.

PEAR TREE INN, Mincing Lane, Blackheath.”

Frederick Richard Mason - see also PHEASANT, Smethwick.

Bert Southall was married to Winifred.

Birmingham Daily Post 25/9/1968

“It is no use, if you happen to be pursuing a definition of grorty pudding, asking Winifred *Southall* if it looks like stew and hoping to get away with it. ‘Stew? Oooh, no! Sometimes it’s so thick you can cut it with a knife!’ My question, tendered in a spirit of innocent inquiry, yielded a harvest of consternation. For Winifred *Southall*, genial priestess of the grorty puddin’ revival, such a comparison was not to be contemplated.

At the PEAR TREE INN, Blackheath, near Birmingham, where her husband has been the licensee for the last 16 years, tonight is Grorty Puddin’ Night. From all over the Black Country, 100 citizens with a taste for tradition will be arriving to sample a dish of which very little has been heard for something like 40 years. Winifred *Southall* is in charge of the preparations, which she is carrying out on behalf of the Black Country Society.

Grorty puddin’ is a matter of minced beef, breast of lamb, onions, parsnips and leeks. And, of course, the groats which give it its name. With 100 grorty puddin’ fanciers poised to swoop, you enlist the services of the biggest cooking pot you can lay your hands on, feed it the mixture, bring it to the boil and keep it simmering as long and as slowly as you can. Then, having spent most of the day stirring it with a wooden spoon which is longer than your arm, you serve it virtually red hot. Winifred *Southall*’s grorty puddin’ will have been cooking for about 11 hours by the time tonight’s investigators are poised behind their sampling bowls. Grorty puddin’ goes deep into Black Country history, but changing times have made it one of life’s imponderables as far as anybody under 40 is concerned.

Winifred *Southall*’s early memories are of grorty puddin’ on Bonfire Night every year at home in Stourbridge, where she was one of a family of 13 children. ‘It’s nice,’ she says, ‘It’s different.’ Nobody, I imagine, is arguing.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/6/1969

“The Black Country Society will be holding a ‘traditional dress’ evening at the PEAR TREE INN, Mincing Lane, Blackheath tonight.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/6/1969

“The last of the chainmakers, 69-year-old Mrs. Lucy Woodhall, of Old Hill, (centre), visits the Black Country’s social evening at the PEAR TREE INN, Blackheath, last night and recalls the ‘7am until 7pm and 7 till 2 on Saturdays for 4s per week’ days. She now works for Samuel Woodhouse, Eagle Chainworks, Cradley Heath. Amongst the members of the society talking to Mrs. Woodhall, is the President, Dr. John Fletcher (left).”

Sandwell Evening Mail 2/10/1991- Advert

“New Restaurant Opening Betty Kittens. The PEAR TREE, Mincing Lane, Rowley Regis. Persons with continental experience require. Are you professional with finesse and flair? The following male or female staff are required: 1 Wine Butler, 1 Head Waiter, 2 Chef de Rang, 1 Demi Chef. If so please contact Mr. Vito Dianardo.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 30/10/1991

“Sandwell pub and restaurant owner *Carol Burke* has named her new eating house Betty Kitten’s – after the daughter of a chat show host. Mrs. Burke adopted the name of Johnathon Ross’s daughter for the new 80-seater restaurant at the PEAR TREE INN in Mincing Lane, Blackheath. The proud owner, who leases the building off Ansell’s Brewery, has been in the licensing trade just 12 months but holds no fears about her latest venture. She said, ‘It is a full a la carte restaurant. I am confident it will take off. We shall be able to cater for up to 120 people for banquets.’”

Sandwell Evening Mail 5/12/1991 - Notice

“In the Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell. Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1992.

To Whom It May Concern.

I, *Carol Burke* of the PEAR TREE INN, Mincing Lane, Rowley Regis, Warley, in the County of West Midlands, Hereby Give You Notice that I intend to apply to the Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council for a Licence to keep and use the premises known as the PEAR TREE INN, Mincing Lane, Rowley Regis, Warley, West Midlands, for public music, singing and dancing or other public entertainment of the like kind.

Dated this 29th day of November 1991.

Challinor Roberts Cooksey 16-18 South Road, Smethwick, Warley, West Midlands B67 7HW.

Solicitors for and on behalf of the Applicant.”

Ansell’s Pub Leasing - 1994 Advert

“We at Ansell’s are seeking a lessee to take over the PEAR TREE public house.

Naturally, like any business, you’ll need capital to invest, and some experience may also be useful, but willingness to work hard for yourself and gain the financial rewards from running an Ansell’s Vanguard Lease is more important.

We’ll give you all the help and training you need from the country’s leading pub operator.

The PEAR TREE has a bar and restaurant with catering kitchen, car park and beer garden. It is immaculately decorated to a very high standard and is in excellent structural condition....”

Sandwell Evening Mail 15/7/1994

“Warley magistrates ordered the arrest of a Sandwell licensee after he was convicted in his absence of allowing a drag artist to perform at his pub without an entertainment licence. *Terence James Burke* of the PEAR TREE INN, Mincing Lane, Rowley Regis,

allowed the show to go ahead last September, said Jeremy Swift prosecuting. But the police and Sandwell Council found he did not have an entertainment licence. Mr. Swift said police saw the drag artist perform in front of 30 women. An officer invited to perform with him declined. Magistrates issued a warrant, backed by bail, for Mr. *Burke's* arrest. He will be sentenced on August 2.”

[1997]

Closed

It was demolished in 1998.

Housing was built on the site in Pear Tree Drive.

PHOENIX

Martley Road, Lion Farm Estate, WHITEHEATH

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd.

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Jeremiah Davies (1961 – [1962])

Lisa Snookes (2014 – [2015])

Amritpal Singh [2020]

NOTES

It opened in 1961.

A team from here took part in the Oldbury Charity Darts League. [1970]

Sandwell Evening Mail 12/3/1991

“That’s Entertainment.

Whether you’re looking for a Sports Quiz, Darts Tournament, Music/Karaoke or Party Night just pop into your local on any Thursday night in March and join in the fun.....

The PHOENIX, Martley Road, Oldbury.....

M&B – There’s More to Enjoy at Your Local.”

Sandwell Evening News 21/1/1994

“Gigs..... Thursday.....

Ian the Goat sings Black Sabbath (the PHOENIX, Oldbury).”

Halesowen News 4/12/2012

“A Christmas street fair is set to be a roaring success on Oldbury’s Lion Farm estate tomorrow (December 7). Santa will be in his grotto at the estate’s action centre and there will be a mini funfair on the shoppers’ car park. Carols will be sung at St James’ Church, there will be a fete at St James’ Primary School and refreshments, mince pies and a chocolate fountain will be at the library. The PHOENIX pub is joining in the festivities with hot food stalls on the car park, the Unicorn Nursery will be having dance lessons and craft stalls and many Lion Farm traders will be staying open for the event which runs from 5pm until 7pm. Bridge Radio is providing musical entertainment and celebrity fundraiser ‘Blind’ Dave Heeley has been invited to open the fair and countdown to the switching on of lights across the various venues. Cabinet member for neighbourhood services Councillor Ian Jones said, ‘It is wonderful to see people getting together to organise an event that is for the whole community. It should be a great build-up to Christmas.’

Organisers are hoping the evening will be the first of many.”

It closed in March 2014, and was bought by *Lisa Snookes* the day after.

It was renovated with a new bar and toilets, and a change of entrance.

It reopened in July 2014.

Express & Star 19/1/2015

“A pub has risen from the ashes and is hoping to attract new customers after a major revamp which has involved the refurbishment of all the rooms and bar area, as well as the introduction of a new food menu. Landlady *Lisa Snookes* bought the PHOENIX pub in Martley Road, Oldbury in March, the day after it closed down, because she had been a regular at the pub and felt the business could be a success if it was refurbished. She said the pub had become rundown and so she decided to renovate it by providing a new bar and toilets, as well as moving the door, while recently the pub also started serving food, with a carvery menu on a Sunday. ‘It has been totally refurbished. The only thing I did not do was knock the building down. We took everything out of it and replaced it. Everything in it is brand new, including the toilets and a log burn fire, while there is also disabled access, which there was not before, including a ramp for wheelchair users,’ Miss *Snookes* said. She runs the pub, which reopened in July, on her own, though she has a cleaner and also receives help from her family, who live nearby in Oldbury and Rowley Regis. Miss *Snookes* has worked in pubs since she was 18, but said she relished the chance to run a pub of her own so decided to buy the PHOENIX when it became available.”

Halesowen News 18/12/2018

“Big-Hearted boxer Jason Welborn will be bringing a bit of Christmas cheer to deprived children in Rowley Regis this week. The former British middleweight champion will be donning his Santa outfit and dishing out presents around his local Lion Farm Estate. It’s Welborn’s way of saying thank-you for all the support he’s received over the past year, which has seen the 32-year-old both win and defend his British title while also boxing in America. Welborn will be joined by his wife Rachel and daughter Demi-Rose on his goodwill tour which takes place this Wednesday, starting at 4.30pm in Martley Road and finishing up at St James’ Church.

Welborn said, ‘We must have accumulated well over 100 presents, some big, some small, most of which are designed for children under the age of 10.’

The presents will be distributed from one of Welborn’s own skips as he has only recently set up a skip hire business in Dudley. Welborn has paid for the presents himself and said, ‘It’s my way of saying thank-you for all the support I’ve received from people on the Lion Farm Estate and from pubs like the PHOENIX and the FOUR WAYS. It’s just nice to give something back. I’m grateful, because boxing has kept me on the right path. It’s just two hours out of my day to give something back and everyone’s happy. It was just an idea at first, but I’m glad we’ve gone ahead and done it. I’m taking the rest of December off, but it’s back to training in the New Year and I’m hoping to have something lined up for March or April. I think I opened a few eyes boxing in Los Angeles, so we will have to wait and see what develops.”

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.....
PHOENIX GRILL, Martley Road.”

Halesowen News 24/11/2020

“An Oldbury pub which was discovered breaking Covid rules by police who were investigating a fight in which a man suffered serious head injuries, has been told it can reopen. The PHOENIX in Martley Road had its licence suspended after a man suffered serious head injuries in an incident outside the pub on October 24. In their investigations police uncovered evidence that the pub was ignoring social distancing. Councillors have now imposed strict conditions so it can reopen its doors, including enforcing Covid rules.

A licensing officer for West Midlands Police said CCTV footage showed the bar had flouted restrictions on social distancing and the ban on people from different households meeting. Telling members of Sandwell’s licensing committee that there had been two fights on the same day, she said, ‘What became apparent was a complete disregard for any of the Covid measures that should have been in place.’ Saying during October the pub was under tier 2 measures she added, ‘What we gauged from the CCTV footage in this case was what you’d call normal times. We had people walking around the premises, we had people being served at the bar and we had groups mixing. Some of the statements we gathered during the criminal investigation confirmed it was groups of friends meeting in the pub.’ She said the images had been leaked to the public, adding, ‘We don’t know how it has happened, whether it was carelessness or if someone was able to access it but again in the middle of criminal investigation into a serious incident it raises real concerns from a policing perspective. In this case it could have proved catastrophic in us detaining an offender.’ In response to councillors’ questions, she said the PHOENIX didn’t have a history of serious complaints or incidents.

David Craig, on behalf of the license holder Mr. *Amritpal Singh*, accepted social distancing and licensing rules had ‘fallen short.’ Saying a risk assessment had been conducted to make the pub Covid safe he said his client had agreed to new conditions to allow it to reopen. Stressing the police were not asking for the suspension to continue or for the license to be revoked, he told councillors, ‘What you have here is an agreed position between the parties. So in these circumstances I would say that is something you can give a significant, and I would add, an overwhelming, amount of weight to.’ He assured councillors Covid restrictions would be followed and door staff would help ensure rules were followed. Lifting the license suspension, the committee said the PHOENIX can only reopen if and when coronavirus restrictions are lifted. Councillors ordered a doorman must be employed on Friday and Saturday nights. They also required the pub’s CCTV to be kept under lock and key and be password protected while staff had

to undergo additional and ongoing training. Police have said that following the assault a Halesowen man has been arrested and charged with grievous bodily harm.”

Halesowen News 3/8/2021

“Plans for a barbers shop next to an Oldbury pub have been submitted to the council. The application is for a barbers shop with a flat above next to the PHOENIX INN on Martley Road. Plans show the flat would have three bedrooms, a bathroom and a lounge. The barbers would be built on a section of the car park at the pub and would front onto Wolverley Road. The proposal is from Mr. A. Pal, Mrs. J. Kaur, Mr. S. Singh. A spokesman for the pub said it has plenty of parking spaces to allow room for the barbers. The application will be considered by planners.”

[2021]

PLOUGH AND HARROW

82, Corngreaves Road, (83, Club Building), Four Ways, CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1896) [1905]
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1909)
Katy O’Ryan’s Group [2012]
Worcestershire Brewing Co. [2014]
Westbourne Leisure (acquired in 2018)

LICENSEES

Henry Hickton [1849] – [1865]
William Hickton [1860] – [1873]
Eliza Hickton [1872]
Henry Hickton [1876] – [1876]
Eliza Hickton [] – **1880**);
John Hickton (**1880** – [1882]
Harry Edgar Hickton [1891] – [1892]
Mrs. Caroline Hickton [1895] – [1896]
George Payne [1898] – **1908**);
Mrs. Caroline (Payne) Wylde (**1908** – **1909**);
John Frederick Wylde (**1909** – **1928**);
Joseph Roberts (**1928** – **1933**);
Ann Louise Roberts (**1933** – **1934**);
Joseph Andrews (**1934** – **1935**);
Edith Matilda Andrews (**1935**);
William Albert Westwood (**1935** – **1953**);
George Willetts (**1953** – **1963**);
Norman Samuel Salt (**1963** – **1965**);
Horace Walter Stevens (**1965** – **1966**);
John Homer (**1966** – **1974**);
Evelyn Joan Homer (**1974** – **1977**);
Morris Wilfred Coley (**1977** – **1978**);
Edna Mary Coley (**1978** – **1979**);
John Dunn (**1979** – **1981**);
Ronald ‘Ron’ Frank Lloyd (**1981** – [1995]
Tracey Ann Sherratt [2007]
Sarah Davies [2013] – [2018]

NOTES

It was originally part of a terrace. A butcher’s shop was incorporated to enlarge the bar.

It was known locally as “Billy Plough’s”.

It had a beerhouse license.

Henry Hickton was related to Benjamin Best (agent for New British Iron Co).

He was also a shopkeeper. [1849], [1850]

He had an iron leg.

1851 Census

Club Building

- [1] *Henry Hickton* (48), victualler, born Rowley;
- [2] *Mary Hickton* (44), wife, born Rowley;
- [3] *Sarah Hickton* (23), daughter, born Rowley;
- [4] *John Hickton* (20), son, nail ironmonger's assistant, born Rowley;
- [5] *Joseph Hickton* (18), son, born Rowley;
- [6] *William Hickton* (15), son, born Rowley;
- [7] *Mary M. Hickton* (12), daughter, scholar, born Rowley;
- [8] *Ann Hickton* (10), daughter, scholar, born Rowley;
- [9] *Maria Hickton* (7), daughter, scholar, born Rowley;
- [10] *Elizabeth Hickton* (4), daughter, born Rowley;
- [11] *Henry Hickton* (1), son, born Rowley:

Birmingham Journal 25/8/1855

“An inquest was held yesterday before W. W. Ward, Esq, (acting for Mr. Hinchliffe) at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Cradley Heath, on the body of Charles Moore, aged nine years, who came to his death under the following circumstances. The deceased was bathing in the pool at the British Iron Works there, and having got upon a plank that was in the water and ventured some distance towards the middle of the pool, the plank gave way, and the deceased consequently fell into the water, and being unable to swim, was drowned, there being no person there at the time who could render him assistance. A man who was at work at the iron works hearing some children, who were some distance from the pool, say that a boy was drowned, immediately went into the pool, and found the deceased at the distance of about thirty-seven yards from the side, and where the water was about five feet six inches deep. The Jury, after a little consultation returned a verdict of Found Dead.

It was suggested by one of the Jurymen that the fact of planks being in the water in a pool like that, where bathing is constantly practiced by young boys, was a very dangerous temptation for such children, and a request was made by the Jurymen that Mr. Thompson, the manager of the iron works, should be spoken to upon the matter, in order that means should be taken to prevent similar occurrences.”

William Hickton married *Eliza Payne* on 8th August 1858.

William Hickton = *William Hickman*

1861 Census

Club Building

- [1] *William Hickton* (24), licensed victualler, born Rowley;
- [2] *Eliza Hickton* (22), wife, born Rowley;
- [3] *William Henry Hickton* (2), son, born Rowley;
- [4] *John Hickton* (8 months), son, born Rowley;
- [5] *Martha Wilkes* (20), house servant, born Dudley;
- [6] *Mary Cooper* (15), house servant, born Rowley:

Stourbridge Observer 8/7/1865

“Yesterday an inquest was held at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Cradley Heath, before E. Hooper, Esq, district coroner, touching the death of a youth, named Thomas Etherton, who was drowned in a whimsey pool whilst bathing.

A youth named Richard Sykes stated that he saw the deceased in company with some other boys bathing. Witness also saw the deceased spring upon the back of a youth named Hodgetts. When deceased sprang upon Hodgetts's back they both went down, soon afterwards they came up again, and the deceased had hold of Hodgetts's neck. They both sank again and Hodgetts came up without the deceased. Witness raised an alarm and then some men from Beardmore Colliery came, but they would not get in. Witness begged of them to get in, but they said they could not swim. A young man named Berks came and got him out.

By a juror: Hodgetts did not ask deceased to get upon his back.

John Hodgetts stated that he was bathing in company with the deceased. Deceased sprang upon his (witness's) back and the force of the spring sent them both under the water. Deceased clutched witness by the neck and the weight of the deceased pulled him beneath the water a second time. When witness was got out he was unconscious; upon regaining his consciousness he sprang into the pool in search of the deceased. Witness could not then swim owing to the exhausted state he was in. Witness begged of the colliers on the pit bank to get the deceased out, but they only said it was too late, and that the deceased would get hold of them with a dead grasp.

The mother of the deceased stated that Hodgetts loved her lad, and she did not think any fault was attached to him.

Richard Berks stated that when he got the deceased out, he was quite dead.

In summing up the evidence the coroner said that the men who worked on Beardmore Colliery bank were a disgrace to the Company by whom they were employed and that the conduct that they displayed was most inhuman. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

We may also state that a subscription to the amount of 7s and 6d was raised in the room for the boy Hodgetts, and a smaller one for the man Berks.”

County Advertiser 28/10/1865

“On Wednesday afternoon last, an inquest was held at Mr. *Hickton*’s, the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Cradley Heath, before Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, on the body of Joseph Gregory, aged four years and five months, the son of a furnaceman at Corngreaves Works. On the previous Friday morning, about seven o’clock, the deceased was down stairs in his night clothes, with a sister, a year or two older than himself. The mother and father, who were upstairs, heard loud screams, and on rushing down found the deceased in flames. The flames were extinguished as speedily as possible, and deceased taken up to bed, and Mr. Hodgson, surgeon, sent for. The poor child lingered in great agony till three o’clock next morning, when death put an end to his sufferings. The deceased was playing with the fire, when his clothes became ignited. He was badly burnt about the face and chest. The Coroner severely censured the father of the deceased, who had six other small children, for not having a guard to the fireplace. The Coroner also ordered him to procure one before that day week, and Police-constable Fox was ordered to visit the house and see that there was one. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1871 Census

Club Buildings

- [1] *William Hickton* (35), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Eliza Hickton* (32), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Sarah J. Hickton (1), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Mary E. Hickton (3 weeks), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Maria Roberts (28), general servant, born Oldbury;
- [6] Ann Brooks (16), nurse, born Dudley:

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/1/1860

“Staffordshire January Sessions.....

William Croft, 39, chainmaker, was charged with stealing a horse rug, the property of John Payne, at Cradley Heath. Mr. Neale conducted the prosecution; Mr. Motteram defended the prisoner.

William Hickton, on being examined, said he kept a public house at Cradley Heath, with the sign of the PLOUGH AND HARROW. About midnight on the 6th of December his father-in-law came to visit him with a pony and trap, in order to bring some leeches for witness’s wife, who had been taken ill that day. There was a horse rug, worth ten shillings, upon the pony at the time his father left it to come into the house, but when witness went out the rug was gone. He saw the prisoner about twenty yards off, and immediately ran into the house, and told his father of the occurrence.

John Payne, a butcher living at Old Hill, near Cradley Heath, corroborated the principal facts of the preceding evidence, and said that on being told of the theft by his son-in-law, he ran after the prisoner, and came up with him at about forty yards from the house. The prisoner, as soon as he saw him, rolled himself in the rug, and threw himself on a heap of stones. Witness said, as soon as he saw the rug, ‘That’s mine.’ Prisoner said, ‘Well, if it’s yours, take it.’ He said that the boys passing by the house from the furnaces had thrown it at him. As soon as witness had taken the rug from him, he took him down to his son-in-law’s house and had him taken into custody.

Cross-examined: Neither man, woman, nor child had passed the house while witness was inside.

Mr. Motteram: And yet the prisoner must have passed.

Thomas Parsons, a member of the local police, deposed to the apprehension of the prisoner. At the station he repeated the assertion he had previously made to the elder witness, except that he said the men from the furnace threw the rug at him. Witness was not paid a regular salary, but was paid according to the number of cases he attended.

Mr. Motteram, in his address for the defence, drew attention to the trivial nature of the difference in evidence which had been insisted on by the counsel for the prosecution, and attributed to the fact that the constable was paid by the case, the cause of this affair being brought forward at the sessions. He also endeavoured to prove that it was because the witness *Hickton* had not previously seen a trial at Stafford that he was gratified by being brought up as a witness in this case.

The jury found the prisoner guilty, and he was sentenced to three months’ imprisonment.”

William Hickton died on 8th March 1879 at Hawn Bank Farm, Halesowen.

See also QUEENS HEAD.

County Advertiser 28/6/1873 - Advert

“Wanted, a steady Man, to live in the House. One that understands Brewing, and to make himself generally useful. Apply, PLOUGH AND HARROW, Cradley Heath.”

Dudley Herald 27/5/1876 - Advert

“Pear Tree Street, Old Hill. Freehold Cottage Properties.

Mr. Bateman has received instructions from the New British Iron Company to Sell by Public Auction, at Mr. *Henry Hickton*’s, the

PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Corngreaves, on Tuesday, the 13th day of June next, at Six o'clock pm.....”

County Advertiser 22/7/1876

“On Tuesday Mr. E. Hooper, district coroner, held an inquest at the PLOUGH AND HARROW, Corngreaves Street, on the body of Eli Rider (17), underhand puddler. The deceased’s body was discovered, after a day’s search, in a pool in Pig Lane, belonging to the New British Iron Company. On Sunday last the deceased got into the pool in company with a young man named William Westwood, to bathe. When in a deep part he sank, it is supposed, from the effects of a sudden seizure of cramp. Although there were several others bathing in the pool at the time, they were unable to reach him before he succumbed, and sank for the last time. It was stated at the inquest that the night previous to his death Rider had some words with his father, and he afterwards told the young man Westwood that he ‘would do something before the next day was over.’ The jury returned an Open Verdict.”

County Express 18/8/1877 - Advert

“Freehold Houses, with all the mines thereunder, New Town Street, Cradley Heath, and Piece of Building Land, at Fox Oak, Cradley Heath, with part of the mines.

Mr. Samuel Leonard will Sell by Auction, at the house of Mr. *William Hickton*, the PLOUGH AND HARROW HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on Tuesday, the 28th day of August, 1877, at Six for Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions.....”

County Express 1/9/1877

“A spirited sale of freehold houses and land took place at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Corngreaves, on Tuesday last. Mr. Samuel Leonard was the auctioneer. Three houses, chainshop, and premises, being numbers 13, 14, 15, New Town Street, Cradley Heath, were knocked down at £416. Messrs. Homfray and Holberton, of Brierley Hill, were solicitors for the vendors.”

County Express 24/11/1877

“A meeting of the members of the Cradley Heath Conservative Association was held at the House of Mr. *W. Hickton*, PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, on Monday evening last. There was a good attendance. Mr. James Plant occupied the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed, and also a code of rules for the regulation of the association. After a few remarks from the chairman and others present, the meeting closed.”

Dudley and District News 14/8/1880

“Mr Topham (deputy district coroner) on Wednesday afternoon held an inquiry at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, touching the death of William Richards (60), sinker, Surfitt Hill, Cradley Heath, who was injured at the Cotsall Colliery, belonging to the New British Iron Company on the 7th inst, and died two days later. Mr. W. B. Keen, the colliery manager, attended.

It appeared from the evidence of John Dimmack, another sinker, that on Saturday morning he and deceased were working in the engine pit at the colliery named. They were going to repair the buoy wire, and for that purpose were erecting a scaffold in the shaft at the point where the wire had broken, which was a distance of 66 yards from the top of the shaft. Dimmack placed a two-inch plank, that was in the shaft ready for the purpose, across the scaffold for deceased to stand upon. Immediately deceased stepped upon the plank it snapped asunder, and he was precipitated on to another scaffold, a distance of thirty seven feet below. Dimmack went up the shaft and procured a light, and afterwards returned down the shaft and fetched up the deceased, who remained unconscious until Monday, when he died. The witness had since examined the plank, and he said it appeared to be rotten. It was now produced and examined by the jury, some of whom remarked that it did not appear to be rotten. It was, however, stated that it was the duty of the deceased, as foreman sinker, to have seen to the state of the planks used for scaffolding; and the manager said there was plenty of timber on the premises. As no blame was attached to anyone, the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1881 Census

83, Club Building

[1] *John Hickton* (20), unmarried, licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Harry Hickton* (16), brother, clerk, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Sarah Hanbury (24), domestic servant, born Cradley:

Dudley and District News 26/11/1881

“A daring robbery was committed on Saturday night, at the house of Mr. *John Hickton*, PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath. It appears that Mrs. *Hickton*, who was attending to the bar, left the room for a few minutes, and a short time afterwards Mr. *Hickton* discovered that a cash box, containing £68 1s 6d had been stolen.”

County Express 28/1/1882

“*John Hickton*, PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Cradley Heath, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 16th inst. Mr. Cooksey defended.

Police-sergeant Shaw said that at half-past eight on the night of the 16th inst he went with Police-constable Tytherleigh to defendant’s premises, in the bar room of which he saw a drunken man named William Knight, who was sitting at a table with a pint cup containing ale before him. He was resting with his arms on the table, but noticing the policemen he raised himself up, and using a bad word, invited them to drink. Shaw and Tytherleigh then left the house, Knight calling after them. They returned some time afterwards, and found that Knight had removed to another table in the same room, with a pint cup nearly full of ale still before

him. Shaw then called the landlord's attention to the man's condition, and told the landlord he ought not to have allowed him to have anything to drink. Defendant said he had not filled Knight any ale for some time, and on Tytherleigh pointing out that the pint cup had been filled since their former visit, another man said the ale in the pint cup belonged to him. This man, however, had some more ale before him. The landlord asked Knight to leave, but he refused, though he allowed some men to lead him out immediately afterwards. He stumbled when he reached the door, and outside the house made use of bad language.

Police-constable Tytherleigh corroborated.

Mr. Cooksey called witnesses to prove that Knight was not drunk, and that the ale in the pint cups did not belong to him, but to a man named Holloway, who was in the room.

Mr. Bassano said the case was not so bad in itself, but it was a terrible thing that people could be found ready to commit perjury in order to bolster up a defence.

They fined the defendant 20s and costs."

County Express 4/2/1882

"William Knight, ironworker, Cradley Heath, was charged with being drunk at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN. He was fined 5s and costs."

County Express 29/4/1882

"Notwithstanding the authorities doing everything possible to prevent the spread of swine fever, the disease is becoming more prevalent. On Monday morning one pig out of nine was found to be suffering from the disease on the premises of John Tibbetts, the Packwood Inn. About a month ago five animals were found on the premises to be suffering from the disease and were destroyed. Two pigs have been destroyed belonging to Mr. Henry Brettel, of Surfeit Hill, Cradley Heath; and also one belonging to Mr. *John Hickton*, of the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Cradley Heath."

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.....

John Hickton, PLOUGH AND HARROW, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, 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."

Harry Edgar Hickton married *Caroline Harley* on 23rd June 1884.

County Advertiser 1/5/1886 - Advert

"Lost, a Sable Collie Dog, on the 29th ult. Finder rewarded.

Apply, PLOUGH AND HARROW HOTEL, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath."

County Advertiser 24/7/1886 - Advert

"Lost, July 11th, Sable Collie Dog. Anyone finding same will be rewarded.

William McWhirter, PLOUGH AND HARROW, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath."

Birmingham Daily Post 30/12/1887

"Yesterday evening an inquest was held at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Cradley Heath, before E. F. W. Topham, deputy coroner, respecting the death of Dorah Willetts (46), wife of Thomas Willetts, who died suddenly on the 27th instant. Evidence was given to the effect that about six o'clock on the morning in question deceased complained to her husband of a violent pain in her head. About nine o'clock the same morning she was found dead. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes."

Dudley Mercury 27/7/1889

"A striking instance of the fidelity of a dog has been afforded this week in connection with a sad railway fatality at Cradley Heath. The body of a young man named Patrick White (18), a farmer, residing at Codsall, near Wolverhampton, was found on Sunday, on the Great Western Railway, midway between Old Hill and Cradley Heath. On Saturday night the deceased visited Old Hill, and after transacting business, he called at a public house. He left late at night, accompanied by a terrier dog. On Sunday morning some men were attracted to the railway by the barking of a dog, and upon getting up a steep embankment, they were horrified to find White's mangled body. The face was reduced to a pulp, and some of the limbs were severed from the body. It is supposed that the deceased was knocked down by a train early on Sunday morning. It is stated that the dog followed the remains from where they were found to his late home, and has several times since been to the scene to the accident.

An inquest was held on Monday, at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, by Mr. Topham (dep-

uty coroner) relative to the fatality. Evidence was given that deceased visited Old Hill on Saturday night and called at the BLUE BALL INN, when he intimated his intention of walking home along the railway. Nothing further was heard of him until his body was found in the four-foot. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/8/1889 - Advert

“Pianist and Vocalist. Wanted, a young Lady.

Apply, PLOUGH AND HARROW HOTEL, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath.”

1891 Census

82, Corngreaves Road

[1] *Harry E. Hickton* (24), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Caroline Hickton* (24), wife, born Dudley;

[3] *Charity Partridge* (22), general servant, born Stourbridge:

County Advertiser 16/4/1892

“James Powell, army reserve man, of Cradley Heath, was charged with being disorderly in the PLOUGH AND HARROW, Cradley Heath, and refusing to leave when requested, on the 9th inst. The landlord said the defendant was in his house on the day named, and challenged a man to fight. Witness asked him to leave but he refused, and asked witness to fill him some beer. Witness refused, and defendant then set on him. The latter behaved like a madman, and tore witness’s shirt and other articles of apparel. A witness named Slater corroborated, and in reply to the Bench said the landlord used no undue violence. Inspector Bishop said defendant was an army reserve man, and there was no holding them in Cradley Heath; they took a lot of looking after. (Laughter.) Defendant was fined 10s and costs.”

Henry Edgar Hickton died in the 1st quarter of 1895.

County Advertiser 5/1/1895 - Advert

“Wanted a good General Servant.

Apply, Mrs. *Hickton*, PLOUGH AND HARROW, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath.”

Caroline Hickton married *George Payne* in the 4th quarter of 1895.

George Payne was also a brewer. [1898]

1901 Census

82, Corngreaves Road – PLOUGH AND HARROW HOTEL

[1] *George Payne* (40), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Caroline Payne* (34), wife, born Brierley Hill;

[3] *William Hickton* (9), son, born Cradley Heath;

[4] *Gladys Payne* (2), daughter, born Cradley Heath:

County Advertiser 11/2/1905

“The annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday.....

The following is a list of the licenses objected to by Superintendent Johnson.....

Thomas Hackerson, of the NEPTUNE INN, Old Hill; *George Payne*, of the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Cradley Heath; and *William Titus Smith*, of the RAILWAY TAVERN, Cradley Heath; on the ground that the premises are structurally deficient and unsuitable.....

In the case of the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, Superintendent Johnson said that a back door opened out of the premises into a passage, and the inhabitants of about thirty houses in the locality could get to the public house without going to the front of the premises. The police had no supervision over the premises.

The Chairman thought the premises should be enclosed.

Mr. Thompson, who appeared for the owners, the North Worcestershire Brewery Company, said his clients were asked to give up considerable rights by closing the doors, and he asked for time to consider the matter.

The objection was deferred to the adjourned sessions.”

County Advertiser 11/3/1905

“The adjourned licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday, at the Police Court.....

Mr. Thompson referred to three objections made by the police at the annual licensing day for certain alterations which were deferred. The houses in question were the NEPTUNE INN, Old Hill, the RAILWAY TAVERN, Cradley Heath, and the PLOUGH AND HARROW, Cradley Heath. Superintendent Johnson raised certain points, and he asked them to be deferred because they were of considerable importance to his clients. Since then he had consulted with his clients. With regard to the NEPTUNE INN, the police objected to a door which led out of the licensed premises on to the canal side. His clients would give an understanding that this door would be closed altogether excepting to allow horses to be taken to the stables. Otherwise it would be necessary to take the horses a considerable distance round. With regard to the RAILWAY TAVERN they had consented to close the back entrance to these premises and also to close a doorway leading from the back premises of the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN

to public passages, after sunset each evening. This was a matter of considerable importance to them inasmuch as the passages were public ones, but his clients had decided to close the doorway at night and he believed this would meet with the wishes of the police.

Superintendent Johnson said he should be willing to withdraw his objections to the renewal of the licenses providing the conditions named by Mr. Thompson were given in writing and carried out by the owners. Mr. Thompson agreed to these conditions, and the renewal of the licenses was granted.”

County Advertiser 13/5/1905

“The players of Cradley Heath St. Luke’s Football Club were entertained to a dinner, on Saturday last, by Mr. *George Payne*, at the PLOUGH AND HARROW HOTEL, Cradley Heath. There were about thirty members and friends present. During the evening songs were rendered by Messrs. Bowen, Beddall, Taylor, Porter, and others.”

County Advertiser 10/2/1906

“Cradley Heath St. Luke’s Football Club.

The committee and playing members of the above club held their usual (mid-season) dinner on Saturday last, at the PLOUGH AND HARROW HOTEL, Cradley Heath. About thirty members attended, and the catering arrangements were admirably carried out by Mr. and Mrs. *Payne*. A smoking concert was held during the evening, and several songs were contributed by Mr. Taylor, Mr. Bowen, Mr. Baggott, &c. Mr. E. Troth gave the toast, Success to the Cradley Heath Football Club. Mr. J. Foley officiated as accompanist to the musical stars.”

County Advertiser 2/6/1906

“Birmingham Football Association.

A social commission of the above association met at the PLOUGH AND HARROW HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on Monday last, to consider the reported disorder after the football match at Cradley Heath, on April 30th. The commission consisted of four members – Messrs. C. Crump, W. McGregor, J. Adams, and J. Campbell Orr. Evidence was given by the referee (Mr. C. R. Hall), Mr. Hinman (Langley St. Michael’s), the officials of Cradley Heath Club, and Mr. J. T. Wright. After considering the evidence in private the commission came to the conclusion that there had been some disturbance on the part of the spectators, but that it took place after the conclusion of the match, and was not of a serious nature. The club was ordered to put up notices to caution spectators against disorderly conduct, and extra precautions were to be taken in future to prevent any unseemly behaviour, and to guard the referee at the conclusion of the matches.”

AND

“Cradley Heath St. Luke’s Football Club.

On Saturday night last the committee and playing members of the above club were entertained to dinner by Mr. *Geo. Payne*, at the PLOUGH AND HARROW HOTEL, Cradley Heath. After dinner a smoking concert took place. Songs were rendered by Messrs. Tate, J. Whitehouse, H. Bowen, A. Baggott, and gramophone solos by Mr. O. Shaw.”

County Advertiser 1/6/1907

“The members of St. Luke’s Football Club were entertained to dinner on Saturday last, at the PLOUGH AND HARROW HOTEL, by Mr. *Geo. Payne*. The party numbered about thirty, which included the playing members of the team. After the loyal toasts the remainder of the evening was occupied by a smoking concert arranged by the secretary, Mr. Fred Homer. The programme was one of exceptional merit.....”

George Payne died on 25th August 1908.

County Express 29/8/1908

“We much regret to record the death, which took place on Tuesday midnight, of Mr. *George Payne*, landlord of the PLOUGH AND HARROW, Corngreaves Road. The news of his death came as a great surprise to his many friends, and it was totally unexpected. On Monday morning he was apparently in his usual health, when he seems to have contracted a severe chill, and he became so ill towards evening that a doctor was summoned. On Tuesday morning he rallied somewhat, but at midnight death occurred suddenly. The late Mr. *Payne*, who was only 48 years of age, had been married 13 years. He was a prominent member of the Cradley Heath Friendly Society Parade Committee, and was actively engaged in friendly society work, being a Forester and past chief ranger of the Lily of the Valley Lodge, Court 4431. He was widely known, and his kindly nature and courtesy made him many friends. He was a staunch Conservative but took no active part in politics.”

County Express 12/9/1908

“On Wednesday, at Old Hill Police Court, the license of the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, was transferred to Mrs. *Caroline Payne*.”

County Express 12/9/1908

“Friendly Societies’ Parade. On Wednesday evening the committee of the above met at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Mr. W. Coley presiding over a large attendance. The following was a complete list of those boxes which contained amounts of 1s and upwards.....

Mrs. *G. Payne*, PLOUGH AND HARROW, 2s 3½d.”

County Express 2/1/1909

“Dividend Clubs..... PLOUGH AND HARROW (Cradley Heath).

The annual draw of the PLOUGH AND HARROW dividend club took place on Christmas Eve, when upwards of 50 members received 10s 4d each, which was considered very satisfactory. On Tuesday evening the annual supper was held, provided by the hostess, Mrs. *G. Payne*. After the drawing of the cloth the evening was spent in harmony, songs being rendered by Messrs. C. Shaw, T. Smith, etc, and a recitation by Mr. G. Yates, and a mouth organ solo by Mr. James Flemings. A vote of thanks was passed to the hostess.”

Caroline Payne married *Frederick John Wylde* in the 2nd quarter of 1909.

Tipton Herald 24/7/1909

“At the Old Hill Court on Wednesday, application was made for the transfer of the license of the PLOUGH AND HARROW, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, from Mrs. *Wild* to her husband, *John Frederick Wild*. Superintendent Johnson pointed out that the notice was served a day late. The character of the applicant is perfectly satisfactory. It is the notice that is wrong. It should be served seven clear days exclusive of service and application. The Chairman: The condition of notice must be strictly observed, because the police ought to have full opportunity for inquiry. When one admits slackness there is no limit to it. We must have the notice strictly observed. The application is granted.”

County Express 1/1/1910

“Dividend Clubs..... PLOUGH AND HARROW, Cradley Heath.

Yesterday week the members received their annual dividend. Mr. T. Cooper (secretary) read the annual report, which stated that the dividend was 9s 7d per member.”

1911 Census

82, Corngreaves Road – PLOUGH AND HARROW

- [1] *John Frederick Wylde* (32), licensed victualler, born Cradley;
- [2] *Caroline Wylde* (43), wife, married 1 year, assist in public bar, born Brierley Hill;
- [3] *George William Hickton* (19), step-son, journalist, born Cradley Heath;
- [4] *Gladys May Payne* (13), step-daughter, school, born Cradley Heath:

1939 Register

82, Corngreaves Road – PLOUGH AND HARROW INN

- [1] *William A. Westwood*, date of birth 29/9/1901, licensee, married;
- [2] *Blanche Westwood*, dob 20/6/1906, licensee’s helper and domestic;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/12/1948

“Mrs. *Irene Westwood*, wife of the licensee of the PLOUGH AND HARROW, Cradley Heath, who told Rowley Regis magistrates yesterday that she chased an intruder whose head and shoulders she saw coming through a window at the inn. She said he had two companions. Three men were committed for trial.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 31/3/1990

“Down Your Local. PLOUGH AND HARROW, Cradley Heath.

The PLOUGH AND HARROW is everything a good Black Country pub should be – friendly, cosy, and well stocked with good beer. Tucked away in Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, it is run by tenant landlord *Ron Lloyd* and his wife *Andrea* for the Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries. The building is at least 100 years old, and some of the elderly customers can remember being told it used to be sandwiched between a butcher’s shop and barber’s. There was an old air raid shelter at the back and at one time spending a penny meant a long trek. The Banks’s pub sells traditional ales plus Harp lager, serves cold snacks during lunchtime and is open all day Friday.

Ron and *Andrea*, whose two grown-up daughters *Mandy* and *Sue* help out occasionally because they are both ‘brilliant barmaids,’ have been mine hosts for nine years. Prior to that they kept the BLACK HORSE, Tipton for 12 years and before that *Ron* worked in a factory.

The pub has a main bar, small snug, children’s room and pool room and has been extended in the past.

When the *Lloyd*’s arrived it was run down and needed a lot of work to get it back into shape. Now it is probably one of the most popular drinking places in the area. There are brasses on the bar walls and the pub is centrally heated, making it warm and cosy. Most of all, its regulars are the salt of the earth. *Ron* said, ‘If a stranger comes in he’ll be made to feel welcome very quickly. I’ve got some of the most wonderful customers in the country.’ These include *Ronnie* ‘The Dustbin Mon’ *Yardley*, a dustman for 29 years and a regular for just as long. He loves the Villa and hates anyone to praise the Albion – so be warned! Then there are two retired train drivers, *Geoff* who worked on the Severn Valley and *Bob* on the GWR line.

Barry Loughran did a sponsored 60ft underwater dive in Netherton Reservoir and a parachute jump for charity, and regular *Albert Head* knows all about pubs – he once showed *Ron* a list of 54 Cradley Heath inns that had closed since he was a boy.

Nine customers own two greyhounds between them that race at Wolverhampton in a syndicate run by *Jeff Willetts*, and a couple of regulars own race horses. There are several darts and domino teams, one of which, the Monday domino team, has just won the Old Hill Central Domino League Winners Cup, as well as two fishing clubs. And regulars frequently support charity events, much of the organising done by customer *Margaret Walker*.

Darts champion Jockie Wilson has been in for a drink, and you'll always find a cross-section of customers – Ron is well known for keeping a good cellar. He said, 'You'd go a long way to find a nicer pub than this.'"

Closed

It became the Restaurante Royale.

It was renamed RAGGADDY'S.

It was renamed PLOUGH AND HARROW [2001]

It was refurbished and reopened in 2012.

Dudley & South Staffordshire CAMRA Pub of the Year 2019.

CAMRA West Midlands County Pub of the Year 2019.

[2019]

PORTWAY TAVERN

Perry's Lake Road, (17, Perry's Lake), (Hailstone Road), (Portway Road), Tippetty Green, ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

Thomas B. Williams and Lizzie Bate
Ansells Ltd. (acquired on 15th June 1846)

LICENSEES

James Adshead Levett Snr. [1841] – **1878**);
Caleb Griffiths [1851]
Daisy Levett (**1878** – []
James Adshead Levett Jnr. [1881] – **1895**);
William Levett [1892] – [1896]
Mrs. Sarah Perry (**1895** – **1902**)
Thomas William Williams [1904]
George Ward [1904] – **1912**);
John Bird (**1912** – **1921**);
Thomas Bishop (**1921** – **1929**);
Thomas Lowe (**1929** – **1934**);
Thomas Slater (**1934** – **1937**);
William Arnold Skelding (**1937** – **1940**);
Geoffrey Botfield (**1940** – **1941**);
Harold Grindley (**1941** – **1942**);
Geoffrey Botfield (**1942**);
Robert Arthur Kendrick (**1942** – **1949**);
John Leonard Leashon (**1949** – **1952**);
Albert Harris (**1952** – **1957**);
Lancelot Rowlands Twells (**1957** – **1959**);
Frederick Smith (**1959**);
David Holland (**1959** – **1962**);
Derek James Wroe (**1962** – **1965**);
Kenneth Lucas (**1965** – []
Geoffrey Onions (**1970**)
Tony Robinson [1979]
John Smith [] – **1983**)

NOTES

Perry's Lake [1849], [1865], [1868]
17, Perry's Lake [1881], [1891], [1901]
Portway Road [1908], [1932]

PORTWAY INN

Black Country Bugle 16/1/2003

'Tippetty Green – The Tromans Family – And Rowley Quarries' by Peter Goddard

"Quarrymen were hard workers and hard drinkers. The PORTWAY TAVERN was the first port of call after a long shift, due to its closer proximity to the quarries.

It had a small bar with a low ceiling, and a little used, long room adjacent."

James Adshead Levett = James Adshead Lovett

1841 Census

Perrys Lake

- [1] *James Levett* (35), publican, born Staffordshire;
- [2] *Mary Levett* (25), born Staffordshire;
- [3] *Richard Levett* (5), born Staffordshire;
- [4] *John Levett* (8 months), born Staffordshire;
- [5] *Eliza Cooper* (12), fs, born Staffordshire:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 15/3/1848

"An inquest was held on Friday last, the 10th instant, at the PORTWAY INN, Rowley Regis, before George Hinchcliffe, Esq, coroner, on the body of Francis Smith, a boy thirteen years of age, who was standing in a careless manner by a skip which was being dragged to the mouth of a coal pit belonging to Messrs. Whitehouse and Peacock, when, some part of the tackling catching his flannel frock, he was dragged over the mouth of the pit and fell to the bottom. Verdict Accidental Death."

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

10th March 1850 - Elizabeth, daughter of *James Adshead* and *Mary Levett*, publican, Perry's Lake.

1851 Census

Portway – PORTWAY INN

- [1] *Caleb Griffiths* (41), coal miner and beer shop, born Tipton;
- [2] *Obedience Griffiths* (40), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] *Richard Griffiths* (13), son, scholar, born Tipton;
- [4] *Silus Griffiths* (8), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Caleb Griffiths* (6), son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Obedience Griffiths* (5), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [7] *Emila Griffiths* (3), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [8] *Hannah Dingle* (17), general servant, born Dudley;
- [9] *Elizabeth Pitt* (19), general servant, born Dudley:

AND

1851 Census

Perrys Lake

- [1] *James Adshead Levett* (45), colliery clerk, born Rowley;
- [2] *Mary Levett* (38), wife, born Rowley;
- [3] *Richard Levett* (15), son, born Rowley;
- [4] *Elizabeth Levett* (10), daughter, born Rowley;
- [5] *Eliza Cooper* (22), servant, born Rowley:

Worcestershire Chronicle 19/4/1854

"On Saturday last an inquest was held at the PORTWAY INN, Rowley Regis before G. H. Hinchcliffe, Esq, coroner, on the body of Thomas Johnson, aged 14. Deceased was employed at the Birch Coppice Colliery, belonging to Mr. T. Darbey. On the 12th he was engaged in the pit drawing coals, when a fall took place, and he was immediately buried under more than a ton of coal. When extricated he was so seriously crushed that he died in about two hours."

Birmingham Journal 9/8/1856

"On Monday last, an inquest was held before G. H. Hinchcliffe, Esq, at Mr. *Leverett's* [sic], PORTWAY TAVERN, on the body of William Price, aged sixty. From the evidence it appeared that deceased, who had been many years in the service of Mr. L. Lewis, nailmaster, Rowley, had on the preceding Saturday got the horse and dog cart ready for his master; Mr. Lewis was already seated in the vehicle when Price said, 'I have forgot the ear-caps.' Fetching these he was so imprudent as to take off the bridle and winkers, and the horse at once took fright, knocked down deceased, and another man who stood by, and so trampled upon him that blood issued from his mouth and nose, and he died in a quarter of an hour afterwards. The animal went off some distance with the

trap and Mr. Lewis in it, but catching against a post this gentleman was thrown out against a wall, and fortunately escaped with trifling injury. The horse, generally a quiet animal, was then secured without further mischief or damage. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 15/11/1858 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale, at the Brick House Farm Colliery, situated at Rowley Regis, two miles from Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Chesshire and Gibson, on Wednesday the 24th day of November inst, commencing at twelve o'clock at noon – the whole of the Colliery Plant, Buildings, and Effects, upon the above premises.....

Further particulars may be obtained at the PORTWAY TAVERN, Rowley; of Mr. Peacock, Mine Agent, Tipton; or at the offices of the Auctioneers, 11, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham.”

1861 Census

Perry Lake – PORTWAY TAVERN

[1] *James A. Levett* (56), victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Mary A. Levett* (48), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *Richard Levett* (26), son, shoemaker, born Rowley Regis:

Birmingham Journal 21/9/1861

“Fatal Accidents in Pits.

Within the last few days Edwin Hooper, Esq, has held the following inquests in this locality.....

The first was at the PORTWAY INN, Mr. *J. Lovett's*, on the body of a miner, named John Simpson, of Oldbury, forty years of age. It was shown from the evidence that deceased was at work in an opening out of a gate road, when a ‘slip,’ or fall of coal took place, and by this he was so much injured that after lingering for some short time, he died from the effects of the accident. The Jury, finding that no one was to blame, returned a verdict of Accidental Death. We may note that at the above, J. Baker, Esq, Government Inspector of Mines, was present.”

Stourbridge Observer 15/10/1864

“Edward Parks was charged with assaulting Leah Hipkiss, as in evidence, complainant said : I am the wife of Daniel Hipkiss, a collier. On Monday night I went to my club, at the house of Mr. *Lovett* (sic), Perry's Lake, Rowley. While sitting in the kitchen, having my allowance of beer, the defendant came in and turning to me said, ‘What did you drive your husband to work for?’ I said, ‘If I did, let it go.’ He then said, ‘I had not the pleasure of seeing either you or your husband since the strike began, and I'll now give it you while I've got you here.’ He then struck me on the head and on the eye, and tore my bonnet, (apron produced all bloody). I gave him no provocation whatever.

The Bench inflicted a fine of 40s with costs; in default 6 months with hard labour. Mr. Shakespeare prosecuted. The prisoner was undefended.”

James Adshead Levett Jnr was the son of *James Adshead Levett Snr* and Mary.

London Gazette 1/5/1866

“*James Adshead Levett* the younger, now and for the last four months residing in furnished lodgings at the house of John Bradley at No.1 Court, Deritend Bridge, Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, Labourer, and during the same period and previously carrying on business at Perry's Lake, Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, as a Grocer and Provision Dealer, Haulier, and Chapman, having been adjudged bankrupt under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Warwickshire, holden at Birmingham, on the 26th of April 1866, is hereby required to surrender himself to John Guest, Esq, the Registrar of the said Court, at the first meeting of creditors to be held before the said Registrar, on the 11th of May instant, at ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely, at the said Court. John Guest, Esq, of Birmingham, is the Official Assignee, and Mr. Robert Duke, of No.15, Newhall-street, Birmingham, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.”

Birmingham Journal 16/6/1866

“The following bankrupts came up on their last examination, and received their orders of discharge.....

Re *James Adshead Levett*, the younger, 1 Court, Deritend Bridge, Birmingham, labourer. Debts £204 6s 11d; assets, £202 5s 2d.”

St. Giles Marriage Register

18th March 1867 - John Levett (25), bachelor, ironmonger, Brierley Hill. Father - *James Adshead Levett*, publican.

Married - Sarah Ann Petford (23), spinster, Harts Hill. Father - John Petford, manager.

County Express 23/3/1867 - Marriages

“On the 18th inst, at Rowley Church, by the Rev. Tho. Ward, Vicar, John Levett, of Brierley Hill, youngest son of Mr. *James Adshead Levett*, PORTWAY TAVERN, Rowley Regis, to Sarah Ann, only daughter of Mr. John Petford, mine agent, Hart's Hill. No cards.”

Stourbridge Observer 11/2/1871

“*James A. Levett*, licensed victualler, at Blackheath, was charged by Superintendent Mills with having his house open for the sale of beer before the hour of half past twelve. He was further charged with refusing to admit the police. Mr. Shakespeare defended.

Police-constable Slinn proved that he was near the defendant's house at half past twelve o'clock, on the 29th ult. He saw a man go to the defendant's house and come out with a can of ale. Did not taste it, but there was froth on the top. Saw a man named Hill come up and take a can of ale. Went to the door of defendant and tried it. The door was fast. He rapped, but no one came. Cross-examined: Did not see any light in the house. Was about 20 yards away when the man went to the door for the ale. It was dark.

Police-constable Isom gave corroborative evidence, but on being cross-examined said it was moonlight at the time.

Mr. Shakespeare addressed the Bench for the defence, and said that the defendant had kept the house between thirty and forty years, and had never had a charge brought against him before. He was most anxious to keep his proper time, and said the police had done their duty in bringing the matter before the Bench, and the real facts of the case were that a number of men had been at the defendant's house, and just before 12 he told them the time was up, and they must leave. A man named Hill then called for a gallon of ale, and took it to his house to drink, accompanied by a number of men. Some dispute afterwards arose, and two men were going to fight, when the police came up. At the time Hill ran out of the house with the can half full of ale, to the defendant's door; but at that time defendant was in bed. Hill's object in going to the defendant's was that he thought by that means to induce the men to leave his house; and that was the real explanation.

The Bench took this view of the case, and the charge was withdrawn."

1871 Census

Perrys Lake – PORTWAY TAVERN

[1] *James A. Levett* (67), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Mary A. Levett* (58), wife, born Rowley Regis:

Stourbridge Observer 10/6/1871

"Thomas Barnsley was charged by *James Lovatt*, landlord of the PORTWAY INN, with assaulting him on the 30th ult.

Complainant said that defendant wanted to fight. He would not let him, and defendant struck him on the mouth, and knocked one of his teeth out.

Defendant pleaded guilty, and said he was very sorry.

Defendant was further charged with refusing to leave the house when requested.

Parish-constable Payne proved the offence.

Fined 2s 6d and costs for the first offence; for the second, to pay costs."

County Advertiser 8/4/1876

"Samuel Kite was charged with wilfully and maliciously breaking two panes of glass, the property of *Sarah Levett*, on the 20th ult. Mrs. *Levett* said defendant came to her house, the PORTWAY TAVERN, Blackheath, on the day in question, and wanted to come in. He was very violent, and because she would not allow him to enter the house he broke two panes of glass in her window.

Their value was 2s.

Defendant was further charged with being drunk in the public highway on the same date. Mrs. *Levett* proved the case.

The Bench fined defendant 2s 6d and costs for being drunk; and for the wilful damage ordered him to pay the value of the glass, and a fine of 20s and costs, in default twenty-one days' imprisonment."

County Express 24/8/1878 - Notice

"To the Overseers of the Poor, and the Superintendent of Police of the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, and to all whom it may concern.

I, *James Adshead Levett*, Grocer, now residing at Perry's Lake, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, Do Hereby Give Notice that it is my intention to Apply, at the General Annual Licensing Meeting, for the Division of Rowley Regis, to be holden at COOKSEY'S HOTEL, at Old Hill, in the said County, on the 11th day of September next ensuing, at the hour of Eleven o'clock in the forenoon of the same day, for a License to hold an Excise License to sell Sweets by retail, to be drunk and consumed on and off the house and premises thereunto belonging, situate at Perry's Lake, in the Parish of Rowley Regis aforesaid, in pursuance of the Act 6, George 4, Chapter 81, and Acts amending the same, and which said premises are duly rated for the relief of the poor, as by law is required, of which house and premises one Thomas Auden is the owner, and the same are now in my own occupation.

Given under my hand this 12th day of August, 1878.

James Adshead Levett."

County Express 14/9/1878

"The Bench were engaged some time in considering a number of applications from persons residing in the division, this being the annual licensing session. The following is a list giving the name of the applicant, the nature of the application, and the decision of the Bench thereon.....

James Adshead Levett, wine license (Mr. Addison supported, Nr. Superintendent Woollaston opposed), refused."

AND

"The following transfers were allowed by the Bench.....

PORTWAY TAVERN, Perry's Lake, from the Executors of *James A. Levett* to *Daisy Levett.*"

County Advertiser 4/12/1880

"An inquest was held on Tuesday last, before Mr. E. Hooper, at the PORTWAY TAVERN, Rowley, touching the death of Samuel

Joseph Hill, aged 1 month, whose parents live at Perry's Lake. The evidence given was that on Sunday morning last the child was found dead in bed, it having been in its usual health when taken to bed on the previous night. The jury returned a verdict of Accidentally Suffocated."

James Adshead Levett = James Adshead Lovett

1881 Census

17, Perry's Lake – PORTWAY TAVERN

[1] Mary Levett (18), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Sarah Levett* (18), daughter, born Rowley Regis:

AND

1881 Census

29, Perry's Lake

[1] *James A. Levett* (57), widower, licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Daisy Levett* (23), daughter, grocer, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *William Levett* (21), son, carpenter, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Kate Levett (16), daughter, pupil teacher, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Nelly Levett (10), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

West Bromwich Weekly News 25/11/1881

"Thomas Summerfield, Rowley Village, was summoned for being drunk and disorderly on the licensed premises of *James Levett*, PORTWAY TAVERN, Perry's Lake. Prosecutor said the defendant went to his house on Sunday night, there were about 30 or 50 persons in the house, one of the men having paid for 20 quarts of ale, the defendant left but returned and commenced a disturbance, and knocked a woman down.

Superintendent Woollaston asked for the case to be adjourned, he visited the house on Sunday night in company with Sergeant Cooper and two PCs. There were about 70 persons in the house, and the landlord never interfered. A more disgraceful scene never took place. He was of opinion that the summons was only taken out for a sham. There would be further evidence adduced. The case was adjourned."

West Bromwich Weekly News 3/12/1881

"*James Levett*, PORTWAY TAVERN, Rowley, was charged with permitting drunkenness.

Mr. Cooksey appeared to prosecute and Mr. Shakespeare defended.

PC Birch said at seven o'clock on the night of the 20th ult, he was sent to defendant's house in plain clothes, and remained there until 9.30. There was a large number of men and several women in the house, some of whom were drunk. There was a great disturbance, and the language used by the waiter and company was of the most disgraceful nature. Superintendent Woollaston said on Sunday night the 20th ult, he sent the last witness into defendant's house, he remained outside with PS Cooper and PC Styles. About 8.30 he saw several persons stagger out of the house, but they re-entered it almost immediately. About nine o'clock he entered the house; the passage and tap room were completely crammed with persons. There was an old woman quarrelling with a man named Summerfield, who knocked her down and fell on to the top of her. There was great confusion. There were several men under the influence of drink. There were about 70 persons in the house, every room being crowded. A more disorderly house he never saw. He spoke to defendant about it, who said he was very sorry.

Cross-examined: Defendant had not been summoned before.

PS Cooper corroborated.

Mr. Shakespeare said the case arose under unfortunate circumstances. Defendant was away from the house some portion of the time, and left someone else in charge. A friend of defendant's, from Birmingham, came to the house and left 10s to pay for some beer for the men who caused the disturbance complained of.

Mr. Bassano said the Bench considered it a bad case, and inflicted a fine of £5 and costs, and endorsed the license.

Mr. Shakespeare appealed to the Bench not to endorse the license, as this was defendant's first offence.

Mr. Bassano said they could not alter their decision, as they considered it a very bad case."

Sarah Perry was the daughter of *James Adshead Levett Jnr*.

She married George Perry in the 4th quarter of 1882.

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 Adshead Levitt, PORTWAY TAVERN, Perry's Lake, Rowley Regis, permitting drunkenness, fined £5 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 Chair-

man 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."

County Express 9/6/1883

"Mr. *James Levett*, the landlord of the PORTWAY TAVERN, near Halesowen, met with a shocking accident yesterday whilst brewing. When in the act of mashing he slipped off the raised platform and fell into the boiling wort, and was badly scalded about his arms and body. His face was not injured, but when extricated his arms presented a shocking appearance."

County Express 13/9/1884

"An informal meeting of some of the local members of the South Staffordshire Institute of Iron and Steel Works Managers' Association was held at Rowley Regis, on Saturday week, with the object of going over some of the basalt quarries in the neighbourhood.....

The party afterwards adjourned to the PORTWAY TAVERN, at Perry's Lake, where a substantial tea had been provided, to which full justice was done, and every attention rendered by the obliging landlord....."

Birmingham Daily Post 21/7/1887

"At Old Hill Police Court yesterday, James Southwick, landlord of the YEW TREE INN, Blackheath; Isaac Mullett, landlord of the HAWTHORN INN; Joseph Tromans, landlord of the BOAT INN, Gosty Hill; *James Lovatt* of the PORTWAY TAVERN, Perris Lake, Rowley; Henry Cooper of the THREE FURNACES, Old Hill; and Joseph Tibbetts, Spring Fields, Rowley, were summoned by the Excise officials for adding sugar to beer after the duty had been taken, between the dates of April 18 and 27.

Mr. Davis stated that the defendants added a quantity of sugar to the beer after the Excise officers had been round and taken the duty. Books were supplied by the Inland Revenue, in which the quantity of sugar and other ingredients used was entered. Upon visiting the defendants' premises it was found that sugar had been added which was capable of raising the standard of ale from what was termed twopenny up to sixpenny.

Mr. Shakespeare, who defended, pleaded guilty to the charges, but pointed out that the defendants were ignorant of the law, and were not aware they were doing wrong. Their object in adding the sugar was to give the beer a 'head,' make it clear and palatable. There was no intention of defrauding the Inland Revenue Office.

Mr. Davis stated that in one case the gravity of the ale was increased from 66 to 77 degrees.

Mr. Shakespeare asked that a nominal penalty be inflicted.

Defendants were fined £20 each, including costs, the aggregated amount of the penalties being £120."

Birmingham Daily Post 29/8/1889

"Yesterday, at the Old Hill Police Court, *James Adshead Levett*, landlord of the PORTWAY TAVERN, Rowley, and Joseph Pensotti, of Kates Hill, were charged with concealing six gallons of wort and beer and eight bushels of malt in March and May last, with intent to defraud the Inland Revenue Department. Evidence was given showing that two five-gallon buckets containing wort were found in a fowlhouse, which, it was contended for the defence, had been placed there to cool; also, that the malt was not properly entered in the book. Defendants denied the charges. *Levett* was fined in the first case £40, and in the second £5 and costs. *Pensotti* was fined £5 and costs."

County Express 26/7/1890

"Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest on Friday night, last week, at the PORTWAY TAVERN, Portway Road, Rowley Village, relative to the death of William Whitfield, aged three years, Gadd's Green, Rowley, who died the previous Wednesday from the effects of burns, received on the previous day. Frances Whitfield, the mother, went to draw some water from a well, when she left the deceased, together with some other children, playing in the yard. Witness pulled the door to. She heard her sister shout, and upon going to see what was the matter, found that her child had been badly burnt about the face, head, and arms. Dr. Beasley's assistant was sent for, and dressed the burns. The child died on Wednesday night. There was a guard round the kitchen fire, but witness had displaced it for the purpose of heating some irons. The Coroner said the mother had not exercised proper caution in not leaving the guard in its place before she left the house. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

1891 Census

17, Perry's Lake

[1] *James A. Levett* (60), widower, licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *William Levett* (31), son, general labourer, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *Harriet Levett* (19), niece, general servant, born Rowley Regis:

William Levett = William Levitt = William Levatt

County Express 26/9/1891

"*William Levitt*, Perry Lake, Rowley, landlord of the PORTWAY TAVERN, was summoned at the instance of the Inland Revenue authorities for keeping sugar in a place not entered for the purpose. Mr. J. P. Davis, supervisor, said he had been ordered to withdraw the case, and he asked the magistrates permission to do so. This was granted."

James Adshead Levett Jnr died on 26th August 1895.

County Advertiser 14/9/1895 - Advert

“Preliminary Announcement.

PORTWAY TAVERN, Perry’s Lake, Rowley Regis, Staffs.

E. H. Boilstone has received instructions from the Representatives of the late *James Levett*, to Sell by Auction, on Tuesday, October 1st, 1895, the whole of the Live and Dead Farming Stock.

Particulars in next week’s papers.

Auctioneer’s Office, Old Hill, Staffs.”

Sarah Perry was the daughter of *James Adshead Levett Jnr*.

She married George Perry in the 4th quarter of 1882.

County Advertiser 18/2/1899

“On Tuesday, Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest at the PORTWAY TAVERN, Perry’s Lake, Rowley, touching the death of Beatrice Alice Williams, aged seven months, daughter of Henry Williams, miner, of Perry’s Lake, who was found dead in bed on Sunday morning. The evidence of the mother and father showed that on Saturday night, at eleven o’clock, deceased was taken to bed. At 4-45 the next morning the mother saw the child alive, but at 8-20am she was found lying dead in bed. Police-constable Reynolds said he had made inquiries, and he found no suspicious circumstances connected with the case. A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned.”

County Advertiser 17/6/1899

“Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest on Thursday, at the PORTWAY TAVERN, Rowley Regis, concerning the death of George Whitfield, aged two years and seven months, whose parents reside at Gad’s Green, Rowley, and who was drowned in a cistern on Tuesday last.

The mother of deceased stated that for some time past he had not been in very good health, and had had to be attended by Dr. Beasley. On Tuesday morning, at 11-20, she last saw deceased alive, when he went to play with some other children in a field. About one o’clock she missed him, a search was made, and the result was that his body was found in the cistern at the rear of the premises. In reply to the foreman of the jury, witness said she was washing close to the cistern, which was not covered up, and she did not hear a splash or cry.

Mary Ann Vine, a neighbour, stated that she was assisting in the search for the body, and pulled it up from the cistern.

Dr. F. J. Beasley stated that he had made a post mortem examination of the body and death was due to drowning.

The Coroner said it was a very sad case.

The foreman of the jury remarked that there seemed to be some neglect on the part of the mother in not covering up the cistern. It was a very dangerous place, and as it was not required it should be closed.

Another juryman said it was a regular death trap, not only to children, but to grown-up persons, who might easily walk into it.

Several of the other gentlemen regarded the cistern as very dangerous, and the Coroner promised to write to the owner upon the matter.

The jury eventually returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

County Advertiser 14/7/1900

“David Webster, a private in the S. Staffs. Regiment, living at Shepherds Fold, Blackheath, was charged with being drunk on licensed premises at Rowley on the 10th inst.

Police-constable Reynolds stated that on the 10th inst he found defendant drunk in the tap room of the PORTWAY TAVERN, Rowley Regis. Defendant ought to have returned to his regiment on the 9th inst, but he would not be an absentee until midnight on the 11th inst.

Defendant said he hoped they would deal lightly with him, or else if he was not back to his regiment that night he would be in further trouble.

Defendant was fined 12s including costs.”

1901 Census

17, Perry’s Lake – PORTWAY INN

[1] George Perry (48), scrap iron dealer, born Old Hill;

[2] *Sarah Perry* (38), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Ada Perry (12), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Mabel Perry (10), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[5] James Perry (8), son, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Alfred Perry (6), son, born Rowley Regis;

[7] Marion Perry (5), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[8] Ada Atkins (22), general servant, born Blackheath;

[9] Willie Kirby (10), visitor, born Rowley Regis;

[10] William Levett (40), boarder, born Rowley Regis:

Smethwick Weekly News 5/10/1901

“Mr. H. A. Pearson (Coroner) held an inquest yesterday at the PORTWAY TAVERN, Perry’s Lake, Rowley, respecting the death

of Samuel Hooper, aged three years and eleven months, whose parents reside at Gad's Green, Rowley, and who died on Thursday from the effects of shocking burns sustained at his home the same day. The evidence showed that deceased was playing with some matches yesterday morning, when he ignited his clothing and was burnt in a shocking manner, death resulting several hours later. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

County Advertiser 6/9/1902 - Advert

"Preliminary Announcement.

To Brewers, Maltsters, Wine and Spirit Merchants, Licensed Victuallers, and Others.

Alfred Hill has been favoured with instructions from the Trustees of the late Mr. *J. A. Levett*, to Sell by Auction at an early date. The Freehold and Fully-Licensed Premises, known as the PORTWAY TAVERN, Perry's Lake, Rowley Regis; together with Two Cottages adjoining, also Two Dwelling Houses, situate and being Nos.40 and 41, The Mambles, King Street, Dudley. Vendors' Solicitors, Thomas Cooksey, Old Hill, Staffs."

County Advertiser 20/9/1902 - Advert

"Rowley Regis, Staffs.

Highly Important Sale of a Fully-Licensed Free Public House.

Alfred Hill has been favoured with instructions from the Exors. of the late Mr. *James A. Levett*, to Sell by Auction, on Monday, the 29th day of September, 1902, at the House of Mr. H. B. Darby, the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, at 7-30 in the Evening, sharp. Lot 1. All that Old-Established Home-Brewing, Fully-Licensed, Freehold, Free, Public House (Corner Property), now in the occupation of Mrs. *Sarah Perry*, and known as the PORTWAY TAVERN, Perry's Lake, Rowley Regis, containing Tap Room, Smoke Room, Bar, Club Room, Bedrooms, Pantry, Extensive Cellaring, Brewhouse (with Maltroom over), Stabling (Six-stall), with Loft over, Range of Piggeries, and the usual conveniences, with large Yard and Gateway Entrance, and frontage to two Roads, with Tap Water laid on, and fitted with Gas throughout.....

The Auctioneer begs respectfully to call the attention of Investors to these desirable Properties. The Public House offers to Capitalists the rare opportunity of securing a Fully-licensed, entirely Free, Home-brewing House, and an unusually sound Investment....."

County Advertiser 4/10/1902

"On Monday night an important sale of freehold property by public auction was conducted at the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, by Mr. Alfred Hill. The old-established home-brewing fully-licensed freehold free public house, known as the PORTWAY TAVERN, Perry's Lake, Rowley, was knocked down to C. T. W. Williams, after a spirited bidding, for £2,900. Two freehold cottages adjoining the public house, producing a low annual rental of £13 were sold for £200. Two freehold houses situated at Mambles, King Street, Dudley, realising a rental of £11 14s per annum, were disposed of for £135."

Sarah Perry died on 28th October 1902.

London Gazette 21/11/1902 - Notice

"*James Adshead Levett*, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given, that all persons having claims against the estate of *James Adshead Levett*, late of Perry's Lake, Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, Innkeeper, deceased (who died on the 26th day of August, 1895, and whose will was proved in the Lichfield District Registry on the 5th day of October, 1895, by *Sarah Perry*, the surviving Executrix) are required to send particulars thereof to me before the 6th day of December next, after which date the assets of the deceased will be distributed, having regard only to the claims of which I shall then have had notice.

Dated this 18th day of November, 1902.

Thomas Cooksey, Solicitor, Old Hill, Staffs."

AND

"*Sarah Perry*, Deceased.

All creditors and other persons having any claims or demands against the estate of *Sarah Perry*, late of Perry's Lake, Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, Innkeeper, deceased (who died on the 28th day of October last, and of whose estate letters of administration were on the 12th day of November, 1902, granted out of the Principal Probate Registry to George Perry), are required to send the particulars in writing of such claims or demands to me, the undersigned, before the 6th day of December, 1902.

Dated this 18th day of November, 1902.

Thomas Cooksey, Solicitor to the Administrator, Old Hill, Staffs."

County Advertiser 6/12/1902 - Advert

"*Re J. A. Levett* (Deceased).

PORTWAY TAVERN, Perry's Lake, Rowley Regis.

Sale of Brewing Plant, &c.

Alfred Hill has received instructions to Sell by Auction, on Tuesday, the 9th day of December, 1902, on the above Premises, the whole of the Brewing Plant and Utensils, Comprising 250-gallon Copper Boiler, 14-bushel Mash Tub, Two Vats, with Stands; Oval Cooler, quite new; Collecting Vessel (about 150 gallons), Two Fermenting Squares (200 and 400 gallons), One 180-gallon Cask, Five 104-gallon Casks, Nine 54-gallon Casks, Two 36-gallon Casks, Refrigerator, Hop Back, Ladles, Troughs, Sieves, Buckets, Tubs, Cans, Barm Skimmers, Saccharometer, Thermometer, Hydrometer; also a Quantity of Household Furniture and Effects, including Mahogany Oval Centre Table, Claw Legs; Leather-covered Square Table, 6ft 6in High-back Screen, Kitchen Ta-

ble, Eight-day Striking Clock, Iron Kettle, Pig Bench, Earthenware Wine Jars, with Taps; Barrel Churn, French Bagatelle Board, large Jugs, 2 gallons and 1 gallon; 10 Couple of Fowls, &c, &c.

Sale to commence at 12 o'clock prompt.

Auctioneer's Offices: Old Hill and Halesowen."

County Advertiser 17/10/1903

"The licensing justices having raised objections to the dilapidated condition of the PORTWAY TAVERN, Perry's Lake, Rowley Regis, Mr. T. W. Williams submitted plans of proposed structural improvements. The Bench approved the plans, subject to further alterations being carried out."

County Advertiser 28/5/1904

"On Sunday afternoon a public meeting under the auspices of the National League of the Blind of Great Britain and Ireland, was held at the Market Place. Prior to the gathering the Blackheath Village Brass Band assembled at the PORTWAY TAVERN, Rowley, and marched to the meeting place. Mr. H. Hemmings, of Dudley, presided, and addresses were delivered by Messrs. B. Purse, president of the League, who is blind; Brookes, of Dudley; and Roberts, of Coseley. A collection was made on behalf of the funds of the League."

County Advertiser 20/8/1904

"Frederick Brewer, labourer, of Perry's Lake, Rowley, was charged with being drunk and disorderly, and also with refusing to quit the licensed premises of the PORTWAY TAVERN, kept by *George Ward*, on the 5th inst.

Hannah *Ward*, the landlady, alleged that on the date named defendant came into her house in a drunken condition. She requested him to leave, but he refused to go. He remained upon the premises until Police-constable Bowers was called, when he left.

Defendant, who said it was his first appearance, and also hoped it would be his last, was fined 10s upon each charge."

County Advertiser 15/7/1905

"Yesterday (Friday) morning, Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest at the PORTWAY TAVERN, Rowley, respecting the death of John Clift (58), quarryman, residing at Perry's Lake, Rowley, who committed suicide on Thursday morning. The evidence showed that deceased had not worked for over six months, and had been very much depressed in consequence. On the date named Mary Ann Allen visited the house for the purpose of getting his washing, but she found the deceased sitting on the settle with his throat cut and a razor by his side. Police-constable Bowers stated that deceased had been out of employment for some time and there was no food in the house. The jury returned verdict of Suicide whilst of Unsound Mind."

County Advertiser 23/6/1906

"Yesterday, Sarah *Ward* (60), wife of *George Ward*, landlord of the PORTWAY TAVERN, Perry's Lake, Rowley, committed suicide in a stable at the rear of the house. Deceased was missed during the morning, and a search being made she was found hanging from a beam in the stable quite dead. It seems that deceased had been strange in her manner for some time past."

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/6/1906

"A woman named Sarah *Ward* committed suicide yesterday at the PORTWAY TAVERN, Rowley Regis.

The deceased had been very depressed for some time, and six weeks ago attempted to commit suicide by stabbing. Her husband sent her to a convalescent home, and she returned apparently the better for her holiday.

Yesterday morning she was missing from her bedroom, and search being made, her body was found hanging in a stable by a rope suspended from a beam."

County Advertiser 5/1/1907

"*George Ward*, landlord of the PORTWAY TAVERN, Rowley, was fined 7s 6d for allowing his two horses to stray on the 17th ult. Police-constable Bowers deposed to finding defendant's horses in Hawne Lane. They had got out of a field at Portway."

1911 Census

Perry's Lake

[1] *George Ward* (48), widower, licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Amy *Ward* (24), daughter, elementary teacher Urban District Council, born Rowley;

[3] William H. *Ward* (18), son, farm labourer, born Rowley;

[4] Mary *Taylor* (21), general servant, born Rowley:

Thomas Slater was married to *Phyllis*.

1939 Register

Perrys Lake – PORTWAY TAVERN

[1] *William A. Skelding*, date of birth 4/3/1894, public house manager, married;

[2] *Ethel Skelding*, dob 9/8/1895, unpaid domestic duties, married;

Geoffrey Onions was married to *Christine*.

See also CROSSWELLS, Oldbury.

It closed in 1984.
It was demolished in 1984.

PRINCE OF WALES

Halesowen Street, BLACKHEATH

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Philip Worrall [1871]

NOTES

It had a beerhouse license.

1871 Census

Halesowen Street – PRINCE OF WALES

[1] *Philip Worrall* (28), beerhouse keeper, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Mary Worrall* (26), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *William Worrall* (6), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Annie Worrall* (3), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[5] *Philip Worrall* (1), son, born Rowley Regis:

PRINCE OF WALES

143, (79), (66), Wrights Lane, Cherry Orchard, OLD HILL

OWNERS

John Rolinson and Son Ltd. (acquired c.1901 for £1,650)
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

Joseph Wright [1860] – **1885**);

Mrs. Mary Wright [1873]

Joseph Wakeman (**1885** – []

George Wakeman [1888] – [1896]

John Bushby [] – **1904**);

Edwin Arthur Barnett (**1904** – **1907**);

Charles Broadhurst (**1907** – []

B Wakeman [1908]

Eliza Wakeman (**1908** – **1910**);

Silas Henry Tilley Chambers (**1910**);

Hannah Mason* (**1910** – [1911]

Mrs. Harriet Mason* [1912]

William Davies (**1913** – [1916]

Sarah Tromans [] – **1919**);

Sydney Tromans (**1919** – **1921**);

James Leonard Stafford (**1921** – **1922**);

James Tromans (**1922** – **1926**);

James Johnson (**1926**);

William Bernard Keeling (1926 – 1932);
William Knowles (1932 – 1936);
Wilfred Kite (1936 – 1939);
David Bradley (1939 – 1940);
Albert Owen Hall (1940 – 1945);
Thomas Williams (1945 – 1954);
Bernard Frank Fereday (1954);
Harry Beasley (1954 – 1956);
Gilbert Roslyn Davenport (1956 – [1965])
Steve Berrow [1988] – [1991]

NOTES

66, Wrights Lane [1881], [1891]
79, Wrights Lane [1896], [1904], [1908]
143, Wrights Lane [1912], [1924], [1932], [1939], [1940]

Staffordshire Advertiser 13/5/1854

“Inquests before Mr. Hinchcliffe.....

On Friday, at the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Rowley Regis, on the body of Joseph Smith, a doggy in the employ of the British Iron Company. In the pit in which the deceased worked there are two gate-roads, the one running parallel above the other. On the evening of the previous Wednesday the deceased descended his pit for the propose of working all night, but at ten o'clock desired to re-ascend the pit; and as there was a sinker's scaffolding over the shaft upon a level with the upper gate-road, he got into the upper gate-road through a hole in the roof of the lower one. Immediately, however, upon getting upon the upper gate-road the flooring of it gave way, and he was precipitated into the lower one, and killed. The inquest was adjourned to ascertain the reasons of the sinkers in refusing to remove their scaffolding referred to.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 17/12/1856

“On Wednesday last an inquest was held at Mr. *J. Wright's* PRINCE OF WALES INN, before G. H. Hinchcliffe, Esq, on the body of Thomas Shipley, a miner, twenty-nine years of age. The evidence showed that on the 25th of November, whilst deceased was at work at Mr. Badger's coal pit, where some coal was cut, and ready to be taken down, he laid hold of a pike, and proceeded to remove a tree from under them, when several hundred weight of coal fell upon and so seriously injured him, breaking his leg and bruising his body, that after lingering some days he died on Tuesday. It was shown that the stall where poor Shipley worked was six yards wide, and no fear was had as to the coals falling. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Brierley Hill Advertiser 16/5/1857

“An inquest was held yesterday (Friday), before G. H. Hinchcliffe, Esq, at the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Cherry Orchard, near Rowley, on the body of William Foley, who died on the previous Wednesday from injuries received on the 26th ult, by an explosion of fire damp in a pit belonging to J. E. Swindell, Esq, at Cradley Heath. Deceased is a middle aged man, and has left a wife and four children in lament of their loss.”

Birmingham Journal 1/1/1859

“On Friday evening last, an inquest was held at the PRINCE OF WALES INN, near Old Hill, on the bodies of Edward Richards, aged twelve, and Samuel Richards, aged fourteen. The two deceased worked at the British Iron Company's stone pit, Black Wagon Colliery, and on the previous day they were both in a stall, about two yards wide, when a quantity of dirt suddenly fell from the roof, and buried Samuel Richards beneath, and a clod fell upon Edward Richards's foot, and held him fast. The men went to his assistance immediately, but in trying to remove the clod one of the trees or supports suddenly moved, and the men, for their own safety, were obliged to get out of the way, when another fall of dirt took place, and buried Edward Richards. Three-quarters of an hour elapsed before the dirt could be removed, and then both the deceased were found to be dead. The Jury, after hearing the evidence, returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1861 Census

Cherry Orchard

- [1] *Joseph Wright* (34), public house keeper, born Rowley;
- [2] Elizabeth Wright (35), wife, born Rowley;
- [3] Sarah R. Wright (16), daughter, born Rowley;
- [4] Samuel T. Wright (14), son, clerk, born Rowley;
- [5] William J. Wright (11), son, scholar, born Rowley;
- [6] Henry Wright (9), son, scholar, born Rowley;
- [7] Joseph Wright (7), son, scholar, born Rowley;
- [8] Mary E. Wright (5), daughter, scholar, born Rowley;
- [9] Daniel Wright (2), son, born Rowley;
- [10] Mary A. Detheridge (65), mother-in-law, widow, born Rowley:

County Advertiser 13/10/1866 - Advert

“PRINCE OF WALES INN, near the Lion Colliery, Old Hill.

To be Let, with immediate possession, if required, that compact Old-licensed Public House, which has been carried on by the present proprietor for several years. Licenses, Stock, Fixtures and Brewing Plant to be taken at a valuation. For particulars apply on the premises, or to Mr. Detheridge, Public house Agent, Brierley Hill.”

County Advertiser 6/4/1867

“On Tuesday last, a fatal accident took place at the Hawn Colliery, belonging to the New British Iron Company, which resulted in the death of Enoch Beckett, aged sixty-four, residing at Cherry Orchard, Old Hill. It appears that on the previous day a new rope had been affixed to the engine, and deceased was engaged in claying the rope about 4-30pm, when by some means one of the horns of the drum barrel caught his head, puncturing his skull, and he died from the effects of the injuries he received about a quarter of an hour afterwards. The body was removed to his place of abode, to await a coroner’s inquest. The unfortunate deceased has been seriously injured at least eight or nine times, and had only just recovered from the effects of a broken arm when he met with his death.”

AND

Stourbridge Observer 14/4/1867

“An inquest was held on the 5th inst, at the PRINCE OF WALES, before Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, on the body of Enoch Beckett, who was killed from a blow on the head, from the pit horse, the particulars of which were given in our last impression. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

1871 Census

Wrights Lane

- [1] *Joseph Wright* (44), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Elizabeth Wright (45), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] William Wright (21), son, roll turner, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Henry Wright (19), son, grocer’s assistant, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Joseph Wright (17), son, labourer, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Mary E. Wright (15), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Daniel Wright (12), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] Ruth L. Wright (6), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [9] Mary A. Detheridge (75), mother-in-law, late school mistress, born Rowley Regis:

Birmingham Daily Post 16/12/1875 - Advert

“PRINCE OF WALES INN, Old Hill, near Dudley.

A Wood Boat Society will Commence at the above Inn on Monday, January 10, 1876.

Any person wishing to become a Member can every information, and will oblige.

Joseph Wright.”

County Advertiser 3/3/1877

“On Saturday last, Mr. E. Hooper, district coroner, held an inquest at the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Cherry Orchard, concerning the death of John Darby (21), a miner. The deceased was working in one of the pits at the Blackheath Colliery, on Wednesday week, and was killed by a fall of coal which took place. No reason was discovered for imputing blame to anyone, and the jury accordingly returned a verdict of Accidentally Killed.”

County Express 22/9/1877 - Advert

“The LION INN and Premises, and Eight Other Freehold Dwelling Houses and a Quantity of Building Land, Part of the Old Lion Colliery Estate, at Old Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis.

Messrs. Bateman and Son beg to announce their instructions to Offer for Sale by Auction, on Monday, the 8th day of October, 1877, at Six o’clock in the Evening.

Plans and descriptive particulars are in course of preparation, and in the meantime and further information may be obtained from Messrs. T. and J. Simcox, Solicitors, 20, Waterloo Street, Birmingham; or the Auctioneers, Dudley; and from Mr. Daniel Wright, the FIELD HOUSE, Oxford Street, Dudley; Mr. John Wright, the SPORTSMAN INN, Gosty Hill, Old Hill; or Mr. *Joseph Wright*, the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Wrights Lane, Old Hill.”

County Advertiser 16/11/1878 - Advert

“To Let. To Builders, Timber Dealers, Boat Builders and Others.

Wharfage and Land, suitable for the above. A large Wood Shed is erected thereon which may be taken to.

Apply, *Joseph Wright*, PRINCE OF WALES, Old Hill, near Dudley.”

Dudley Herald 28/8/1880

“James Powell was fined 2s 6d and costs, and 1s, for damaging some grass, the property of *Joseph Wright*, landlord of the PRINCE OF WALES, Old Hill.”

Dudley Herald 4/9/1880

“Daniel Price was charged with damaging some turf, the property of John [sic] *Wright*, landlord of the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Cherry Orchard, Old Hill. Complainant said on behalf of the defendant’s mother he wished to withdraw the charge. Defendant was ordered to pay 10s costs.”

1881 Census

66, Wrights Lane

- [1] *Joseph Wright* (54), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Elizabeth Wright (55), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Henry Wright (29), son, roll turner, ironworks, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Daniel Wright (22), son, solicitor’s clerk, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Laura Wright (19), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Ruth L. Wright (16), daughter, pupil teacher, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 21/7/1883 - Advert

“On Monday, the 23rd July, Instant. Old Hill, Rowley, Staffordshire.

Sale of Valuable Freehold Properties and Building Land, consisting of an Old-Licensed Inn, called the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Eight Dwelling Houses, with Nailshops and Premises, and Six Building Lots, in Wrights Lane; and Nineteen Plots of Building Land fronting the Lion Road and adjoining proposed new streets, the whole being part of the Old Lion Colliery Estate, situate at Old Hill; and Five Dwelling Houses, with Gardens, &c, at Hyams Hill, in the parish of Rowley Regis.

Messrs. Bateman and Son have received instructions to Offer for Sale by Auction, at the house of Mr. John Wright, the SPORTSMAN INN and RAILWAY HOTEL, near the Old Hill Railway Station, on Monday, the 23rd day of July, 1888, at Six o’clock in the Evening, subject to conditions of Sale, the above Valuable Freehold Properties.

Plans may be seen, and any further information obtained from Messrs. T. and J. W. Simcox, Solicitors, 20, Waterloo Street, Birmingham; from Mr. *Joseph Wright*, the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Wrights Lane, Old Hill; the Auctioneers, Dudley; or at the place of Sale.”

Dudley Mercury 20/10/1888

“Joseph Williams, alias Dommer, Netherton, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of *George Wakeman*, PRINCE OF WALES INN, Old Hill, on the 8th inst. Police-constable Hinsley said he saw the defendant drunk at the house, with some beer in front of him. Defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs.”

County Express 3/11/1888

“*George Wakeman*, landlord of the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Old Hill, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises, and the 8th ult. Mr. W. Waldron defended.

Inspector Walters stated that at 9.30 on the evening in question he was in Wrights Lane, Old Hill, near to the defendant’s house and saw two men leave the house, and one was helplessly drunk and was lead by the other. On going inside he found a man named Joseph Williams, who had been convicted, drunk and staggering about the room and saying he was ‘Jack the Ripper.’

There was a jug of ale on the table in front of Williams.

Police-constable Insley stated that at 10.30 he visited the defendant’s house and saw Williams there with a jug of ale before him, and when he walked he staggered about. He called the landlady’s attention to him and she said he had not been there that long, and was not drunk only ‘half and half.’ Williams said he was drinking with a man named Homer.

Police-constable Barnes corroborated.

Matilda *Wakeman*, Joseph Potter, Henry Homer, and a man named Cotterill were sworn, and stated that Williams was not drunk. The Bench considered the case proved, and defendant was fined 40s and 16s 6d costs.”

Dudley Mercury 17/11/1888

“Unjust Weights and Measures.....

George Wakeman, living at the back of the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Wrights Lane, Old Hill, was charged with having an unjust scale in his possession. The inspector found in the defendant’s shop a flour scale ¼lb against the purchaser. The Bench said it was a bad case, and fined defendant 60s and costs.”

Dudley Mercury 31/8/1889

“The annual licensing session was held on Wednesday.....

The Black List contained the names of.....

George Wakeman, PRINCE OF WALES, Old Hill, for permitting drunkenness fined 40s and costs.....

None of these licenses were renewed.”

Dudley Mercury 28/9/1889

“Adjourned Licensing Session. These sessions were held at Old Hill, on Wednesday. At the annual licensing sessions the magistrates decided to refuse to the licenses of those publicans who had been convicted during the past year, and at Wednesday’s meeting the persons referred to applied for their renewals.....

George Wakeman, of the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Wrights Lane, and Jonah Round, of the PIG AND WHISTLE INN, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, were granted renewals after being cautioned.”

1891 Census

66, Wrights Lane

- [1] *George Wakeman* (59), coal miner and licensed victualler, born Bromsgrove;
- [2] *Matilda Wakeman* (57), wife, born Brierley Hill;
- [3] *Thomas Cockerill* (34), son-in-law, gas fitter, born Tiberton, Herefordshire;
- [4] *Mary A. Cockerill* (30), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Thomas Cockerill* (7), grand-son, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Harry Cockerill* (3), grand-son, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *Edith Cockerill* (1), grand-daughter, born Rowley Regis:

George Wakeman was also a brewer.

County Express 21/8/1897

“The first of what is intended to be an annual demonstration of the friendly societies in the Old Hill district, was held on Sunday, the object in view being to help the funds of the Dudley Guest Hospital, Dudley Dispensary, and Birmingham Eye Hospital the day was bright and promising, and there were large numbers of people all along the route.

At one o'clock the 1st Worcestershire Volunteer Band started from the CROSS INN, proceeded across Halesowen Road, calling at Trinity Schools and GEORGE HOTEL; then across Lawrence Lane into Reddal Hill Road, calling at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, and proceeding to the Cross, where the final procession was formed. Meanwhile the Old Hill Brass and Red Band started from the WHITE LION INN, proceeded by way of Powke Lane and Garratts Lane to Wrights Lane (as far as the PRINCE OF WALES INN), and returned to Garratts Lane, calling for lodges at the BRITISH OAK INN, FOX HUNT INN, Tabernacle, DUKE WILLIAM INN, VINE INN, to the Cross. On the arrival of this contingent a huge line was formed, and very pretty it looked. Members of the various lodges wore their regalia, and these being interspersed with the more elaborate honorary members' scarves, gave the line a very bright appearance.....”

County Advertiser 27/8/1898

“On Sunday afternoon the annual hospital parade and open-air service, arranged by the various friendly societies in Old Hill and the surrounding district took place. Processions were formed at different points of members of the Foresters, the Free Gardeners, and provident societies, numbering altogether about 1,000, and these, accompanied by the Blackheath, Halesowen Temperance, and Old Hill Bands, paraded the principal streets of the locality, after which they marched to a field in Garratts Lane, lent for the occasion by Mr. A. Sidaway, where a special service was held. Addresses were delivered by the Revs. E. Brewer, MA (vicar of Old Hill), and W. B. Cheshire (Primitive Methodist). A collection was made along the route and at the service in aid of the Guest Hospital, Dudley Dispensary, and Birmingham Eye Hospital, this realising £25 14s 5³/₄d.

The following was the order of procession issued by the committee. The Blackheath Village Band will start from the WHITE LION INN, Powke Lane, at 1-45 prompt, proceed down Garratts Lane, calling for societies at the BRITISH OAK INN, Tabernacle, DUKE WILLIAM INN, and VINE INN, turning across Queen Street on to the old football ground (by kind permission of Mr. W. H. Jarvis). The Halesowen Temperance Band will start from the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Wrights Lane, at 1-45 prompt, proceed round Cherry Orchard Street, into Wrights Lane, turning down Wagon Street, calling at the OLD ENGINE INN, proceeding down Elbow Street and King Street, across Halesowen Road, to the old football ground. The Old Hill Band will start from the CROSS INN at 1-45 prompt, calling for societies at Trinity Schools and GEORGE HOTEL, proceed across Lawrence Lane, turning up New Street, Ridding Street, Pear Tree Street, Pear Tree Lane, thence into Reddal Hill Road, calling at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, and proceeding to the old football ground. A grand procession will be formed as follows.....”

County Express 22/3/1902

“Some strong remarks anent [in regard to] perjury were made by Mr. W. Bassano in giving the verdict in the cases in which John Hill and Israel Gould, of Old Lion Road, Old Hill, were charged with assaulting Agnes Williams on Saturday evening. Mr. G. Williams, of Cradley Heath, defended.

Mrs. Williams, who appeared at court with a black eye, told the Court that on Saturday night about twenty minutes past eleven, as she was passing along Old Lion Road, she heard Hill and Gould, who had just left the PRINCE OF WALES INN, conversing. Hill said, ‘I am going to kill the first I come to.’ He struck her without the slightest provocation, giving her the black eye they saw, and the blow also knocked her down. While on the ground she alleged Gould said, ‘Out of the road, let me give her a — kick,’ and that he kicked her on the face. She became insensible, and remained so for some time. In cross-examination, she stated she was not living with her husband, but was living at the RED LION INN. She admitted seeing Hill and Gould with Mrs. Gould and another woman, but denied speaking to or striking Mrs. Gould. She and Mrs. Gould did not have a free fight, neither were the injuries she received caused by Mrs. Gould striking her in the eye and cutting her face with a ring she wore.

A case arising from the same bother was one in which John Shaw, of the RED LION INN, was charged with wilfully damaging a pane of glass, value 2s 6d, the property of Elizabeth Hill. Mr. G. Williams prosecuted.

Mrs. Hill stated that at about half-past eleven or twenty minutes to twelve, while she was in the house, half-a-brick came crashing through the window, and the allegation was that it was thrown by John Shaw. A number of witnesses were called, who gave different versions of both occurrences.

The Bench said it was very well they took the brick throwing case before they gave their decision in the assault case, for it was quite clear from the independent evidence that there had been perjury. The case had been complicated, as unfortunately many of those assault cases were, by perjury. They did not consider it proved that Gould kicked Mrs. Williams, but they had no doubt

that Hill struck her. Hill would be fined 40s and costs, or a month's hard labour, and the cases against Gould and Shaw would be dismissed."

John Bushby = John Busby

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/3/1904

"Charged with keeping his house open during prohibited hours, *John Bushby*, licensee of the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Old Hill, at the local police court, yesterday, denied that anyone was on the premises after ten o'clock, and after a legal argument, which lasted for an hour and a half, the police withdrew the charge, intimating that they would proceed against him under another section. According to the police, a man named Price was seen to leave the house with a bottle of whisky after eleven o'clock at night. For the defence it was contended that there was no evidence that the premises were open for the sale of liquor, and that Price was not in the house after ten o'clock."

County Advertiser 27/8/1904

"On Sunday afternoon the eighth annual parade and service arranged by the various friendly societies in the Old Hill district took place under favourable circumstances. The proceedings commenced with a large procession.....

The Halesowen Temperance Prize Band started from the OAK TREE INN, Waterfall Lane, at one o'clock, and proceeded down Waterfall Lane and Clifton Street to Wrights Lane, calling for the societies at the PRINCE OF WALES INN and the BRITISH OAK INN. Afterwards they marched to the field.....

Upon arrival at the field a grand procession was formed This paraded the principal streets of the locality for some time, after which they proceeded to a field in High Street, kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. A. E. Sidaway. Here a service was held, the chair being occupied by Dr. T. E. Mitchell. Notwithstanding the threatening state of the weather there was a large attendance..... A collection was made upon the route, and at the service, on behalf of the Dudley Guest Hospital, Dudley Dispensary, Birmingham Eye Hospital, Birmingham General Hospital, Birmingham Ear and Throat Hospital, and the Old Hill Nurses Fund."

County Advertiser 10/12/1904

"Mr. W. H. Thompson made an application for the transfer of the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Wrights Lane, Old Hill, from *John Bushby* to *Edwin Arthur Barnett*. He explained that the applicant formerly held the license of the BEEHIVE INN, Old Hill, but on the 13th of April last was fined £5 and costs upon two charges of permitting gambling upon the premises. Mr. *Barnett* held an air-gun shooting club upon the premises, and the gambling consisted of shooting for beer. Applicant had held licenses in various parts of the Midlands for twenty years, and he urged them to give him another chance. Mr. Thompson produced a number of testimonials, and read one from Superintendent Hodkinson, of the Stone Division, who was inspector in charge of the Old Hill Division at the time of the conviction, to the effect that having regard to his previous good character, he thought the Bench would grant him the license.

The Bench, after a short deliberation, decided to grant the application.

Mr. A. H. Bassano (presiding magistrate) said the Bench were greatly surprised at the action of Superintendent Hodkinson. Superintendent Johnson said it was quite unusual and altogether contrary to the rules and regulations of the police force. An application was made for the return of the testimonial, but it was stated that the Bench wished to deal with the matter themselves."

Birmingham Mail 6/1/1906

"Today, Mr. G. C. Lewis (Coroner) held an inquest at the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Wrights Lane, Old Hill, respecting the death of John Marsh (80), of Wrights Lane, who died on the 4th inst from the effects of injuries sustained on the 2nd inst. The evidence showed that for some time past the deceased had been confined to his bed. On the 2nd inst his son left him in the house when he went to work at 5.30, and when his daughter visited the house an hour and a half later she found her father lying at the bottom of the stairs. He had sustained severe injuries to the head and face, and died on the 4th inst, as stated. Dr. Tibbetts attributed death to concussion of the brain, caused by the fall. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Birmingham Mail 8/5/1906 - Advert

"Bar General, early riser, good worker.

Apply, personally, with references, to Mrs. *Barnett*, PRINCE OF WALES INN, Old Hill."

County Advertiser 18/8/1906

"The tenth annual parade of the Old Hill Friendly Societies, on behalf of the local medical charities, will be held tomorrow afternoon in a field lent by Mr. A. E. Sidaway The order of procession will be.....

The Cradley Heath Salvation Army Band will start from the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Cherry Orchard, at one o'clock....."

County Advertiser 13/10/1906

"Benjamin Homer, of High Street, and Harry Davies of Spring Meadow, Old Hill, were charged with stealing a bottle of brandy, of the value 5s, belonging to *Edwin Arthur Barnett*, landlord of the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Wrights Lane, Old Hill, on the 6th inst.

Prosecutor stated that on the night in question defendants were drinking in his house, and when they left he found that a bottle of brandy was missing from a shelf.

Inspector Gibbs stated that soon after he received information of the theft he paid a visit to Davies's house where he found the defendant in a drunken condition. He was almost mad drunk. He also went to the house occupied by Homer, and found him lying

on a screen in a very drunken state, with the drink running out of his mouth. Subsequently he found the empty bottle with the neck broken off in a room in Davies's house. Defendants surrendered on the 9th inst, and when charged with the theft Homer said, 'Yes, that is quite right.' Davies said, 'Let's have a smell at the bottle. It smells more like beer than brandy.' Both defendants pleaded that they knew nothing whatever of the theft, Homer adding that they were fairly boozed. The Bench fined defendants £1 including costs each, Mr. Bassano remarking that the penalty would have been much heavier but for the fact that they were willing to believe it was the result of drink."

County Advertiser 8/6/1907

"The quarterly licensing sessions for the Old Hill Petty Sessional Division were held at the Police Court on Wednesday..... Sanction was given to carry out alterations at the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Wrights Lane, Old Hill, kept by *Charles Broadhurst*."

County Express 8/8/1908

"On Sunday afternoon there was held the twelfth annual service promoted by the united friendly societies in the Old Hill district. The occasion was favoured with brilliant weather, and there was a large attendance at the services. The proceedings opened with a large procession, which aroused considerable interest in the district. The Old Hill Ironworks Band started from the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Wrights Lane, at one o'clock, and proceeded to the OLD HOUSE AT HOME INN for sick and draw club, through Cherry Orchard, calling for Court Robin Hood's Cave and BRITISH OAK sick and draw club; by way of Wagon Street, calling for Success-to-the-FOX-HUNT Lodge; Elbow Street for Court Benjamin and KINGS HEAD sick and draw club; Halesowen Road, calling for Provident Institution, and on to the field. The Cradley Heath Salvation Army Band started from COOKSEY'S HOTEL at one o'clock with Snowdrop Lodge, by way of Halesowen Road, calling for Court Loyal Marlborough; Bank Street, Queens Street, High Street, and on to the field. The Cradley Heath Town Prize Band started from the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill, with Court Robin Hood the Brave; by way of Reddal Hill Road, calling for the WHY NOT sick and draw club, and on to the BRIDGE INN for Welcome to the Bridge Inn Lodge, across Plant Street, Lawrence Lane, Clyde Street, Petford Street calling for Druids Society; Pear Tree Street, Riddings Street, New Street, Halesowen Road, calling for Court Royal Sherwood and Rechabites Society and ROYAL EXCHANGE sick and draw club; High Street to the field. A grand procession was then formed....."

County Express 3/7/1909

"On Saturday evening a gas explosion, fortunately unattended with serious results, occurred in the highway at Wrights Lane, Old Hill. The residents were startled by a loud report, and upon going into the street found that a portion of the roadway had been blown up, whilst damage had also been caused to an entry close to the PRINCE OF WALES INN. The shock was felt in many houses, and at the CHERRY ORCHARD INN the tea table was upset by the explosion. Mr. Walter Cutler informed the police, and PCs Davies, Heathcote, and Pass visited the place. Upon examination it was found that large volumes of gas were escaping from one of the mains. How the gas was ignited is a mystery. At one time it was feared that an old woman residing in Wrights Lane had been suffocated, as she could not be seen, but when PC Pass effected an entrance to her house she was found safe and sound."

Silas Henry Tilley Chambers – see also QUEENS HEAD.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/1/1938

"Mr. *Silas T. Chambers*, aged 57, a haulage contractor, of 116, Powke Lane, Old Hill, collapsed and died in the stand when Wolverhampton Wanderers scored their first goal in the match against Arsenal, at Wolverhampton, on Saturday. Mr. *Chambers* was a keen supporter of the 'Wolves,' and rarely missed one of their home matches..... He was interested in all branches of sport, including pigeon flying, a popular Black Country pastime, in connection with which he had won several prizes..... Before starting as a haulage contractor, Mr. *Chambers* was a licensee at Old Hill."

*possibly the same person.

1911 Census

Wright's Lane – PRINCE OF WALES INN

[1] Henry Mason (56), fitting maker, tube manufacturer, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Hannah Mason* (56), wife, married 4 years, licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 29/7/1911

"On Sunday night, Joseph Wakeman, aged eight years, Wrights Lane, Old Hill, was drowned whilst bathing in the Birmingham Canal, adjacent to the Fly Colliery, Old Hill. Several men jumped into the canal and tried to rescue him, but half-an-hour elapsed before the body could be found. When it was brought to shore artificial respiration was resorted to by Inspector Needham assisted by other police officers, but their efforts were to no avail. Thousands of people assembled on the canal embankment to witness the recovery of the body. Dr. McQueen was called but the boy was dead when he arrived.

The Deputy Coroner (Mr. Lewis) conducted an enquiry into the facts on Tuesday, at the PRINCE OF WALES, Wrights Lane, Old Hill.

Joseph Wakeman, bolt forger, 63, Wrights Lane, Old Hill, said deceased was his son. He last saw him alive between 3 and 4

o'clock on Sunday afternoon.

Alfred Israel Welding, new Eagle Colliery house, said: I went to bathe with Wakeman at 4.30 on Sunday. Later in the day Wakeman went into the water himself. He then got out of the water and ran along the side. Then I missed him, and ran home to tell my mother. I also told two men that he was missing.

You did not see him fall in? – No, sir.

Meshack Dyas (18), said: I saw a crowd on the canal side and I ran down. They told me a boy was in the canal. I stripped, and ten minutes after I found him in the old wharf.

Had you much difficulty in finding him? – I stepped on him and then dived and fetched him up.

Was he embedded in the mud at all? – No, sir.

How deep is the water? – About five feet.

PC Longman deposed to receiving the boy from the last witness. Witness was informed that deceased had been running round a ledge and had fallen in. When Dr. McQueen arrived he pronounced the lad dead.

Is it fenced? – One side is.

Is there much bathing there? – Yes.

No amount of fencing would keep the boys out? – No.

Mr. James: Was the boy dressed? – No, he was undressed. He had been bathing.

Mr. Partridge: The boys must have been trespassing.

The Coroner: Anyone who bathes in the canal must be trespassing.

Inspector Needham said he was there when the dragging operations were in progress. About twenty people stripped and dived into the water. He heard nobody say that they had seen the boy fall in.

Re-called Welding said he saw two men about five yards away, but they did not trouble them.

The jury were of opinion that the witness was confused.

The Deputy Coroner agreed. The only gratifying thing about the affair, he said, was the assistance given by the people who came along and the plucky manner in which the witness Dyas fetched him out.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.

Mr. A. James (the foreman) expressed thanks to the police, who rendered first-aid, and also to the lad who got the body out.

The Coroner: I agree with you, sir. The police in this district, I find, are always ready to render what help they can in such cases.

Inspector Needham complimented those who attempted to recover the body, speaking highly in the manner in which they dived into the water time after time.”

Sydney Tromans = Sidney Tromans

Staffordshire Advertiser 12/4/1924

“County Quarter Sessions.....

John Pearson, aged 26, a miner, was charged with breaking and entering the dwelling house of *James Tromans*, on February 15th, at Old Hill, and stealing a bottle of rum, £1 9s 3d in money, and other articles. Mr. Kenneth Wood conducted the prosecution, and the prisoner, who as not defended, pleaded not guilty.

The case for the prosecution was that Mr. *Tromans* was the licensee of the PRINCE OF WALES INN at Old Hill, and that the house was entered on the night mentioned, and the money and the articles missed. There was evidence to connect the prisoner with the theft, as he took a bottle of rum, similar to that which was missed, to the house of his sister-in-law on the following morning, and also spent money freely on the same day.

The prisoner gave evidence on oath, and strongly denied the charge. He admitted having a bottle of rum in his possession, but said he bought it from two men at a coffee-house at Dudley.

The jury found the prisoner guilty, and a previous conviction for theft at Old Hill was admitted by the prisoner, who was sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labour.”

1939 Register

143, Wrights Lane

[1] *David Bradley*, date of birth 17/7/1907, licensed victualler, married;

[2] *Alice Bradley*, dob 23/4/1906, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Ronald Bradley*, dob 9/5/1931, at school, single:

Demolished

Rebuilt

[1976]

Sports Argus 8/8/1977

“*Maurice Robinson* completed a remarkable feat during a game of ‘cricket’ with darts. He managed to put three darts in the bull for game shot at the PRINCE OF WALES in Old Hill.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 27/4/1991

“Pub Talk. Cheers! It's your Best Guide to Midland Pubs.

Regulars were worried that their friendly local would lose something of its appeal when a popular ‘mine host’ retired and new

managers moved in behind the bar. From the outside, the PRINCE OF WALES could be like any other pub tucked away in the side streets of Old Hill. For its faithful band of customers, however, there was always a touch of magic about the atmosphere inside this particular Black Country tavern. That they continue to meet up over a pint in the cosy bars or settle contentedly into a game of crib or darts shows how well licensee *Steve Berrow* came up to scratch. Fears that the pub would suffer from a change of management, with a young couple at the helm, proved to be unfounded. *Steve*, who arrived as manager three years ago, soon made it clear that he wouldn't do anything to spoil the character of a favourite community haunt.

The PRINCE OF WALES, in Wrights Lane, is used by many local residents and people who travel in from neighbouring areas. 'We all enjoy a splendid pint and convivial company,' said one pub regular, Paul Brownhill, of Cradley Heath, Warley. 'Many must have thought the relaxed and comfortable atmosphere would be disrupted when the previous licensee retired, but that was not to be. It is still one of the best pubs I know.'

Steve, 29, and his wife, Lisa, are on first-name terms with just about everybody they serve in the bar and small lounge at the PRINCE OF WALES, their first pub – although *Steve* worked for his dad when he was a licensee. 'Many of our customers have been coming in for years, people born and bred round here and it is very much their pub. I am just being friendly towards them. They create the good atmosphere,' said the modest host.

Older drinkers like the fact they can swap tales and enjoy a pint of Banks's mild or bitter without having to compete against music blasting out across the bar. There is a juke box but nothing in the heavy-beat category is ever likely to be played.

'We get a lot of middle-aged customers who have got to know each other and treat the pub like a community centre,' said *Steve*.

'But younger people also fit in well and we treat everybody as friends.'

Another regular, Clive Hamond, described the PRINCE OF WALES as a 'family pub,' which has not suffered any fall in standards.

The two Banks's 'house' beers account for about 70 per cent of the pub's sales. There is hardly any call for lager, although it is on tap.

Pick of the pints: Banks's Mild; Banks's Bitter. Cost of a pint 91p mild, 96p bitter (bar prices).

Food – Sandwiches

Facilities – Darts, crib and TV for sports programmes.'

[2014]

It was demolished in 2014.

QUEENS ARMS

Mincing Lane, (White Heath), BLACKHEATH

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Thomas Slim [1845]

Mrs. Sarah Slim [1849] – 1859;

David Ravenscroft (1859 – [1861]

Joseph Southall [1862]

NOTES

QUEENS HEAD [1849], [1850]

JOLLY TOPERS [1861]

Thomas Slim was also a nail factor. [1845]

Sarah Slim = Sarah Slynn

1851 Census

Mincer Lane

[1] *Sarah Slim* (61), widow, grocer and victualler, born Rowley;

[2] Sarah Jane Slim (25), daughter, born Rowley;

[3] Thomas Slim (20), son, nail factor, born Rowley:

It was renamed JOLLY TOPERS. [1861]

1861 Census

Mincing Lane – JOLLY TOPERS

[1] *David Ravenscroft* (37), engine smith and beerhouse keeper, born Oldbury;

[2] Elizabeth Ravenscroft (36), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] Benjamin Ravenscroft (9), son, colliery engine firer, born Oldbury;

[4] Mary Jane Ravenscroft (4), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury:

QUEENS HEAD

35, Corngreaves Road, Four Ways, CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

George N. Bridgwater, Dudley Wood

Lesters Ltd., Dudley

Frederick Smith Ltd.

William Butler and Co. Ltd. (acquired on 12th October 1959)

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Richard Parkes [1849] – **1850**);

Jonah Jones (**1850** – [1851]

Joseph Jones [1851]

Charles Homes [1854] – [1865]

Sarah Homes [1861]

Catherine Homes [1865] manager

Charles Homes [] – **1868**);

William Hickton (**1868** – **1874**);

Joseph Siviter [1871] brewer

John Smith [1872] manager

William Smith (**1874** – **1876**);

Thomas Burgess (**1876**);

Robert Griffith Austin (**1876** – **1877**)

R E Osten [1877]

John Homer [] – **1879**);

Samuel Hughes (**1879** – [1880]

James Marlow [1881] – **1882**);

Joseph Manning (**1882** – []

H E Hickton [1886]

Alfred William Tibbetts [1890]

Mrs. Elizabeth Parker Tibbetts [1891] – [1901]

William Cutler [1904] – [1916]

Frederick Piper [1919] – **1923**);

George Johnson (**1923** – **1924**);

Bert Adrian Slim (**1924** – **1926**);

Thomas Edward ‘Tommy’ Evans (**1926** – **1931**);

Arthur Shaw (**1931** – **1934**); manager

George Thomas Brown (**1934** – **1935**);

Lawrence Parry Haywood (**1935** – **1937**);

William Walker (**1937** – **1947**);

Arthur Bradney (**1947** – **1949**);

Charles Henry Allen (**1949** – **1951**);

Joseph Albert Cornock (**1951** – **1952**);

Anne Rebecca (Bloomer) Wilkins (**1952** – **1965**);

NOTES

QUEENS HEAD INN AND RAILWAY HOTEL [1901], [1932], [1940], [1943]
QUEENS HOTEL [1909]

It sold Bridgewater's ales.

Bridgewater Lodge (No.3977) of Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes met here.

Worcestershire Chronicle 19/2/1851

"*Joseph Jones*, licensed victualler, QUEENS HEAD, Rowley, was fined 2s 6d and costs for keeping his house open before due hours on Sunday, 9th instant."

1851 Census

Four Ways

- [1] *Joseph Jones* (30), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Lucy Jones* (28), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Hannah Jones* (5), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *William Jones* (3), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Joseph Jones* (9 months), son, born Rowley Regis;

Charles Homes = *Charles Holmes* = *Charles Homer*

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/12/1855

"On Wednesday evening a numerously attended public meeting of the inhabitants of Cradley Heath took place at the house of Mr. *Charles Holmes*, the QUEENS HEAD INN, for the purpose of considering the present inefficient number of policemen appointed for the watching of that district It was stated that four or five months ago a deputation of the inhabitants waited upon the Magistrates with a memorial signed by the principal inhabitants, setting forth that Cradley Heath contained a population of 10,000 persons, and that but one single policeman was stationed in the place. It was also said at the meeting that there was no lock-up nearer than Rowley Regis, the headquarters of the parish, and which was a distance of two or three miles from Cradley Heath. The numerous robberies which have recently taken place in Cradley were also commented upon, and traced in a great measure to the inefficient provision for watching. Resolutions were passed, establishing a society for the appointing of private watchmen; a committee being named for carrying out the same."

County Advertiser 5/4/1856 - Advert

"No.1 Money Society.

C. Homes begs respectfully to inform the inhabitants of Cradley Heath, and neighbourhood, that he intends to re-commence the above Society, on Wednesday, the 9th of April. Payments as before, viz:

For £50, 10s 6d per fortnight.

For £25, 5s 6d per fortnight.

For £12 10s, 3s per fortnight.

QUEENS HEAD, Cradley Heath, April 4th, 1856."

Brierley Hill Advertiser 20/6/1857

"On Tuesday evening last, the puddlers and shinglers employed at the Corngreaves Iron Works met at the house of Mr. *Homer*, QUEENS HEAD INN, for the purpose of presenting to their late manager, Mr. S. Coley, a token of their sincere respect for the kindness and good feeling which he had evinced during the number of years he had presided over them. The memorial consisted of an elegantly-chased silver lever watch and a splendid gold chain. The presentation was accompanied by an appropriate address from one of the senior workmen, which was acknowledged briefly but with much feeling."

Birmingham Daily Post 11/5/1858 - Advert

"Sale of Freehold Property, at Cradley.

By Mr. Bateman, Tomorrow (Wednesday) May 12, at Six o'clock in the evening, at the house of Mr. *Charles Homes*, the QUEENS HEAD INN, at Cradley Heath, Twenty-two very desirable Dwelling Houses, Shops, and Premises, and Six Lots of most eligible Building Land."

County Advertiser 1/1/1859

"On Thursday evening last upwards of seventy of the workmen employed at the Corngreaves Iron Works, were regaled with good old English cheer at the house of Mr. *Holmes*, QUEENS HEAD INN, Mr. Francis Purser occupied the chair, and Mr. Jackson the vice-chair. Several toasts and sentiments were given and heartily responded to, among which were, 'the New British Iron Company,' 'Messrs. Blackwell and Hunt,' &c. A vote of thanks were given to the host and hostess for the very efficient manner in which the arrangements were made."

County Advertiser 19/11/1859

"An accident resulting fatally to two men occurred about seven o'clock on Monday morning last, at the Ash Tree Colliery, belonging to Messrs. Hall, Holcroft and Pearson, situate near the PIG AND WHISTLE, Old Hill. A fall of coal took place, and one

man living at Gornal was killed on the spot, and the second named William Green, 26 years of age, died while being carried to his residence at Cradley Heath. An inquest on the body of Green was held on Wednesday afternoon, at Mr. *Holmes*' the QUEENS HEAD, Cradley Heath, before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, when a verdict of Accidental Death was returned. Green has left a wife and three children."

1861 Census

Corngreaves Road

- [1] *Sarah Homes* (33), married, innkeeper, born Rowley;
- [2] Charles Homes (7), son, scholar, born Rowley;
- [3] Elizabeth Homes (4), daughter, scholar, born Rowley;
- [4] *Catherine Homes* (41), sister, assistant in house, born Manchester;
- [5] Charlotte Tromans (67), widow, nurse, born Rowley;
- [6] Phebe Cooper (27), domestic servant, born Rowley;
- [7] George Bennett (24), brewer, born Kinver:

County Advertiser 10/6/1865 - Advert

"High Street, Cradley Heath.

Valuable Front Shops, Dwelling Houses, Outbuildings, and Premises, situate in High Street, Cradley Heath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Bateman, on Wednesday, the 21st day of June, 1865, at Six o'clock in the Evening, at the house of Mr. *C. Homes*, the QUEENS HEAD AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, and subject to conditions then to be produced....."

Stourbridge Observer 1/7/1865

"Isaiah Faulkner, alias Runner, and Joseph Willetts, alias Gordon, from Tividale, were brought up on a charge of the police, indicted with burglariously entering the premises of Mr. *C. Homes*, QUEENS HEAD, on the morning of the 23rd inst, and with attempting to murder the police. The two prisoners, on being brought up, exhibited marks of their having been very roughly handled; but the face and body of Faulkner especially attracted the attention of sight seers, his head and face being plastered nearly all over, and his right arm apparently altogether disabled. They seemed to be devil-may-care sort of men, and men who, to effect their own ends, would not stand at trifles. No doubt a desperate struggle took place in the dark in Mr. *Homes*'s cellar, and had the three other men belonging to the gang, and who are supposed to have been on the look-out around the premises, joined their fellows in crime a fiercer strife would have been waged, and not unlikely attended with fatal results. The police in this case manifested great vigilance in gaining a clue, and then much courage in executing their designs and bringing the offenders to justice. Police-constable Taylor, we are glad to learn is recovering nicely.

It being deemed advisable by the police in charge of the case, to have the prisoners remanded for a week, one witness only was called.

John Siviter deposed: I am brewer in the employ of Mr. *C. Homes*, QUEENS HEAD, Four Ways, Cradley Heath. On Friday morning the 23rd ult, I saw the two prisoners in the house about one o'clock. I generally sleep at the QUEENS HEAD, and did so on Thursday night. I went to bed about twenty minutes past twelve. I had suspicions that something was going to happen from information I had received. About one o'clock in the morning I heard a noise down stairs, in the cellar. In about ten minutes afterwards I saw the two prisoners in the passage of the house. I afterwards saw the two prisoners taken into custody in the cellar. There was violence used, and I heard the report of a pistol. I was carrying a candle, and as soon as I entered the cellar, Willetts fired. At this stage of the proceedings Sergeant Powner asked for a remand for a week on the ground that the evidence had not been completed, and to allow him time to investigate one or two other matters to which the prisoners are supposed to have been concerned."

Stourbridge Observer 8/7/1865

"At the Old Hill Police Court on Wednesday, before E. Moore, E. Gem, and F. W. G. Barrs, Esqrs, Isaiah Faulkner, alias Fisher, alias Runner, and Joseph Willetts, alias Gordon, were brought up in custody of the police and on remand, charged with burglariously entering the house of Mr. *C. Homes*, of the QUEENS HEAD INN, Cradley Heath, on the night of Thursday, the 23rd ult. The following witnesses were examined.

Miss *Homes*: My name is Catharine *Homes*. I manage the business of the QUEENS HEAD, for my brother *Charles*. He lives at Halesowen. On the night of Thursday, the 22nd ult, I saw the house was all made up as usual. I went upstairs to bed about 20 minutes past twelve. Previous to going upstairs I looked at all the doors and windows. The servant girl, Esther Reece, went upstairs with me. No one else was upstairs. When I went upstairs I left the three policemen, John Powner (Sergeant), Isaac Taylor, and James Chatham, and the brewer, Joseph Siviter, in the smoke room. About one o'clock I heard a noise down stairs. The noise was similar to that caused by breaking bars. After a short time I went down stairs along with the servant. We went down the cellar and saw the two prisoners in the custody of the police, handcuffed. I saw blood on the cellar floor, on one of the policemen (Taylor) and on prisoner Faulkner.

Joseph Siviter: I am brewer to Mr. *C. Homes*. I do not live in the house but sleep there chiefly. On Thursday night, the 22nd ult, about half past eleven o'clock, Police-sergeant Powner, Police-constables Taylor and Chatham, came to my master's house. After they came we shut up the house, made the doors &c. I made some of the doors, and the windows and shutters, and Esther Reece made the others. I saw my mistress and the servant girl go upstairs to bed. It was after twelve, perhaps a quarter past. The policemen went into the smoke room. Previous to going into the smoke room, I saw all the doors and windows fast. I then went upstairs and put out all the lights, the lights downstairs being already out. I then came down stairs and found the police in the

smoke room. Twenty minutes afterwards I heard a noise outside, as of some one getting over the wall into the back yard. We next heard some one at the cellar window trying to break it open. The cellar was immediately under where I was sitting. In a few minutes I heard a match struck. I next heard some one up the cellar steps breaking open the cellar door. The door was forced open without making much noise. The key was in the door outside the kitchen. As soon as the door was open there was a light in the passage. Police-constable Taylor went out of the smoke room into the passage, and was met by prisoner Faulkner. I then went to the smoke room door, and saw Police-constable Taylor and prisoner Faulkner wrestling at the top of the steps; Faulkner having a lighted candle in his hand. I saw them go down the cellar steps, and I then went for a light. The other two officers followed Taylor and Faulkner down the cellar. When I procured a light and went down the cellar, I saw the prisoner Faulkner and Police-constable Taylor on the ground, Taylor holding Faulkner down and both were bleeding much. I put my candle forward to step over the two when a pistol was fired, which extinguished my light. The report was a loud one. Prisoner Willetts fired the pistol. The snuff of the candle was taken off. I then went up the cellar into the smoke room, for another light. When I returned I saw Police-constable Chatham and prisoner Willetts wrestling together, against the wall in the passage. Chatham brought him out of the recess, and Sergeant Powner locked the two prisoners together, and took them upstairs in the kitchen. Police-constable Taylor and prisoner Faulkner were very much hurt about the head and face, and bled profusely. After the prisoners were removed to the kitchen, Sergeant Powner and I went into the yard and found the three bars, the chain, lever and bag now produced, lying near the cellar window. The bars when in the cellar window were straight, and had been wrenched out of the stone work of the cellar window. They were all right when I looked at them about 20 minutes past eleven. I do not know where the lever, chain and bag were brought from.

By the Bench: They made very little noise by getting in. While they were striking the match I heard a man walk down the yard. Prisoner Faulkner had the candle in his hand without a candlestick. On the Thursday afternoon I saw the two prisoners and another not found in the kitchen, drinking. They staid a little over an hour, I think. Besides these three were Enoch, Joseph, and Richard Davis, persons whom I know, in the same room. When the prisoners left the house I did not see which way they went.

By Faulkner: I did not see you go out of the back way with Joseph Davis.

By Willetts: There was a quack doctor of the name of Johnson, from Dudley, in. Mr. Johnson was saying something about the human frame, but I did not stay to hear what he said. I did not see Joseph Davis, alias Lock, go out with Faulkner by the back door. I saw you, Faulkner, Joseph Davis, and a man named Hartshern go out together.

Enoch Davis: I was in the QUEENS HEAD, on Thursday afternoon, the 22nd ult. It was about four o'clock when I went in there. When I went in there was no company at all. I had been in the house about half an hour, when a man from Blackheath, who is a tailor, and whom I do not know, and Richard Davis, a painter, living at Cradley Heath, came in. Shortly afterwards the two prisoners, with another man, whom I do not know, came in. I could tell the other man again if I were to see him. They had either two or three pints, and were drinking together. Johnson 'the pill man' was lecturing about the human frame. Prisoner Faulkner left the room once or twice, for what purpose I can't tell. I did not tell the Sergeant that I made some remarks about their going out so many times to light their pipes.

By Faulkner: I know Joseph Davis. I do not know that he sent for you down to his house. I know Charles Bridgewater. I do not recollect Joseph Davis nodding his head and calling you across the room to sit by him. I do not remember Joseph and you going out to the back together.

By Willetts: I do not recollect seeing Joseph Davis go out with Faulkner.

Isaac Taylor: I belong to the Worcestershire police, and am stationed at Netherton, in the parish of Dudley. Our station is distant from Cradley Heath about two miles. From information received, Sergeant Powner of the Staffordshire, Police-constable Chatham and I, on Thursday, the 22nd of May, went to the house of Mr. *C. Homes*, QUEENS HEAD, about half-past eleven o'clock, or a quarter to twelve. When we arrived we saw Miss *Homes*, the servant girl, and witness Siviter. We called Miss *Homes* to one side, and acquainted her with our suspicions. After a short time they retired to bed, and left me, Chatham, and Sergeant Powner, and Siviter in the smoke room. We turned the light quite out, and remained in the dark. Miss *Homes* had not gone to bed above a quarter of an hour, before we heard a noise outside, as of someone getting over the wall. The next thing we heard was the sound of a leverage, just outside just opposite to where we were. I then pulled my shoes off and went to the back door, in which are two holes and peeped through, when I saw two men pass and re-pass, they were whispering, but I could not tell what they said. I waited a quarter of an hour, and heard them distinctly strike matches. As soon as the matches were struck, I heard a lumbering noise as if they were getting into the cellar. I then returned into the smoke room, and partly closed the door. I next heard them coming up the cellar steps. I heard the bolt fly – they sprung the lock of the door leading from the cellar into the passage. As soon as the door was opened, I saw a light in the passage coming towards me. I next saw prisoner Faulkner with this jemmy produced, about two feet long, in his right hand, and a candle in his left. I sprang upon him. I was going to strike him, when he struck me with the jemmy, cutting my hat through in two places, and also cut my head. I then struck him, and broke my staff at the first door. I then closed with him, we struggled from the parlour door to the cellar door. As we were struggling the cellar door flew open, and we fell down the steps. The prisoner Faulkner falling bottomwards. I then wrenched the jemmy from him and struck him with it several times. I beat him about the head until he lay without holding. Police-constable Chatham and Sergeant Powner came down, Chatham falling over me. The blood was running from my wounds and Faulkner's. I was nearly blind with blood. I heard Police-constable Chatham say, 'There's another here.' I then heard the report of a pistol, and saw the flash therefrom. There was a light then brought down stairs, but by whom I cannot say. The prisoners were then secured. The doctor was sent for, who dressed my wounds and Faulkner's. Prisoners were then removed in a cart to Brierley Hill station. I was in plain clothes, and went in at the front door.

Sergeant Powner: I accompanied the last witness and Police-constable Chatham to the QUEENS HEAD on Thursday night, the 22nd ult. The two officers came to my house, and I went with them. We went in the smoke room. I first turned the gas in the smoke room nearly out, but on being provided with matches and candles I then turned the light totally out. I heard the evidence of the last witness which is correct. As soon as Taylor closed with prisoner Faulkner, I lighted the gas. I then followed and made to

the place where they got through, thinking that if there were any others they would try to escape through there. I heard the report of a pistol, which appeared to have been fired from the direction where Chatham discovered Willetts. I found the pistol now produced. It smelt very strong of powder as if it had been very recently discharged, and has a cap on it now. The pistol is in the same state now as when I found it. After prisoners had been secured, I examined the cellar wall opposite to where Willetts had been found. There were marks on the wall which might have been produced by pebbles or slugs.

Siviter recalled: I cannot say whether the marks referred to, were there before that night.

Sergeant Powner resumed: I went into the yard and found the lever, chain, bag, and the three iron bars now produced. The three iron bars belong to the cellar window, and had been forced from the stone work into which they had been let two inches, or two inches and a half. Prisoner Willetts said, 'We should have not come here, if we had not been fetched.'

James Chatham: I belong to the Worcestershire police, and am stationed at Netherton. I have heard the evidence of the last two witnesses, which is correct. I followed Police-constable Taylor down the cellar. I found Willetts in a passage in the cellar, with one leg in the water. I found he had changed his position by the sound of some bottles in the recess. With my staff in my right hand, it being dark, I felt about for him with my left, and as soon as I touched him he fired a pistol. It flashed across my face and singed my whiskers and the hair on my eyelashes. I then received several blows on my right arm from him, with what weapon I cannot tell. I then used my staff until he cried for mercy saying, 'Lord save me! Don't kill me.' I broke my staff. While handcuffed, and when they were taken into the tap room, I found on Faulkner a few common matches (now produced), in his waistcoat pocket. I found on Willetts a fusee box, with lucifer matches in, a pocket knife, a piece of iron, six caps, and a small quantity of powder. I have compared the caps produced with the one on the pistol, and find they are of the same description. After that the prisoners asked to go up the yard to fetch their shoes, and a jacket (Faulkner's), and they told me where to find them. I went to the place pointed out, and there found two pairs of shoes, a jacket and a jemmy. I brought them in and the prisoners selected what belonged to them. They were without their shoes when taken. Faulkner claimed one pair, and Willetts the other. Faulkner was without a jacket. Willetts was dressed as he is now. Willetts said there was nothing in the pistol, only powder. He said that he did not fire, but it went off itself. I know both prisoners well, they live at Windmill End, which is distant from Cradley Heath, a mile and a half.

By Faulkner: Colliers do not generally take two caps furred like the one produced. I have been watching you for 12 months. I cannot say whether 'jobs' have been done while you were in bed.

Thomas Moore: I am a surgeon, at Cradley Heath. I was fetched to the QUEENS HEAD, about half past one, on the morning of the 23rd ult. Police-sergeant Powner and Siviter, the brewer, fetched me. On arriving there I found Police-constable Taylor sitting in the smoke room. He was resting his head on his hand and seemed to be in pain. He was faint and his head and hands were covered with blood. I examined his head, and found several wounds and bruises. One was a very severe lacerated wound over the left eyebrow, about two inches long; the bone though thick was cut in two. There had been severe haemorrhage, which broke out again when I began to dress it. The haemorrhage resulted from the wounding of a small artery. There were two smaller contused wounds near the crown of the head, another near the left temple, and a severe bruise on the right hand. I dressed the wounds and ordered him brandy and water. Such an instrument as the jemmy produced, would be sufficient to cause the wounds. I also examined the prisoners and both were injured, but Faulkner very severely. I also examined Police-constable Chatham. His arm was bruised and both eyes inflamed, as if produced by a flash of powder.

Faulkner said: I was sent for from home down to near Darby's Pits, by Joseph Davis. I enquired where he was and was told that he had gone off with his brother Enoch. I went to look for him, when they told me he would most likely be at the QUEENS HEAD. He and his brother were there. I, Willetts, and Thomas Hartshorn went in. We had a pint of ale. While drinking Joseph Davis nodded to me, and when I went near him he said to me, 'Do you see that drawer where the young woman is? There's a false drawer under it.' I said, 'For why?' He said he saw a big bag of money put there, while he had been in the house. I told him I did not care if he had, I should have nothing to do with it. He and the other man then began to push the drink on me, but I told them I should not have anything to do with it. He then nudged me to go out. We then went out as far as the petty, and there we stood a bit. I said 'Come, let's go into the house a bit.' He said, 'Do you see that window?' I said, 'What window?' He said, 'That cellar window.' I said, 'What about it?' He said, 'I shall get in there in two or three minutes.' I said, 'I don't care if thee does. I shan't get in.' We then went into the house again, and sat down for a short time. We then went out of there, into Joseph Davis's house. We had a jug or two of drink there. He says, 'We can have that money easy.' I said 'I don't care if we can I shall have none of it.' Thomas Hartshorn said he should make one to go. He said he had got things at their house, amongst the old iron which he could pick out to do it with. I have nothing more to say.

Willetts: Joseph Davis's wife's son, came to our house about 11 or 12 o'clock of the day. He took us to the DOG AND DUCK. Thomas Hartshorn paid for two or three quarts of ale. Then Hartshorn, and Joseph Davis's wife's son took me to Davis's, and we had two quarts there. We then went to *Homes's* and found Joseph Davis along with his brother. Hartshorn went with us. Joseph Davis then beckoned Faulkner, and they both went out. I did not hear what they said.

They were committed to take their trial at the next Stafford Assizes.

After hearing the case the Bench expressed a high opinion of the gallant conduct of the police."

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/7/1865

"Staffordshire Summer Assizes.....

Isaiah Faulkner, 32, and Joseph Willetts, 31, miners, were indicted for burglariously breaking and entering the dwelling house of *Charles Holmes*, with intent to steal therein, at Rowley Regis, on the 22nd of June The jury returned a verdict of guilty, and previous convictions against the prisoners were proved.

His Lordship, in passing sentence, remarked that this was not like an ordinary case of housebreaking. This was a burglary by experienced hands, armed with deadly weapons, and effectual care must be taken that the county of Stafford was freed from the prisoners' presence. They must be kept in penal servitude for ten years.

His Lordship ordered £5 to be paid to Taylor as a reward for his gallant conduct.”

Stourbridge Observer 23/12/1865

“On Wednesday at the Petty Sessions, before F. W. G. Barrs and E. Moore, Esqrs, Henry Talbot, tailor, of Cradley Heath, was charged with having, on the 16th inst, unlawfully neglected giving up certain monies, books, and other effects, belonging to the Court Hope and Anchor of the Ancient Order of Foresters, held at the QUEENS HEAD INN, Cradley Heath, and also with having unlawfully applied the monies to purposes other than expressed by the rules of the said society. When asked if innocent or not, defendant said he was guilty.

Edward Townsend, of Cradley Heath, one of the trustees of the Court Hope and Anchor, proved that the trustees of that court were entitled to the books, and that £1 12s 6d was owing to them by the defendant.

The Bench suggested that as defendant acknowledged his guilt, and had promised to deliver up the books, monies, &c, on the 22nd inst, the case had better be adjourned a fortnight to allow him to do so. Mr. Townsend agreed to this, and the sentence was deferred till the next sitting of the Bench, defendant being bound in his own recognisances to appear at that time. If the money be paid defendant will be acquitted, but if not he will be committed.”

Stourbridge Observer 6/1/1866

“On the evenings of December 28, 1865, and January 1, 1866, the men employed in the Furnaces department of the New British Iron Company, Corngreaves Works, met as is their usual custom, at the house of Mr. *C. Holmes*, QUEENS HEAD, Cradley Heath, where an ample repast of good old English fare was provided by the liberality of their employers.....”

Stourbridge Observer 14/3/1868

“On Saturday, the 7th instant, the members of Court Hope and Anchor, of the Ancient Order of Foresters, held at the QUEENS HEAD HOTEL, were kindly entertained by the host, Mr. *W. Hickton* (who has lately succeeded Mr. *Holmes*) with a good supper. The cloth was laid by the usual tasty and hospitable style of the host and hostess.

After supper, a very comfortable evening was spent, and was brought to a close by a very hearty thanks to Mr. and Mrs. *Hickton*, for their liberality.”

Stourbridge Observer 3/4/1869

“On Saturday last, at *W. Hickton*'s, QUEENS HEAD, an inquest was held before the Deputy Coroner, Mr. Bailey, on the body of Agnes Shaw, aged four years, who was severely burnt on Monday, the 22nd ultimo, at eight o'clock am, and died the following day.

The jury, after examining several witnesses, returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 22/12/1870

“An adjourned meeting of the gas consumers of Cradley Heath and district, was held last evening, at the QUEENS HEAD INN, Four Ways, when it was stated that the directors of the Gas Company had offered to reduce the price of gas as follows: 9d per 1,000 feet up to 10,000; 6d per 1,000 feet from 10,000 to 20,000; and 3d above 20,000. A resolution was passed to the effect that the terms be accepted, which thus ends this question in an amicable manner.”

1871 Census

Corngreaves Road – QUEENS HEAD

[1] *Joseph Siviter* (32), married, brewer, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Mira Forrester* (20), barmaid, born Birmingham;

[3] *Sarah Hardy* (18), visitor, milliner, born Bilston;

[4] *Jane Foulkes* (21), general servant, born South Wales:

Stourbridge Observer 19/8/1871

“Early on Monday morning Cradley Heath was all astir and hundreds of persons could be seen wending their way towards the Five Ways to witness the procession of Foresters, which was announced to take place that day. The weather being fine thousands of persons were present to witness the procession through the various streets. Ten o'clock was the appointed time for starting, but it was nearly half-past eleven before they got away, owing to their having to wait for some of the Courts from a distance.

The various Courts assembled at the Five Ways, and then formed themselves into order of procession. The following Courts were represented: No.3068, Hope and Anchor, QUEENS HEAD, Corngreaves Street, Cradley Heath; No.3595, Cable and Anchor, BIRD IN HAND, Cradley Heath; 4127, Good Samaritan, BEEHIVE, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath; 4196, Foresters' Home, VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath; 4233, Loyal Shenstone; 4340, Loyal Marlborough, COOKSEY'S HOTEL, Old Hill; 4398, Moss Rose, ROYAL OAK INN, New Town; 4546, Robin Hood's Merry Rangers, CROWN INN, Five Ways; 4970, Lye Reformed, WINDMILL INN, Lye. Although the district of Cradley Heath and Halesowen comprises 36 Courts, only nine took part in getting up the Fete.

The procession started from the Five Ways, headed by the Cradley Heath Brass Band. The Pensnett Victoria Brass and Reed Band and the Halesowen Drum and Fife Band also took part in the procession. Each band played lively quick steps passing through Lomey Town, Five Ways, Four Ways, Reddal Hill, Old Hill, and Haden Hill, en route for Halesowen, passing through the principal streets and then to the Leasowes. The procession was three-quarters of a mile in length, and was accompanied with three magnificent banners bearing suitable mottoes of the Order, and a large number of flags, the members wearing the various badges of the Order, and accompanied by Robin Hood, Little John, Will Scarlet, Friar Tuck, Shepherds, &c, &c.

On arriving at the beautiful and classic grounds, famed as having been the seat of the poet Shenstone, the procession passed round the house of B. Gibbons, Esq, who had kindly placed the whole of the grounds at the disposal of the Committee.....

There was a number of shooting galleries, Aunt Sallys, and other things to amuse all classes. During the day a number of balloon ascents took place.....

It is estimated that between six and seven thousand persons were present, upwards of £100 being taken at the gates, and it is expected there will be a good surplus in aid of the funds of the Order and General Hospital.

We must not close without a word of praise to the Committee, who were indefatigable in carrying out the arrangements according to the programme. The refreshments were provided by Mrs. S. Cartwright of Cradley Heath, and the tea and confectionery by Mr. J. Corns of Wolverhampton.”

County Advertiser 27/1/1872

“Thomas Westwood, a chainmaker, was brought up on the charge of being in possession of housebreaking implements, with intent to commit a felony. Mr. Stokes was engaged on prisoner’s behalf. The facts of the case will be seen from the following evidence. Sarah May said she was a servant at the QUEENS HEAD public house, Cradley Heath, which was kept by Mr. *William Hickton*. Mr. *Hickton*, however, did not live at the house, but resided at the PLOUGH AND HARROW, close by. Witness had known prisoner for some time, and he lived nearly opposite the QUEENS HEAD. About six o’clock on Friday evening witness went to her bed-room, taking with her a candle. The bed-room was occupied by the barmaid (Charlotte Hardy) as well as witness, and was on the third storey. When witness entered the room she heard a noise under a bed, and also heard what she believed to be a man breathing. She ran downstairs and told the barmaid, and whilst she was doing so she heard a noise on the second floor as though a boot had been dropped. Witness and the barmaid went upstairs at once, and from the door of a room used to store malt in, on the second floor, they saw a man throw up his arms and make a kind of moaning noise. The man was on the top of some malt bags. The box produced belonged to the barmaid, and was at the time in question near the barmaid’s bed. Witness and the barmaid had lived at the house since last May, and prisoner was in the habit of coming there daily. On the afternoon of Friday he called for a pint of ale. He was then quite sober.

Charlotte Hardy, the barmaid, said that on Friday evening last, about six o’clock, in consequence of what last witness told her, and also from hearing a noise, they both went upstairs together, taking with them a candle. They searched several rooms, and when they reached the malt-room door they saw a man on the top of the bags, at the further end of the room. Witness did not recognise the man, who threw up his arms and made a noise. Witness and her companion then ran downstairs and told the brewer what they had seen. Witness, the brewer, and other men in the house at once went upstairs. Witness remained on the stairs while the men went to search. Hearing something that the brewer said, witness ran into the spare club-room, where she saw prisoner standing behind the door, with a pair of shoes in his hand. She told him she thought he was the last man she should have expected to have done such an act, and asked what brought him there. Prisoner began to cry, and said, ‘I don’t know. Oh! My poor children.’ The spare room was close to the malt room. The box produced was kept in her bed-room, and it was usual to keep in it the money taken in the house. She always carried the key herself. The box bore the marks as though someone had attempted to wrench it open; the lock had also been loosened. The box was quite right on the afternoon of Friday. The prisoner had been in the house about one o’clock. About a month previously witness had occasion to change a £5 note. The prisoner was present, and said, ‘I thought there was no money kept here.’ Witness replied, ‘I keep a week’s takings here; but don’t mention it, or we may get killed.’ He asked witness where it was kept, and she said, ‘In a box at the side of the bed.’ Prisoner was in the habit of calling at the house daily, and she believed him to be a respectable man, she thought she was doing no harm in speaking to him in the way she had. Mr. Homer, in cross-examination, asked witness if the prisoner did not court her. Witness burst into tears, and said the defendant was a married man, and she would not be insulted in that manner. She then ran away from the witness box.

Police-constable Craddock said he was sent for, at half-past six on Friday afternoon, to the QUEENS HEAD. He found the prisoner in the spare room upstairs. He took him into custody, and found in his possession a chisel, screw driver, and five keys produced. Witness charged him with being found in the room with intent to commit a felony. On the box produced there were marks as though an attempt had been made to wrench it open. Witness received the key of the box from the barmaid, and it was ascertained that no money had been taken. Witness then charged the prisoner with attempting to force open a box, the property of the barmaid, containing cash. Prisoner said, ‘I only tried it once; all this comes through spending other people’s money.’ Sergeant Powner was present. The pair of light shoes produced witness took from the prisoner.

Mr. Homer made a lengthy address on behalf of prisoner, and produced excellent certificates of good character from residents at Cradley Heath. He also contended that the Bench had power to deal with the case.

The bench made some demur to this, but at length gave way, and sentenced the prisoner to three calendar months’ hard labour.”

Stourbridge Observer 28/9/1872

“James Woodhall, Benjamin Weaver, and Joseph Weaver were charged with being disorderly and refusing to quit the QUEENS HEAD INN, Cradley Heath, when requested, on the 19th inst. Mr. Stokes appeared on behalf of Mr. *Hickton*, the landlord.

John Smith, manager of the house, said on the above date the defendants were disorderly in his house, and wanted to go into a private room. He ordered them out, and they refused to go, and he had to send for the police.

The defendants were fined 2s 6d each.

There was a charge of assault by *John Smith* against Joseph Weaver. Defendant did not appear and a warrant was issued for his apprehension.”

Stourbridge Observer 3/1/1874

“Mr. *Hickton*, landlord of the QUEENS HEAD INN, Cradley Heath, applied to be allowed to keep his house open on Monday and Wednesday next, it being the occasion of the supper of the blast furnace men employed at the Corngreaves works.

Mr. Hingley [magistrate]: I wish you would not come here. We have been pestered week after week by you publicans. I wish Mr. Barr [another magistrate] would join me in putting a stop to this. Eleven o'clock is plenty late enough for them to eat and drink. It has been a great blessing to the country in having the hours of closing put at eleven o'clock, and I should be very much pleased if it were altered to ten o'clock.

Mr. Barrs: We had better grant it to him this time.

Mr. Hingley: Very well then, very well.

The application was then granted."

William Hickton – see also PLOUGH AND HARROW

County Advertiser 22/4/1876 - Advert

"QUEENS HEAD AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath.

Mr. R. G. Rowley will Sell by Auction, on Monday, May 1st, 1876, a quantity of excellent Household Furniture, Gas Fittings, Malt Crusher, 4-Wheel Phaeton, several couples of fowls, and other Effects, not required by the present tenant.

Catalogues of which may be obtained from the Auctioneer, 11, Coventry Street, Stourbridge."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 11/11/1876 - Advert

"Wanted, a strong Girl as Servant, one used to a Public house.

Apply, QUEENS HEAD HOTEL, Cradley Heath."

Robert Griffin Austin = Robert Griffin Ostin

County Advertiser 17/3/1877

"*Robert Griffith Austin*, a licensed victualler, was charged with neglecting to have his name painted on some conspicuous part of his house. Mr. Superintendent Woollaston was the prosecutor.

Police-constable Cooper deposed that the license of the QUEENS HEAD INN, Corngreaves Street, Cradley Heath, was transferred to the defendant in December last, and he occupied the house until the end of January. The name of the former tenant was upon the sign in front of the house, and it was not altered during defendant's tenancy. Defendant pleaded guilty, and said he only took the license of the house for the purpose of selling it; he managed it for Messrs. Wall and Co, of Stourbridge. Mr. Woollaston said he believed there had been great irregularity going on for some time in regard to this matter; the names on licensed houses being allowed to remain for some time after the tenant had left.

Mr. Bassano said it was very important that the name over the doors of licensed houses should be those of the responsible persons. The defendant was fined 20s and costs."

County Advertiser 26/5/1877

"On Monday Mr. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the QUEENS HEAD INN Cradley Heath, on the body of Joseph Hingley, a child of two years. The boy was accidentally burned at his parents' residence on the 14th inst, and notwithstanding the non-attendance of Mr. Hodgson, surgeon, died on the 16th. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

County Express 25/8/1877

"After the business of the Petty Sessions had been disposed of the Annual Licensing Sessions were held. The Black List was first called on, and it appeared that the following were the publicans who had been convicted of offences against the Licensing Laws during the past year.....

Robert G. Ostin, QUEENS HEAD, Cradley Heath.....

License renewed with a caution from the Magistrates."

Birmingham Daily Post 14/2/1878 - Advert

"Billiard Table, full size, and very cheap.

Apply, QUEENS HEAD, Cradley Heath."

County Advertiser 20/9/1879

"On Monday last an inquest was held at the QUEENS HEAD, Corngreave Road, Cradley Heath, before Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, relative to the death of Alfred Hackett, who met with an accident on Saturday last, which terminated fatally. Deceased who is twenty-two years of age, was a 'bolter down' in the employ of the British Iron Company. Whilst standing on a plate situated above some machinery in the 12in mill, it gave way, and deceased fell into the machinery. Help was obtained, and deceased was got out and taken home, and a surgeon called in. Deceased, however, who had been injured very badly on his left side and had both legs broke, died about four o'clock from serious injuries he had received. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

County Express 4/10/1879

"A meeting of the members of the Conservative Association was held on Wednesday evening at the house of Mr. James Bunn's, RAILWAY INN, Five Ways. There was a fair attendance.....

The next meeting will be held at the QUEENS HEAD HOTEL, Corngreaves Road, on the 29th inst."

Dudley and District News 10/7/1880

“*Samuel Hughes*, landlord of the QUEENS HEAD INN, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, was summoned for selling intoxicating liquors during prohibited hours, and further, for refusing to admit the police into his house. Mr. W. V. C. Addison prosecuted on behalf of the police, and Mr. J. Stokes defended.

Police-inspector Walters stated that at 12.40 on the night of the 22nd ult, he, in company with Police constable Rowlands, visited defendant’s house. They afterwards remained watching outside, and about a quarter to three o’clock saw defendant and three other men standing on the doorstep. One of them made a bet with the landlord of four glasses over something, and went away for a short time. When he returned he found the other men were admitted into the house. At three o’clock witness heard the rattling of glasses and voices in the house, and upon taking down two unfastened shutters he saw the landlord behind the bar and the three men named Yates, Barnsley, and Hall, in front of it, one of them with a glass in his hand in the act of drinking. Witness demanded to be admitted, upon which the lights in the house were extinguished, and the men scampered away. Witness and Police-constable Rowlands remained at the back, but it was not until 4.30am that admittance was gained, defendant’s wife then opening the door. On witness telling defendant he wanted the men who were in the house, defendant said it was a pity he could not have a lodger. The three men were found in one bed.

Cross-examined: Could not swear that there was anything in the glass out of which one of the men were drinking.

Police-constable Rowlands gave similar evidence.

Police-constables Weston and Sylvester, who were also engaged in watching the house at another point, likewise gave evidence to the effect that about a quarter to three o’clock, whilst the men were standing outside the house, two jugs containing drink were brought out, and the contents drunk by the two men and the landlord. Police-constable Sylvester further stated that after the police had asked for admittance he heard defendant tell his wife not to open the door, and was afterwards seen to peep through the window several times.

Mr. Stokes having addressed the Bench for the defence, defendant was sworn and denied that any drink was supplied to the men outside or inside the house, that the men were sleeping there in order to be ready to start early next day on a fishing excursion, and that the knocking at the door was supposed to be caused by night-soil men. Haynes, Yates, and Barnsley also each gave evidence, the first two admitting that a small bottle of champagne cider was brought outside the house and drunk in Queen Street. The Bench considered the case proved, and fined defendant 40s and costs for each offence.”

Dudley Herald 28/8/1880

“The annual Licensing Session was held at the Police Court, Old Hill, on Wednesday.....

Police-superintendent Woollaston presented his annual statement of offending publicans during the past year.....

Samuel Hughes, QUEENS HEAD, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, selling during prohibited hours on July 7th, 1880, fined 40s and costs; also refusing to admit the police July 7th, 1880, fined 40s and costs.....

Mr. Hayes applied for a renewal of licence to *Samuel Hughes*, QUEENS HEAD INN, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, which had been transferred to a man named *Marlow*. Application granted.”

1881 Census

35, Corngreaves Road – QUEENS HEAD INN

[1] *James Marlow* (33), manager, born Ireland;

[2] *Anne Marlow* (27), wife, born Cradley Heath;

[3] *Jane Marlow* (7 months), daughter, born Cradley Heath:

County Express 13/8/1881

“On Monday last the members of Court Hope and Anchor, No.3068 of the Ancient Order of Foresters, celebrated their anniversary at the QUEENS HEAD INN, Cradley Heath, when upwards of fifty members did justice to the choice fare served up by Mr. *J. Marlow*. After dinner Bro. Edward Willetts, PCR, was unanimously voted to the chair, and Bro. Ben Homer, PCR, to the vice-chair. After the usual toasts of ‘The Ancient Order of Foresters,’ and ‘The Dudley and Cradley Heath District,’ the Secretary, Bro. Jno. H. King, gave a brief account of the position of the Court, pointing out the rapid progress that had been made in recent years. The Court now numbered 130 members, with funds amounting to over £620. Other toasts were given, and these being interspersed by songs, a very pleasant evening was spent.”

Dudley and District News 13/5/1882

“At the Old Hill Police Court on Wednesday, before Messrs. W. Bassano and C. Holcroft, William Ball, alias George Keel, Poplar Place, Bridge Street, West Hockley, Birmingham, pearl and stud turner, and John Johnson, 12, Eaton Street, Hockley, pearl turner, were charged with uttering and putting off counterfeit coins representing half-crowns, and one florin, at Old Hill and Cradley Heath, on the 8th inst. On the prisoner Ball was found 8s 9d and five coins, and on Johnson 29s 7½d and two coins.

Joseph Manning, QUEENS HEAD, Corngreaves Road, said on Monday evening last the prisoners came to his house while he was sitting at tea. Ball called for two drinks, and was served by his wife, who called him to look at the half-crown they had tendered for the drink. He looked at the coin and broke it in two. It was bad, and he sent for a police officer, and detained Ball, but Johnson would not stay, and went out because he said he had nothing to do with Ball.

Aquilla Parkes, landlord of the BIRD IN HAND, Spinners End, said Ball came to his house on Monday afternoon about 4.30 and called for a glass of ale, tendering the base half-crown produced, he filled the glass of ale and gave him 2s 4½d back. It rang well on the counter. Ball drank the ale and went out. The next morning a police officer came and asked if he had taken any bad money, and his wife examined the money they took on Monday and picked the half-crown out, it being the only one they took that day.

He identified Ball next day.

Susan Harris, wife of Thomas Harris, licensed victualler, CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Providence Street, New Town, said on

Monday Ball came to her house and asked for a bottle of soda water, she had none and gave him a bottle of ginger beer, he tendered her half-a-crown, she gave him 2s 4½d in change and he went out. Next day she found that the coin was bad.

Louisa Nicklin said she was servant to Priscilla Foley, who kept the BRITISH OAK, High Street. On Monday afternoon both the prisoners came to the house and Ball called for a pint of ale. She filled it and Ball gave her half-a-crown which she took to her mistress who gave her change. She was quite sure that Johnson was with Ball. Priscilla Foley said when her servant brought the half-crown and she had given her the change she went into the shop and saw the prisoners standing by the counter. Two more men were with them. When she went into the bar Ball asked for the cup to be filled, and gave her a two shilling piece, she gave him 1s 9½d in change, they did not wait to empty their cup but said they must go so as not to be caught in the rain. Ball and Johnson then left the other men and went out. The two coins she received were bad, and she gave them to the police.

Emma Johnson (14), daughter of Samuel Johnson, the HEARTY GOOD FELLOW, King Street, Old Hill, said she saw the prisoners come into the house on Monday afternoon. Ball called for a quart of ale, she supplied it and Ball gave her half-a-crown in payment. She gave the change, Ball threw the drink down and both went out. Her father wanted some change and she took it to Chances for sixpences.

Hanna Webb, barmaid at Mr. John Foley's, the SWAN INN, Old Hill, said the prisoner came into the house and Ball asked for some ale and tendered her half-a-crown, she took the coin to Mrs. Foley and gave Ball the change. Hannah Foley said Hannah Webb brought her a half-crown which she put in her pocket with the other money. The same night she gave it to a police officer. PC Litherley said he was sent for to the QUEENS HEAD, Corngreaves Road, on Monday and received the half-crown produced, from Mr. Manning, who said in the presence of Ball, that he had received it from him. He took Ball into custody, and he at first gave the name of George Keel, Hart Yard, Hatton Garden, London, and said it was not half-a-crown but a two shilling piece which he gave. PCs Litherly and Lawrence proved receiving the base coins produced from the witnesses.

Inspector Walters said on Monday the prisoner Ball was brought to the station and gave the name of George Keel, Hart Yard, Hatton Garden, London. He declined to give any reference, and said witness might enquire about it. He took him to Birmingham to the detective department, where he saw detective Baker, who called Keel by his right name, and said, 'How do William Ball.' He then went to Ball's address in Bridge Street, West Hockley, and on going into the house he found the prisoner Johnson lying on a screen, he then gave the name of George William Hobson, No.13, Eaton Street, Abbey Fields, Hockley. He told him he would be charged with being in company with Ball the previous day at Old Hill, and passing counterfeit coins. He replied, 'I know nothing at all about it.' He searched him and found £1 9s 7½d all in small coins. He told him he would have to go with him to Old Hill, when he became very violent, and rushed to the table to get a knife, but he put the handcuffs on him and brought him to Old Hill. He was present in the office when Ball was identified, and he might add that he went to Eaton Street, Hockley, but no such person as the prisoner Johnson was known there.

Honor Chance, wife of John Chance, 2, King Street, underground manager for Messrs. Hingley, said she changed half-a-crown for Emma Johnson on Monday afternoon. Emma came and told her that it was a bad half-crown, and took it back.

Eliza Johnson, wife of George Johnson, publican, KINGS HEAD, Elbow Street, said four men came to her house on Monday, and Ball asked for half-an-ounce of tobacco and a pipe, and gave her half-a-crown which she changed. PC Rowlands came at night, and she found the coin was a bad one.

Mr. Henn, Cradley Heath, said PC Litherly showed him three half-crowns which he examined and found to be bad. They were made principally of lead. PC Rowlands also showed him four half-crowns, and one two shilling piece which were counterfeit. The half-crowns were all from the same mould, dated 1875, and plated.

Prisoners were remanded to Stafford to appear on Wednesday."

[At the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions, William Ball (32) and John Johnson (27), both button makers, were each sentenced to twelve months, Ball pleading guilty.]

County Advertiser 17/2/1883

"Mr. Homer applied on behalf of Job Weston for a license for the QUEENS HEAD INN, Cradley. The police reported that the applicant had been once convicted for not conducting a house at Dudley Wood in a proper manner. This was the third application that had been made for the license, and had been refused. The application was adjourned for a week so that it could come before Mr. Bassano, who refused it the previous week."

County Express 4/8/1883

"Forestry. On Monday last the members of Court Hope and Anchor, No.3068, held their anniversary at the QUEENS HEAD INN, Cradley Heath. About 100 persons sat down to an excellent dinner, to which it scarcely be said ample justice was done...."

County Express 15/3/1884 - Advert

"QUEENS HEAD HOTEL, Cradley Heath.

To be Let at Lady-day, the above well-established Old-Licensed Premises, situate in the midst of a populous and thriving neighbourhood. An excellent opportunity for an energetic business person.

Apply, T. Pateshall, Auctioneer, Cradley Heath."

Dudley and District News 10/5/1884

"Albert Billingham, of Cradley Heath, was charged by PC Tytherleigh with being drunk on the licensed premises of the QUEENS HEAD INN, at Cradley Heath, on the 28th ult.

Fin'd 1s and costs, or seven days."

Dudley and District News 14/6/1884

“James Bennett, chainmaker, was charged with refusing to quit the QUEENS HEAD INN, Cradley Heath. The defendant and another man were in the house on the 31st May quarrelling. The manager ordered them out. The other man went out, but defendant had to be turned out by a policeman. Defendant admitted the charge and was fined 1s and costs.”

County Advertiser 2/12/1884 - Advert

“Dancing. QUEENS HEAD HOTEL, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath.
A Dancing Class will commence at the above Hotel, on Thursday Next, 11th inst, at 7.30pm.
A Quadrille Band is engaged.”

County Advertiser 4/9/1886 - Advert

“Rowley Wake!!!
A Fete and Gala will be held in the Old Fields, Cradley Heath, on Rowley Wake Monday and Tuesday, September 13th and 14th, 1886.
A Fat Ox Will Be Roasted and Disposed of on the Grounds.
Grand Promenade Open-Air Concert, by the celebrated Dudley Glee Union (Messrs. E. W. Smith, Alex Smith, G. H. Newns, and W. H. Smith).
Important Engagement at a great cost of Miss Kate McCoy, one of the greatest Serio-Comics in the world. Expensive Engagement, and First Appearance in this town, of Mr. C. P. Gill, one of the Finest and Neatest Irish Comedians on the stage. The Renowned Serio-Comic Artistes of the London and Birmingham Concert Halls, will appear in their Side-splitting and Laughable Entertainments.
Old English Sports and Pastimes, Foot Racing, &c, each day for Valuable Prizes, by Amateurs residing within three miles of Cradley Heath. Entries on the Grounds.
The Cradley Heath Brass and Reed Band will perform Selections of Popular and Operatic Airs. Conductor, Mr. Joseph Mansell.
Fireworks and Scenic Displays, under the superintendence of Professor Heaton, Adams and Co., Birmingham.
Refreshments of first class quality, and at town prices, will be supplied on the grounds by Mr. Jeremiah Westwood, the BEE HIVE, Cradley Heath.
Admittance 3d each. Tickets may be obtained from Messrs. F. Hingley, the HEATH TAVERN, High Street; J. Westwood, the BEE HIVE INN, Graingers Lane; *H. Hickton*, the QUEENS HEAD INN; John Smith, RAILWAY TAVERN, Corngreaves Road; and H. Heaton, New Town, Cradley Heath.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/10/1886 - Advert

“Lady Pianist Wanted, to live in.
Apply at once, *H. E. Hickton*, QUEENS HEAD HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 11/8/1888

“On Monday last the members of Court Hope and Anchor (No.3068) of the AOF, Dudley and Cradley Heath District, had their annual dinner at the QUEENS HEAD. The dinner was excellent and well served. The toast of the evening, ‘Success and prosperity to Court Hope and Anchor,’ was proposed by Bro. Homer, CR, and was responded to by Bro. J. H. King, secretary, who said that the court had been in existence more than twenty-nine years, and had paid some very heavy claims, but was, nevertheless, in a good financial position. The number of members was 122, and the average age 33½. The officers’ health was proposed and responded to, and a very pleasant evening was spent.”

County Advertiser 28/12/1889

“The adjourned inquest was held at the QUEENS HEAD INN, Cradley Heath, yesterday, before Mr. F. W. Topham, deputy coroner, touching the death of Edith and John Thomas Westwood, infant daughter and son of Thomas Westwood, ironworks labourer, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath. The parents were brought up at Old Hill on Saturday last charged with manslaughter of the children, and were formally remanded till after the coroner’s proceedings. Inspector J. Thompson, of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children was now present. Dr. Thomas Standish stated with regard to the child Edith Westwood that he had made a post-mortem examination of the body on the 19th inst. He found the body was extremely emaciated. There were no external marks of violence. The eyes were wide open and very much sunken into the head. The length of the child was 26 inches, its weight, 8½ lbs; the average weight of a child of that age being just a little over 27 lbs. He was unable to discover any traces of disease whatever. The organs were more or less shrivelled. There was an entire absence of fat, and also of blood. Both stomach and intestines were perfectly empty and contracted, especially the stomach. Nothing, so far as his knowledge went, would produce those conditions except an entire absence of food – starvation really. He was told the child was two years and nine months old. With regard to the child John Thomas, Dr. Standish stated that he made the post-mortem on the 24th inst. He was told the child was one year and eleven months old. Mr. Westwood: It was one year and eight months old. He found the body somewhat emaciated, its weight being 11¾lbs, and the height 31 inches. There was a slight scar from a burn on the left side the face below the angle of the mouth. The internal organs were healthy with the exception of the lungs. The left lung was far advanced in inflammatory action, but the right one not so much. That, in his opinion, was the cause of death.
The Coroner, in summing up, said it was no part of his duty to point out to the jury that parents ought to provide their children with the clothing, lodging, &c, suitable to their station and condition in life, and if they did not do that, and anything should happen to those children the parents were responsible for the consequences. In this case one child, they were told, was two years and nine months old, and the other nearly two years old. They died within a few days of each other. He went on to review the evidence. In addition to the evidence of identification they had that of Police-constable Davies, and of Mr. Cooper, relieving

officer, who visited the house of the parents of these children, and who spoke to the state in which they found the house, and also the children. Davis, he thought, said he went in December. There was no fire in the grate, and scarcely any clothes on the children. No food was in the house, and the filth and dirt were such that Davis did not consider it safe for him to continue any longer in the house than he could help. That evidence was confirmed in every respect by Mr. Cooper, who, he thought, went to the house in September. The latter went several times, and he had spoken to the state in which he found the children as regards absence of food and clothing. Mr. Cooper further told them that in consequence of representations which he made to the Dudley Board of Guardians, they instructed him to take proceedings against the parents, the result of which was that the wife was sent to gaol for three months and the husband for one month for neglecting their children. Having regard to the evidence of Dr. Standish on the child Edith, it seemed to him they could not have much doubt in that case. Dr. Standish distinctly explained the condition of the child. The internal parts were all healthy, but there was an entire absence of fat and blood, and that in his opinion death was entirely due to starvation. In that case they must hold the parents responsible. If the jury were of opinion that this state of things was brought about by malice it would be their duty to return a verdict of murder. If they thought – and he thought they would be justified in coming to that conclusion – that it was caused more by negligence, the jury would find a verdict of manslaughter. With regard to the other child he thought that in the case of the medical testimony their safest course would be to return a verdict that the child died from natural causes.

A juryman: I should like to ask whether the children are insured.

The Coroner: I don't think you should ask the parents any questions. They are on their trial.

In answer to another juryman who put the same question, the Coroner said he believed that as a matter of fact the children were insured, but that the insurance had lapsed.

The jury having consulted for a short while in private, returned a verdict in the case of Edith Westwood, that the child died from Starvation in consequence of the parents neglecting to supply her with food and clothing and medical attendance; and, further that the parents had, on 14th December, 1889, feloniously killed Edith Westwood. In the case of the child, John Thomas Westwood, the jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.

The accused were committed on the Coroner's warrant to the Staffordshire Assizes on a charge of Manslaughter. Afterwards they were taken before a magistrate at Old Hill and again formally remanded."

[At the Staffordshire Assizes in March 1890, Thomas and Alice Westwod appeared charged with 'on 14th December, 1889, at Rowley Regis, did kill and slay Edith Westwood; also charged at the Coroners' inquest.' They were found not guilty.]

County Advertiser 26/4/1890

"*Alfred William Tibbetts* was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises, the QUEENS HEAD INN, Corngreaves Road, on the 5th inst. Mr. Waldron prosecuted, and Mr. Tanfield defended.

Inspector Bishop said he visited the house about 9.10pm, and found in the bar three men, among them being a man named Tromans, who was drunk. They then went into the kitchen and found two men there, one of whom was named Johnson, with a pint cup before them.

Sergeant Hayward corroborated.

Mr. Tanfield said that defendant had no knowledge of Tromans being in the bar, but believed he was in the kitchen. No drink, he claimed, was supplied to him.

The Bench said that it was not such a bad case as the last [HEARTY GOOD FELLOW], and they should fine the defendant 40s and costs."

Elizabeth Tibbetts = Elizabeth Tibetts

1891 Census

35, Corngreaves Road – QUEENS HEAD

- [1] *Elizabeth P. Tibbetts* (40), widow, publican, born Scotland;
- [2] Minnie J. Tibbetts (20), daughter, assistant, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Sarah E. Tibbetts (18), daughter, assistant, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Albert W. Tibbetts (14), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] David Tibbetts (12), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Elizabeth Tibbetts (10), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Frederick Tibbetts (7), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] Annie M. Tibbetts (5), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [9] Mirriam G. Tibbetts (2), daughter, born Rowley Regis:

Birmingham Daily Post 14/12/1892

"At the Hales Owen Police Court, yesterday afternoon – before Messrs. H. D. Lea Smith and J. G. Reay, Richard Hay (56) and his wife, Ann Hay (56), both of Bell Vale, Hales Owen, were charged with stealing four £5 Bank of England notes belonging to William Walker, brick manufacturer, Bell Vale.

Prosecutor stated that at noon on the 3rd inst he put four £5 Bank of England notes in a small canvas bag ready for his wife to take to the bank at Cradley Heath, the bag being placed by the side of the basket. Shortly afterwards two men came round hawking oilcloth. His wife subsequently returned from the bank and told him the notes were missing. On the 5th inst Inspector Bishop showed him one of the notes, which he identified as his property by the initials 'W. W.' The prisoners lived in one of his cottages, about two hundred yards away. Mrs. Walker deposed to missing the notes out of her basket when she got to the bank.

Eliza Tibbetts, landlady of the QUEENS HEAD INN, Cradley Heath, said on the 3rd inst the woman asked her to change a £5 note,

stating that it had been sent to her to divide between her and her sister. Upon finding the note marked 'W. W.' she gave information to the police. Inspector Bishop and Police-constable Pailing deposed to arresting the prisoners, who stated that they found the notes in Corngreaves Road. When prisoners' house was searched they found two of the missing £5 notes, £7 in gold, and some silver, making a total of £17 9s. In answer to the charge the male prisoner said, 'How can you make it stealing? I found them where I showed you; I took them to Cradley Heath, and then gave them to my wife.' The woman also said, 'My husband found them in the road and gave them to me.'

In defence, the male prisoner said he thought the notes were bad when he found them, and he sent his wife to try and get one cashed.

Prisoners were both committed for trial at the quarter sessions, bail being allowed."

Birmingham Daily Post 3/1/1893

"Worcestershire Quarter Sessions.....

Ann Hay was indicted for stealing four Bank of England notes and a canvas bag, the property of William Walker, brickmaker, on December 3. Richard Hay was charged jointly, but he has died since the date of his committal The jury acquitted the prisoner by order of the Court."

County Express 9/10/1897

"The second annual parade of Foresters in the Cradley, Cradley Heath, Quarry Bank, and Dudley Wood districts, for the benefit of the home at Clent, took place on Sunday afternoon, with every element of success attending it – the day was fine, the crowd was large, and the collections were very satisfactory. A pleasing feature about the parade was the number of members who turned out, and the number of courts. The following courts were represented.....

Hope and Anchor, held at the QUEENS HEAD, Cradley Heath."

County Advertiser 5/3/1898 - Advert

"To be Let, the QUEENS HEAD HOTEL, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath. Possession March 25th.

For further particulars, apply to John Wright, Solicitor, Cradley Heath and Halesowen."

1901 Census

35, Corngreaves Road – QUEENS HEAD AND RAILWAY HOTEL

- [1] *Elizabeth P. Tibbetts* (48), licensed victualler, born Scotland;
- [2] Winnie J. Tibbetts (28), daughter, home work, born Cradley Heath;
- [3] Albert W. Tibbetts (24), son, pulley block fitter, born Cradley Heath;
- [4] David Tibbetts (22), son, carpenter, born Cradley Heath;
- [5] Elizabeth P. Tibbetts (18), daughter, home work, born Cradley Heath;
- [6] Frederick S. Tibbetts (17), son, cabinet maker's apprentice, born Cradley Heath;
- [7] Annie M. Tibbetts (15), daughter, born Cradley Heath;
- [8] Gertrude M. Tibbetts (12), daughter, born Cradley Heath;
- [9] Jane McWhirter (85), widow, visitor, born Scotland:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/7/1901 - Advert

"Cradley Heath, Staffordshire, and Halesowen, Worcestershire. To Publicans, Brewers, Maltsters, and Others.

H. King and Son are instructed by the Trustees of the late Wm. Hickton, deceased, to Sell By Auction, at the PLOUGH AND HARROW HOTEL, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, on Wednesday, the 14th day of August, 1901, at Six o'clock in the evening, and subject to conditions of sale then to be produced.

Lot 1. The Fully-Licensed Freehold Premises, the QUEENS HEAD AND RAILWAY HOTEL, situate fronting the Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, and now in the occupation of Mrs. *Tibbetts*, upon a yearly tenancy (which may be determined at March next), at the yearly rent of £70.

The attention of the trade is particularly called to this important Property, which possesses great advantages of position, being upon a wide and busy thoroughfare, and in the midst of the numerous works and factories of this populous and flourishing district, while the Premises, containing ample accommodation, are yet capable of extension at moderate cost. The House is perfectly free from any tie, and in the hands of an enterprising man a large and lucrative business would be assured....."

AND

County Express 27/7/1901 - Advert

".....The accommodation consists of Smoke Room, Front Bar with corner entrance, Tap Room, Kitchen, Hall, four excellent Cellars with rolling way, Club Room about 30ft long, two Bed Rooms, large Brewhouse, Stabling and Open Shedding, Piggeries etc, walled-in Yard, with drive-way from the main road....."

William Cutler = William Cuttler

Gloucester Echo 15/7/1904

"Herbert *Cutler*, son of the landlord of the QUEENS HEAD HOTEL, Cradley, discovering a gas escape in the smoke room, on Thursday, proceeded to locate it with a lighted match. He had with him his 14-month-old baby. A loud explosion followed – as might have been expected. A wooden partition separating two rooms was blown down, a door was blown out, and *Cutler* and his child were both badly burned. A fire broke out, but was quickly put out by the brigade."

County Advertiser 23/7/1904 - Letter

“The Fire at the QUEENS HEAD AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath.

To the Editor of the *Advertiser*.

Sir. I would like to ask you to kindly rectify the statement which appeared in your paper last Saturday to the effect that the police were instantly on the scene. With all due respects to the police, I like to see praise given to whom it is due. Myself, together with other civilians, were on the scene first. We were immediately followed by Tustin and Denning, of the Fire Brigade, who prevented any further spread of fire. Other members of the brigade were in attendance, although not in uniform. None of the police arrived until the fire was out, and at once directed their attention to us civilians, ordering us off the premises after we had assisted in the work of extinguishing the fire. It is galling, sir, for those who did the work to see the police get the praise. I sincerely hope you will kindly insert the above, and oblige, yours truly, Fair Play.

July 10th, 1904.”

County Express 18/1/1908

“Dividend Societies..... QUEEN’S HEAD HOTEL (Cradley Heath).

Upwards of 30 members sat down. Mr. W. H. Tustin was voted to the chair, and Mr. A. Bradney to the vice-chair. The toast of ‘Success to the Club’ was proposed by the Chairman, and responded to by the secretary (Mr. Tom Wilkes). Songs were rendered by Messrs. C. Pegg, Billingham, B. Davies, J. Southwick, and *W. Cutler*, and phonograph selections were provided by Mr. A. *Cuttler*. Thanks were accorded to Mr. *William Cuttler* (the host).”

County Express 12/9/1908

“Friendly Societies’ Parade. On Wednesday evening the committee of the above met at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Mr. W. Coley presiding over a large attendance. The following was a complete list of those boxes which contained amounts of 1s and upwards.....

Mr. *W. Cutler*, QUEENS HEAD, 1s 8½d.”

County Express 9/1/1909

“Dividend Clubs..... QUEENS HOTEL (Cradley Heath).

At the annual dinner about 40 members enjoyed the excellent catering of the host (Mr. *William Cutler*). Afterwards Mr. Wm. Tustin was elected chairman and Mr. A. Southwick vice-chairman. The accounts presented by Mr. T. Wilkes showed a dividend of 13s per member. The Wordsley Motor Work Glee Party rendered a number of glees. Recitations were contributed by Mr. J. Smith, and songs by Messrs. C. Pegg, and W. Titterton. Mr. A. *Cuttler* provided gramophone selectins.”

County Express 24/12/1910 - In Memoriam

“In affectionate remembrance of Ann, beloved wife of *William Cutler*, QUEENS HEAD, Cradley Heath, who departed this life December 25th, 1905. A loving wife, a patient mother, whom we have truly missed.”

County Express 7/1/1911

“Benefit Clubs..... QUEENS HEAD, Cradley Heath.

The annual dinner on Thursday week was well attended. A dividend of 10s 9d was declared. Pianoforte solos were given by Mr. A. Davis, banjo solos by Mr. R. Brettell, songs by Messrs. R. Cole, C. Pegg, and duets by Messrs. R. Cole and H. *Cuttler*.”

1911 Census

35, Corngreaves Road

[1] *William Cutler* (62), widower, publican, born Stourbridge;

[2] Mabel Cutler (21), daughter, assisting business, born Cradley Heath;

[3] Elsie White (16), domestic servant, born Barrow, Lancashire:

County Express 3/6/1911

“Old Cradley Heath. Chat with Mr. Thomas Hingley Parsons, sexton at St. Luke’s Church for Forty Years.....

Though in his 81st year, Mr. Parsons is wonderfully virile and active, the keenness of his intellect and memory is unabated, and he willingly discoursed upon the Cradley Heath of his younger days.....

In those days, he added, the inhabitants of the district were not quarter so many as they are now, and the only public houses were the HOLLY BUSH, High Street; Bannister’s Newtown; ‘Benny Fiddler’s’; SALUTATION, Lomey Town; BEEHIVE, Graingers Lane; and QUEENS HEAD, Corngreaves Road.....

Touching on matters relating to the public peace, Mr. Parsons recalled a burglary of many years ago at the QUEENS HEAD INN. ‘Two men,’ he remarked, ‘had arranged to ransack the premises, but the landlord received a warning, and a policeman was in readiness awaiting their arrival. The struggle was fierce, the policeman defending himself with a poker, while one of the men was armed with an iron bar, with which he had broken into the house.’ ‘Aye,’ Mr. Parsons added, ‘it was a terrible sight to see the man afterwards, for his face was knocked to pieces.’”

County Express 18/10/1919

“At Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, William Thomas Clews, the manager for and on behalf of the Home Brewery, Ltd., Quarry Bank, was summoned for making a false mark on a barrel of beer delivered to a licensed trader at Cradley Heath, for mak-

ing a false statement relating to the beer and for failing to plainly and durably mark in figures on the barrel the maximum price at which such beer could be sold in a public bar.

Mr. Turner (Beale & Co.), for the prosecution, said a barrel of beer, which was marked at 6d, was delivered from defendant's brewery to the QUEENS HEAD INN, Cradley Heath, a tied house managed by *Frederick Piper*, and an invoice showing that it retailed at 6d a pint. Complaints were made by the customers regarding the character of the beer, and the Enforcement Officer obtained a sample, which upon analysis was found to be 5d beer. The offence was calculated to get the manager into trouble, and the public were entitled to protection, as beer was already dear enough.

Mr. J. M. Wylie, for the defendant expressed regret. The offences were the result of a mistake. During the brew something went wrong with the temperature, causing a leakage of water into the beer. It was originally brewed at 6d beer, but when the mishap was discovered defendant gave orders for it to be retailed at 4d per pint. Unfortunately this barrel of beer became detached from the others, and by mistake was sent to the house of *Piper* by the cellarman at the brewery. When defendant's attention was called to the fact that customers complained about the state of the beer he gave instructions to *Piper* to sell it at 4d per pint, but by this time the beer had become tainted with the wood, a common thing when it was placed in barrels made with American wood, and the beer was useless. There was no idea of profiteering on the part of Clews, and a technical offence only had been committed. Clews, in evidence, said his loss on the 60 barrels through the mishap was over £100. He could not account for the barrel being sent to *Piper's* house as 6d beer. None of the other barrels affected were sold as 6d beer.

The Chairman (Mr. H. Lench) said the Bench realised that a bona-fide mistake had been made, but a fine of £5 5s would be imposed in the case for making a false mark on the barrel. The other two offences would be treated as one, and a fine of £2 2s inflicted. Special costs of £6 16s 6d would be allowed, the total amount being £14 3s 6d."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/1/1922

"Damages amounting to about £300 was caused by a fire which occurred at the QUEENS HEAD AND RAILWAY INN, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, yesterday afternoon.

The outbreak was confined to the bedroom of the public house, and is supposed to be due to a quantity of soot having fallen down the chimney and ignited the rug and floor.

The Rowley Regis Fire Brigade were summoned, but before the flames could be extinguished the whole of the furniture was destroyed. It is stated that the licensee, Mr. *F. Piper*, as a result of the fire lost £300 in Treasury notes, the takings for the past month, which had been put away in a drawer in the destroyed bedroom ready to be paid to the brewery company."

Bert Adrian Slim – see also HOLLY BUSH, and BRITISH QUEEN, Oldbury.

Tommy Evans played football for Cradley Heath St. Lukes. [1925/6]

He was married to Kate.

He died in 1940.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/10/1931

"Owing to the late arrival of Mr. *Arthur Shaw*, who was applying for a transfer from *Thomas Edward Evans*, the license of a well-known Cradley Heath public house, the QUEENS HEAD AND RAILWAY HOTEL, was in danger of being withdrawn at Old Hill yesterday.

Shaw, who is secretary of the Cradley Heath FC, was not present when his name was called, and Mr. *Evans* (the ex-Cradley Heath full-back) said he did not know where he was.

Supt. Elliot: You had better go and find him, because if he is not here in a few minutes I shall ask for his licence to be withdrawn. The magistrates can't be kept waiting like this.

Mr. *Shaw* had not arrived by the time the other business of the Court was finished. Supt. Elliot then sent his car to *Shaw's* house, and when the applicant arrived he explained that he had misunderstood the date.

In granting the transfer the Chairman said *Shaw* had narrowly escaped having the license washed out."

Auction Catalogue 25/10/1932

"Fully licensed Situate just off the Four Ways in a thickly populated district The accommodation comprises: On the Ground Floor, Entrance passage with Outdoor department. Vaults at front, Tap Room front, Back Smoke Room, Private Sitting Room with china pantry leading out. On the First Floor, Spacious Club Room front, front to back, Two bedrooms. On the Second Floor, Excellent bedroom. In the Basement, Range of Cellars. In large open yard with party side approach is Stables and Stores, two WCs, Coalplace and Urinal. Held under Management. (Manager : Mr. *Arthur Shaw*). Value of Trade Fixtures £120."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/10/1932

"Public houses in the Black Country are in greatly in demand. At a Dudley sale this week ten licensed properties and a small number of dwelling houses realised £29,542 10s.

The premises that changed hands were as follows.....

QUEENS HEAD INN AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, £2,650."

1939 Register

35, Corngreaves Road – QUEENS HEAD

[1] *William Walker*, date of birth 28/3/1888, licensed victualler, married;

[2] *Mary Walker*, dob 25/5/1894, unpaid domestic, married;

[3] Gerald R. Walker, dob 21/9/1917, lathe hand, single;

Evening Despatch 29/10/1942 - Letter

“A Sailor from a recent convoy to Russia has brought back a Russian ‘Pound Note’ and a box of matches, which he has handed to me to be sold in aid of the Soldiers’ Comforts Fund.

I shall be glad to receive offers.

W. Walker.

QUEENS HEAD AND RAILWAY HOTEL, 35, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/3/1943 - Notice

“War Charities Act 1940.

Notice Is Hereby Given that it is proposed to apply to the Rowley Regis Council for the registration under the above-mentioned Act of The QUEENS HEAD AND RAILWAY HOTEL Services Fund, the objects of which are to give Gifts or Money to Customers and Relatives of same serving in H.M. Forces and the administrative centre of which is situate at the QUEENS HEAD AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, Staffs. 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.

B. Edwards, Sec. Dated 18 March, 1943.”

William Walker was fined £10 and £1 1s 0d costs, on 7th May 1947, for 5 cases of supplying during prohibited hours.

Anne Rebecca Bloomer married a Mr. *Wilkins* on 28th November 1956.

See also OLD CROWN, Tipton.

It closed on 27th February 1965.

It was demolished in the 1970s.

QUEENS HEAD

76, (30), High Street, (30, Garratts Lane), OLD HILL

OWNERS

John Wright [1877]

Joseph Foley [1891], [1893]

North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd. [1898], [1904]

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1909)

LICENSEES

Joseph Griffiths [1871] – **1872**);

Thomas Ashfield (**1872**);

John Badger (**1872**);

Thomas Ashfield (**1872** – []

John Wright [] – **1874**);

John Blaydon (**1874** – **1877**);

Eliza Tinkham (**1877** – [1881]

Joseph Harding [1887] – [1888]

Joseph Foley Jnr. (**1890** – **1896**);

Sherwood Richards (**1896**)

John Mansell (**1896** – []

John Bushby (**1898** – [1901]

Arthur Billingham [1902]

Edward Stevens [1903] – **1904**);

John Busby (**1904** – **1907**);

Joseph Smith (**1907** – **1910**);

Silas Henry Tilley Chambers (**1910** – [1916] manager

Edward Chambers [] – **1919**);

Abel Siviter (**1919** – **1932**);

Richard Edge (**1932** – **1955**);

Phoebe Blanch Edge (**1955** – **1956**);

Lawrence Bernard Hamer (1956 – [1965])

NOTES

30, Garratts Lane [1881], [1891], [1901]
30, High Street [1908]
76, High Street [1911], [1932], [1939], [1940]

It was originally OLD HILL BREWERY.

It had an ante 1869 beerhouse license.

1871 Census

Garratts Lane – OLD HILL BREWERY

- [1] *Joseph Griffith* (49), publican, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Isabella Griffith* (45), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Sarah Ann Griffith* (23), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Joseph Griffith* (17), son, gas tube worker, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Elijah Griffith* (8), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Henry Griffith* (4), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *Albert Griffith* (5 months), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] *John Johns* (32), boarder, chain maker, born Pontypridd, Wales:

Thomas Ashfield = Thomas Asley

John Blayden = John Bladon

County Advertiser 14/10/1876

“Obadiah Bettridge was charged with being disorderly upon the licensed premises of *John Blayden*, at Old Hill, and with refusing to quit the same when ordered to do so. The defendant pleaded guilty, and after hearing the landlord’s evidence, the Bench fined him 1s and costs.”

Eliza Tinkham = Eliza Tinkman

County Advertiser 1/9/1877 - Notice

“To the Overseers of the Poor, and the Superintendent of Police of the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, and to all whom it may concern.

I, *Eliza Tinkham*, Beerhouse-keeper, now residing at Old Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, do Hereby Give Notice that it is my intention to Apply, at the Adjourned General Annual Licensing Meeting for the Division of Rowley Regis, to be holden at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, at Old Hill, in the said County, on the 26th day of September Next ensuing, at the hour of Eleven o’clock in the Forenoon of the same day, for a License to hold any Excise License or Licenses, to Sell by Retail, under the Statute 23 Victoria, cap.27, sections 7 and 8, and the Acts amending the same, Wine to be consumed either on or off the Premises, situate at Old Hill, in the said Parish, and known by the sign of OLD HILL BREWERY, which said Premises are duly rated for the relief of the Poor, as by law is required, which House and Premises one John Wright is the Owner, and the same are now in my occupation.

Given under my hand this 29th day of August, 1877.

Eliza Tinkham.”

County Advertiser 29/9/1877

“Adjourned Licensing Session.....

Eliza Tinkham, the proprietor of a beerhouse called the OLD BREWERY, at Old Hill, requested the magistrates’ permission to hold a seven days’ license to sell wine. Application refused.”

County Express 23/11/1878

“Adam Phipps and Moses Phipps, miners, were charged with being disorderly and refusing to quit the OLD HILL BREWERY, kept by Mrs. *Tinkman*, on the 11th inst. Moses having been previously convicted was fined 10s and costs, the other defendant being fined 5s and costs, with an alternative of fourteen days.”

County Advertiser 19/4/1879

“The members of the Old Hill Brickmakers’ Friendly Society held their anniversary dinner on Monday at OLD HILL BREWERY. Mr. Thomas Allen presided; the vice-chair being filled by Mr. William Westwood. In responding to the toast of ‘Success to the society,’ Mr. Owen (secretary) gave some figures showing the flourishing and progressive condition of the society.”

County Express 3/4/1880

“The Old Hill Brickmakers’ Friendly Society held their annual dinner at the OLD HILL BREWERY on Monday last. There was a large number present. After the cloth had been drawn Mr. William Westwood was elected to the chair, and Mr. William Tranter to the vice-chair. The toast of ‘Prosperity to the Brickmakers’ Society’ was responded to by the secretary Mr. John Owen, who gave a very satisfactory report of the position of the society. The usual complimentary votes of thanks brought a most enjoyable evening to a close.”

1881 Census

30, Garratts Lane

[1] *Eliza Tinkham* (35), married, beerhouse keeper, born Oldbury;

[2] John Tinkham (11), son, scholar, born Smethwick;

[3] Mary W. Tinkham (5), daughter, scholar, born Smethwick;

[4] Eliza Tinkham (4 months), daughter, born Old Hill;

[5] Harriet Billingham (19), domestic servant, born Old Hill:

West Bromwich Weekly News 23/4/1881

“On Monday, the Old Hill Brickmakers’ Friendly Society held their anniversary at the BREWERY. The chair was taken by Mr. W. Tranter, and the vice-chair by Mr. W. Alford.....”

Dudley Mercury 17/12/1887

“*Joseph Harding*, OLD HILL BREWERY, was charged with selling beer on licensed premises to two men whilst drunk on the 10th inst. Police-constable Wickstead said that on the day in question he saw two men, named Guest and Jackson, who were drunk, drinking at defendant’s house. Defendant said he refused to fill Guest any, as he was drunk, but Jackson was not drunk. Defendant was fined 10s and costs.”

AND

“George Jackson, Old Hill, and Issachar Guest, Rowley, were charged with being drunk and disorderly on licensed premises, known as the OLD HILL BREWERY, and were fined 2s 6d and costs each.”

County Express 14/4/1888

“*Joseph Harding*, landlord of the OLD BREWERY INN, Garratts Lane, was charged with permitting gambling on his licensed premises on the 24th ult. Mr. W. Waldron prosecuted on behalf of the police authorities.

Police-constable Moss, of the Bilston Force, said he went to the OLD BREWERY INN, kept by the defendant on the night in question. Witness was disguised as a working man, and in the tap room saw six men. On one of the tables two of the men were playing at dominoes. While in the room witness heard one of the men say ‘This is for a pint of fourpenny.’ At the time the game was being played two of their companions made a bet of 2s to 1s on the game. At the conclusion of the game the man who had lost paid for the pint of fourpenny, which was supplied by the landlord, who was present all the time the game was played. Police-constable Blackshaw corroborated.

Defendant, in answer to the charge, said that he knew nothing about the charge, and was not present when the game was played. The Bench said there was a previous conviction against the defendant, for supplying a drunken man with beer. Taking that into consideration, they could do no less than fine him £5, and £2 8s 10d costs, and endorse his license.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/6/1888 - Advert

“Short Notice of Sale at the OLD HILL BREWERY, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, Rowley Regis.

By Joseph Hackett, who has received instructions to Sell by Auction, upon the above Premises, under a power of Bill of Sale, This Day (Wednesday), the whole of the Household Furniture, Public-house Fittings and Effects, comprising Tables, Chairs, Pier-glass, Couch, Bedsteads and Beds, Counter, Five-pull Beer Machine (with piping), and numerous other Effects.

Sale to commence at 11 o’clock.

Auctioneer’s Offices: Blackheath, and 30, Priory Street, Dudley.”

County Express 16/8/1890

“*Joseph Foley*, landlord of the OLD BREWERY INN, Garratts Lane, was summoned for permitting drunkenness in his house on Bank Holiday. Mr. Waldron prosecuted, and Mr. Benbow Hebbert (Birmingham) defended.

Inspector Bishop and Police-constable Wickstead stated that upon visiting the defendant’s house they found three men named Scriven, Edge and Perks drunk, and upon leaving the house they were seen to stagger. The defence was that the men were sober, and after hearing a number of witnesses, Mr. Bassano said the magistrates were of opinion that some of the witnesses for the defence had committed perjury, and, further, that the time had arrived when they should order proceedings to be instituted against persons who had no regard whatever for an oath. More disgraceful perjury he had never heard. In reply to the magistrates, Superintendent Woollaston said the house had for years had been badly managed, but defendant had only held the license six months. Mr. Bassano said the magistrates considered it a bad case, and they should not be doing their duty unless they inflicted the maximum penalty of £10 and costs. They should also order the license to be endorsed. The fine and costs amounted to £11 17s 6d.

Birmingham Daily Post 28/8/1890

“The Licensing Session for Old Hill division was held yesterday.....

Police-inspector Bishop reported that there were 163 license-holders in the division. Thirty-eight transfers had taken place since

last licensing meeting. Five licensed victuallers and four beerhouse keepers had been fined, and 403 persons had been charged with drunkenness, three of whom were discharged. Mr. Bassano (presiding magistrate) said The report for the year was not at all satisfactory, as it reflected discreditably upon the licensed victuallers. He pointed out that it was becoming a very serious matter to have an increase of 138 cases of drunkenness in one year. All the licenses would be renewed with the exception of. . . . *Joseph Foley*, of the OLD BREWERY INN, Old Hill.”

County Express 27/9/1890

“Adjourned Licensing Sessions. . . .

Mr. Waldron applied for the renewal of the license of the OLD BREWERY INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, to *Joseph Foley*, jun. Inspector Bishop, in reply to the magistrates, said there were three convictions against the license – the first being in 1887, the second in 1888, both of which were committed by a previous holder of the license. During the present year the defendant had been fined £10 and costs, and his license was endorsed for permitting drunkenness.

Mr. Waldron: And how has the house been conducted since?

Inspector Bishop: Very well. I have had no occasion to complain.

Mr. T. Homer opposed the renewal of the license on the ground that the house was, owing to its being badly conducted, a pest and a nuisance to the district, and, in the interests of the public, he contended that the magistrates should not renew the license. He was prepared to admit that if persons who properly conducted their houses were called upon to forfeit their licenses they should be compensated, but the holder of the present license was not entitled to any consideration.

Mr. Waldron urged the renewal of the license, and stated that the applicant had valued the public house at a cost of upwards of £1,000, and the house was at the present time one of the best houses in the district, and as the whole of his savings had been expended in improving the house, it would be inflicting a great hardship upon him to refuse his license simply because he had committed an offence. It was only right that he should say that his friend did not appear in the interests of the public, but for the owner of an adjoining public house, who appeared to be desirous of kicking the applicant when he was down.

Mr. Bassano said the magistrates had, after serious consideration, decided to give the applicant another chance and renew the license.”

It was rebuilt and renamed QUEENS HEAD.

1891 Census

30, Garratts Lane

- [1] *Joseph Foley* (30), married, publican, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] John Foley (9), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Sarah E. Foley (4), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Albert E. Foley (2), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Elizabeth Darby (27), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Nancy Darby (16), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 20/6/1891

“Charles Wright, Wagon Street, Old Hill, was charged with being disorderly on the licensed premises of *Joseph Foley*, the QUEENS HEAD, and with assaulting *Foley* on the 13th inst. Complainant said defendant had been drinking in his house and ‘kicked up a row.’ When witness requested him to leave he refused, and struck witness between the eyes. Defendant was fined 5s and costs for being disorderly and 2s 6d and costs for the assault.”

County Express 27/6/1891 - Advert

“Old Hill, Staffordshire. To Brewers, Innkeepers, and Others.

Mr. E. H. Boilstone has been favoured with instructions from Mr. *Joseph Foley*, to Sell by Auction, at the QUEENS HEAD INN, High Street, Old Hill, on Wednesday, the 8th day of July, 1891, at Six for Seven o’clock in the Evening, subject to conditions to be then produced.

All that Well-built and Truly-valuable Freehold Public House, known as the QUEENS HEAD INN, High Street, Old Hill, afore-said, containing on Ground Floor – large Shop, Smoke Room, Dining Room, and Cooking Kitchen; on First Floor – large Club Room, Drawing Room, Bed Room, and Bath Room; on Second Floor – Four Large Bed Rooms. In addition to the above, the Property has extensive Cellaring, a small Brewery, Malt Room, two-stall Stable, with room over; covered Gateway Entrance, and all necessary Outbuildings.

The Premises have been recently rebuilt, have a very imposing frontage, and are fitted up with all the latest improvements. The Property is situate in the principal thoroughfare, and most populous part of the district. It is entirely free, and early possession can be had.

For further particulars apply to Thomas Cooksey, Esq, Solicitor; or the Auctioneer, both of Old Hill.”

County Express 11/7/1891 - Advert

“Alteration of Date. Old Hill, Staffordshire. To Brewers, Innkeepers, and Others.

Mr. E. H. Boilstone has been favoured with instruction from Mr. *Joseph Foley*, to Sell by Auction, at the QUEENS HEAD INN, High Street, Old Hill, on Wednesday, the 15th day of July, 1891, at Six for Seven o’clock in the Evening, subject to conditions to be then produced.

All that Well-built and Truly-valuable, Freehold Public House, known as the QUEENS HEAD INN, High Street, Old Hill, afore-

said, containing on Ground Floor – large Shop, Smoke Room, Dining Room, and Cooking Kitchen; on First Floor – large Club Room, Drawing Room, Bed Room, and Bath Room; on Second Floor – Four Large Bed Rooms. In addition to the above, the Property has extensive Cellaring, a small Brewery, Malt Room, two-stall Stable, with room over; covered Gateway Entrance, and all necessary Outbuildings.

The Premises have been recently rebuilt, have a very imposing frontage, and are fitted up with all the latest improvements. The Property is situate in the principal thoroughfare, and most populous part of the district. It is entirely free, and early possession can be had.

For further particulars apply to Thomas Cooksey, Esq, Solicitor; or the Auctioneer, both of Old Hill.”

County Express 18/7/1891

“John Johnson, Cherry Orchard, Old Hill, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of *Joseph Foley*, QUEENS HEAD, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, on the 29th ult, and on the evidence of Police-constable Insley, defendant was fined 5s and costs.”

County Express 3/10/1891

“The first annual meeting of the Old Hill Wanderers Football Club was held on Tuesday evening at Mr. *J. Foley*'s, QUEENS HEAD INN, when arrangements were made to carry on the club in a more systematic manner than heretofore. Mr. W. Thomas was in the chair, and Mr. G. Mills was elected president, with Messrs. Hall Flemings, Chapman, J. Attwood, W. Jones, L. T. Bishop, and J. Potts, as vice-presidents. Mr. F. W. Baker, of Cradley Heath, was elected secretary and *J. Foley* treasurer, while sound financial and match committees were also formed.

On Wednesday evening a supper was given at headquarters by Mr. E. H. Boilstone, to which about thirty-five sat down, and the provision made reflected great credit on the donor and caterer. Most of the players were entertained, and after having enjoyed the feast, a convivial evening followed. Mr. E. H. Boilstone was in the chair, and after some appropriate opening remarks, the toast of Her Majesty the Queen was proposed by Mr. F. W. Baker. Toasts to Mr. Boilstone, Mr. *Foley*, the officials, were given, and of prosperity of the club.

During the evening the chairman impressed upon the players and officials the necessity of working in unison with each other, the opinion being supported by several prominent members of the committee, and the unanimous verdict was ‘that all should put their shoulder to the wheel.’

A smoking concert followed, and songs and recitations were rendered by Messrs. Billingham, W. Thomas (who gave a Welsh song on ‘Love and Marriage’ admirably), W. Foley, F. W. Baker, W. Harvey, G. Wesson, and W. Jones.

The meeting on the whole was most enjoyable, terminating with the usual vote of thanks, and the merry party dispersed just as the clock struck eleven. Mr. E. H. Boilstone announced his intention under existing circumstances, of giving an annual dinner to the club, and the appreciation of the kind offer was shown by repeated musical honours. This, however, is only one of the many kindnesses exhibited by Mr. Boilstone who is one of the most valued supporters connected with the club.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/5/1892 - Advert

“Pianist and Vocalist. Lady Wanted, for Saturday and Monday evenings.
Address, QUEENS HEAD, Old Hill.”

County Advertiser 2/9/1893 - Notice

“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 or Division of Rowley Regis in the said County, and to all whom it may concern.

I, *Joseph Foley*, the holder of a Seven Days' Beerhouse License, now residing at the QUEENS HEAD INN, Old Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, do Hereby Give Notice, that it is my intention to Apply, at the Adjourned General Annual Licensing Meeting, for the Division of Rowley Regis, to be holden at the Public Office at Old Hill, in the said County, on the 27th day of September next ensuing, for the grant of a License or Certificate, authorising me to apply for and to hold an Excise License for the Sale by Retail, at a House and Premises, situate and known as the QUEENS HEAD INN, Old Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis aforesaid, of all Intoxicating Liquors, to be consumed either on or off the Premises in pursuance of the Intoxicating Liquor Licensing Act, 1828, and Acts amending the same, of which said Premises I am the owner, and the same are of the annual value by law required, and are now in my own occupation.

Given under my hand this 31st day of August, 1893.

Joseph Foley.”

County Advertiser 30/9/1893

“The annual adjourned licensing sessions for Rowley Regis petty sessional division was held on Wednesday.....

Mr. *Joseph Foley*, landlord of the QUEENS HEAD INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, applied through Mr. Waldron for a full license, and Mr. Shakespeare opposed the application.

Mr. Waldron said in making that application two questions would have to be considered, whether there was any necessity for the license, and whether the applicant could make out his case. There was a constant demand for spirits and wines at applicant's house, which was also the headquarters of the Old Hill Football Club.

Mr. *Foley* gave evidence and said he was the owner of the house, upon which he had spent £1,800 in alterations.

Cross-examined: He wanted the license because people wanted spirits, and not to create drunkenness. There were ten licensed houses in the immediate locality. He had been convicted three times, and the last time he was fined 10s and costs and his license endorsed.

Mr. Shakespeare: I don't think I need say any more.

Mr. Bassano: No, we have heard quite enough. We cannot think for a moment of granting the license.”

County Advertiser 3/2/1894

“On Tuesday morning Mr. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the NEPTUNE INN, Powke Lane, Old Hill, upon the body of Elijah Poole (21), labourer, Churchbridge, Oldbury, who was drowned in the Birmingham Canal on Sunday evening, close by the NEPTUNE INN.

Bennett Lowe, labourer, Oldbury, said deceased was his step-son, and worked at Albright and Wilson’s. About 10.30 on Sunday last he went in company with a neighbour named Arthur Pearson to Old Hill on a visit to some relatives of Pearson. Deceased said they should be back by dinner time, but he did not come. Pearson came back about a quarter to twelve at night, at which time witness was in bed, and he heard his wife ask Pearson, ‘Have you bought Elijah back?’ Pearson replied, ‘No, he is drowned.’ Witness then got up and went to Pearson’s house. Pearson, who had different clothes on to what he had in the morning, told him that they had walked into the ‘cut,’ and he had got out the other side; that when he got out he shouted for Elijah, but could get no answer. The two men were on good terms with each other.

William Pearson said he asked deceased on Sunday morning to go with him to his mother’s at the Saltwells for a walk. Deceased refused at first, but afterwards consented. They called on their way at his sister’s, where they had some porter. After a quarter of an hour’s stay they proceeded to his mother’s where they had dinner and some ale mixed with ginger beer. They stayed about twenty minutes there, and afterwards went to the MAYPOLE INN at Cradley Forge. There they had five or six jugs of ale, two or three of which were had after half-past two o’clock – closing time. They paid for them between them, and the landlord paid for some. At closing time witness walked out of the house and walked in again. He told the landlord they had come the three miles and were travellers. They took away from the house a pint of rum.

In answer to Inspector Bishop witness said they were not much the worse for what they had had, but he did not think they were sober.

Witness, continuing his evidence, said they reached his sister’s house about four o’clock, and had tea. They mixed their tea with the rum which they had brought from the MAYPOLE.

The Coroner: How many partook of the tea? – Witness: About five or six.

Witness said they remained at his sister’s house till about a quarter to six, and then proceeded homewards. On the way home they called at the BRIDGE INN, where they were joined by a man named Henry Homer. Here they had about three quarts between them, and left about seven o’clock. They were then much the worse for beer, and Poole ‘showed it more than he did.’ They afterwards went into the QUEENS HEAD INN, kept by Mr. *Joseph Foley*, where they were refused liquor, for which they asked, and they were refused at another public house. They had in their possession a pair of pigeons, and as they were coming up Powke Lane, deceased was talking about putting up a pen for them. They walked straight into the canal instead of keeping to the road. Witness swam across to the far side and scrambled out. He then shouted ‘Elijah’ several times, but could not get any answer. He was dazed, and could not find Poole, who he thought might have got out.

The Coroner: Yes; you were dazed through drink.

Witness, continuing, said he lay down under a hedge, and subsequently was taken to a house, where he changed his clothes.

In reply to Inspector Bishop, witness said that after he got out of the water and lay down, afraid to get up in case he should roll into the canal.

The Coroner: Through having too much to drink? – Witness: Yes, and the cold. I did not know whether Poole was in or out of the canal.

A Juryman: You are in the habit of getting drunk? – Witness: Yes.

And you have been convicted by the magistrates many times? – Yes.

And fining you has not done you any good? – This job will, for I will never taste drink again.

Did you say to the deceased, ‘You can’t stand any more drink, I will drown you?’ – No, I did not. It was not the first time Poole had got drunk.

Police-constable O’Leary deposed that at 9.45, on Sunday night he heard that a man was in the canal at Jones’s Bridge, and with the assistance of Police-constable Wickstead and four other men he dragged the canal and found Poole’s body. Pearson, who was taken into a private house to have his clothes changed, was drunk. He saw him there, and he asked how Poole got into the water, and Pearson said, ‘We walked into the canal by accident, and Poole was too drunk to get out.’

The Coroner said there could be no reasonable doubt that the deceased died from drowning, and there were many serious matters connected with the affair. The two men undoubtedly went into various public houses, and had such a quantity of drink that both of them must have been in a beastly state of intoxication when they got into the canal. The question of any breach of the law having occurred would be inquired into by another court. The evidence showed that deceased got into the canal, and they had to consider whether he got there by accident.

The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and that the deceased was intoxicated when he got into the canal.

The Jury wished the Coroner to reprimand Pearson on his drunkenness, and on his being called into the room, Mr. Hooper said to him that the jury considered he was in a great measure responsible for his companion’s death. It was a very serious matter, as Pearson induced the deceased to go with him. It appeared to him that he (Pearson) was considerably addicted to drink, and if he was again brought before the justices, and he (the Coroner) knew of it, he would get the magistrates to inflict a heavy penalty on him. The only way he could mark his sense of such conduct as Pearson’s was by disallowing his expenses, and he should take that course. He hoped the occurrence would be a warning to him for the rest of his life.

Pearson said he would never touch drink again.”

[The landlord of the MAYPOLE INN (Halesowen file) was fined for selling intoxicating liquor during prohibited hours, they not being bona fide travellers.]

County Advertiser 7/4/1894

“John Siviter, of Netherton, was charged with being drunk and disorderly, and refusing to quit the licensed premises of *Joseph Foley*, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, and there was a further charge against him of assaulting *Joseph Foley*, on the 27th ult.

Complainant stated that defendant came to his house drunk, on the date in question, and after requesting him several times to leave, he endeavoured to expel him, when defendant struck him, and afterwards pulled him out of the house, into the street, got him down, and kicked him.

Inspector Bishop said he saw defendant in Garratts Lane; he saw him pull complainant down, and both men were struggling on the ground. Witness parted the men, and sent defendant away, but he returned, and had to be threatened with arrest before he would again leave.

Defendant was fined 10s for refusing to quit, and 10s and costs for the assault, or fourteen days in each case.”

County Advertiser 30/6/1894

“The annual meeting of the Old Hill Football Club was held on Thursday night at the QUEENS HEAD INN, Old Hill, Mr. H. Green presiding.

The annual report presented by the secretary (Mr. Green) showed that the total income of the club during the year was £414 7s 7d, and included gate receipts £353 3s 11d, and subscriptions £10 13s. The expenditure included players’ wages £249 8s 11½d, railway fares £22 13s 3d, and visiting teams £30 14s 9d. The adverse balance of £23 12s 6½d, which was left from last season, had been reduced to £8 7s 9d. The report was adopted. Mr. E. H. Boilstone was elected president, Mr. H. Green secretary, and Mr. *J. Foley* treasurer. A number of vice-presidents were also appointed.

Last Saturday evening the annual dinner of the club was held at the club house, Mr. E. H. Boilstone presiding. There was a large attendance, and in the course of the proceedings it was stated that last season the club played 40 matches, won 26, lost 8, drawn 6. An enjoyable evening was spent.”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/2/1895

“Bankruptcy Acts Deeds of Assignment.

Joseph Foley, the QUEENS HEAD, Garratts Lane, beerhouse keeper. Trustee, William J. Hipwood, Wolverhampton, accountant. Dated January 21, and filed January 28. Unsecured liabilities, £834 13s 5d; estimated net assets, £299; secured creditors, £3,301.”

County Advertiser 23/3/1895 - Advert

“Highly Important Sale by Auction of Valuable Licensed Properties, at Old Hill.

Alfred W. Dando has received instructions from W. J. Hipwood, Esq, the Trustee under a Deed of Assignment for the benefit of Creditors, to Sell by Auction, at the QUEENS HEAD INN, Old Hill, on Tuesday, March 5th, 1895, at Seven o’clock in the Evening, subject to Conditions of Sale then to be produced, as follows.

Lot 2. The valuable Well-situated Beerhouse, known as the QUEENS HEAD INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, containing spacious shop, with Front and Side Entrances and Out-door Department, Smoke Rom, Club Room, Sitting Room, with capital Basement Cellars, also Brewhouse, two-stall Stable (with entrance from Wagon Street) and loft above, and other Outbuildings in paved Yard behind.

The foregoing is a most substantially-erected important Beerhouse, situate on a good Road, in a populous District, and is well worth the attention of Brewers and others.”

Joseph Foley, beer and wine retailer, Garratts Lane [1896]

He was also a brewer.

County Advertiser 8/2/1896

“The Bench granted the transfer of the license of the QUEENS HEAD HOTEL, at Garratts Lane, from the trustees of Mr. *J. Foley* to Mr. *Sherwood Richards*, late of the VINE HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

Sherwood Richards – see also VINE AND RAILWAY.

County Advertiser 3/10/1896

“Rowley Annual Adjourned Licensing Sessions.

Interim authorities were granted to *John Mansell*, QUEENS HEAD, Garratts Lane, Cradley Heath.”

John Bushby = John Busby

County Advertiser 6/8/1898 - Notice

“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.

I, *John Bushby*, Licensed Victualler, now residing at the BEEFEATERS ARMS, Union Street, Lye, in the Parish of Wollescote, in the County of Worcester, Do Hereby Give Notice, that it is my intention to Apply, at the next General Annual Licensing Meeting, to be holden at the Public Office, at Old Hill, on the 24th day of August, 1898, in the said County, for a License to hold any of the Excise Licenses that may be held by a Publican, to Sell by Retail under the Intoxicating Liquor Licensing Act, 1828, Intoxicating Liquor to be Consumed either on or off the House or Premises thereunto belonging, situate at Garratts Lane, Old Hill, aforesaid, in the said Parish and County, and known by the sign of the QUEENS HEAD INN, of which Premises the North Worcestershire

Breweries Limited, of Stourbridge, in the County of Worcester, are the Owners, and of whom I rent them, and that the said Premises are of the annual value of £30, and that such House contains, exclusive of the rooms occupied by the Inmates thereof, Two Rooms.

Given under my hand this 25th day of July, 1898.

John Bushby.

Witness: David Wall, Clerk with Mr. J. W. Clulow, Solicitor, Brierley Hill.”

County Advertiser 1/10/1898

“The adjourned licensing sessions for the Rowley petty sessional division were held on Wednesday.....

Mr. J. W. Clulow applied, on behalf of *John Bushby*, landlord of the QUEENS HEAD INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, for a full license. Mr. B. Shakespeare opposed the application.

Mr. Clulow said these were very extensive and imposing looking premises, and consisted of a fine large elevation, three storey high. This was an old beerhouse, and until within a recent period it was the most important house in the district. It had very extensive accommodation, and it practically had the trade of two streets. The splendid arrangements of the public house made it a model one, and he should ask the Bench to grant the license.

John Bushby was called.

At this point Mr. Bassano said the Bench took this view. There were a great deal too many licenses in the parish, but it might become necessary that they should be more widely distributed, and when there was such an application as the present one before the Court, such as the enlargement of any premises, the first question that would be asked would be what other licenses would they be prepared to surrender? He did not like Birmingham for a good many things, but he did think that was a very good thing. If it was carried out it would undoubtedly be a benefit. It was useless proceeding unless the applicants were prepared to make a concession.

Mr. Clulow asked the Bench to be allowed to mention the application half an hour hence, and during the interval he would consult the owners as to what course they would pursue in face of the intimation from the Bench.

At a later stage in the proceedings, Mr. Clulow said he had communicated with his clients and they had decided they would renew the application at the next licensing meeting.”

1901 Census

30, Garratts Lane

[1] *John Bushby* (39), manager of beerhouse, born Scotland;

[2] Laura Bushby (30), wife, born Cradley;

[3] Sarah Welch (55), domestic servant, born Dudley:

County Express 12/4/1902

“*Arthur Billingham*, landlord of the QUEENS HEAD INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, was charged with allowing gaming to be carried on in his licensed premises on March 24th and 25th. Mr. Clulow prosecuted, and Mr. Thompson watched the case on behalf of the owners of the house.

It appeared that on the afternoons of these dates PC Kent and another man visited the house and found a game called ‘tip it’ being played. Kent was in plain clothes, and he and his companion were invited to take part in the game. They did so, and after a time the game was changed to one of ‘cork pitching.’ In both games the losing side paid for beer, which was supplied by the landlord, who had been sitting in the room watching the games. On the second day the landlord supplied the corks to play with.

The landlord pleaded guilty, and was fined £5 and costs, including solicitor’s fee, for the offence of the first day, and was ordered to pay cost for the second day’s offence. The conviction was endorsed on the license.”

AND

Smethwick Weekly News 12/4/1902

“*Arthur Billingham*, licensee of the QUEENS HEAD HOTEL, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, was summoned for permitting gaming to be carried on at his licensed premises on the 24th and 25th of March.

Mr. J. W. Clulow, who prosecuted, explained that on the dates named PC Kent disguised as a labourer, visited the public house in company with another man, and found a number of men and women playing at ‘tippit’ and ‘cork pitching’ for beer. The officer took part in the games. He asked for a heavy penalty, as gaming in public houses was carried on extensively in the district.

Defendant was fined £9 6s, including costs, and the license was endorsed.”

County Express 18/10/1902

“A meeting of the Long Pipe Club was held at their headquarters, the QUEENS HEAD INN, on Monday evening, when Mr. T. Carter presided over a good attendance. Mr. W. Belcher, the Liberal candidate for the borough of Dudley, was announced to speak, but he was unable to attend the meeting and sent an apology. The Chairman, speaking of the representation of the borough in the House of Commons, stated the working classes wanted a man who knew their needs, one who would sympathise with them and be prepared to help them. They had such a man in Mr. W. Belcher, and if they returned him to Parliament he would assist in passing measures for the uplifting of the working classes. Mr. Claughton was a friend of the working class (laughter). He belonged to a firm who were given to upsetting people’s property and wrecking working men’s dwellings (cries of shame). He was not the kind of man to represent them, and they should leave no stone unturned until they had sent Mr. Belcher to Parliament. They knew now who their opponent was to be, and he hoped Mr. Claughton would fight on gentlemanly lines, they knew Mr. Belcher would treat him with the utmost courtesy. Other addresses followed. A vote of confidence was passed in Mr. Belcher, and votes of thanks to the chairman and to the various speakers terminated the proceedings.”

County Advertiser 14/2/1903

“On Wednesday the annual licensing session for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held at the Court House..... Superintendent Spendlove had given notice that he should oppose the following licenses.....

Edward Stevens, QUEENS HEAD, Old Hill, permitting gaming.....

Mr. Thompson, of Dudley, appeared for *Edward Stevens* of the QUEENS HEAD INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, whose license was objected to.

Mr. Cooksey produced the register, which stated that on the 11th of April, 1886, there was a conviction for permitting gambling, and a penalty of £5 and costs imposed, the license also being endorsed. On December 11th 1887, the tenant was convicted for selling to a drunken person and fined 10s and costs. On the 13th of August, 1890, there was a conviction recorded for permitting drunkenness, and a fine of £10 and costs was inflicted and the license again endorsed. On the 9th April the tenant at that time was convicted of permitting gaming and fined £5 and costs, the license being endorsed for the third time. Since 1886 the house had been transferred on fourteen occasions.

Superintendent Spendlove, in support of the objection, pointed out that there was another public house next door, and it was quite a congested district so far as public houses were concerned.

Inspector Hodgkinson, in reply to Mr. Thompson, said the present tenant had conducted the house very well since the conviction. The Bench decided to reserve their decision until the whole of the objections had been heard License renewed.”

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

County Advertiser 10/10/1903

“Air Gun Shooting. QUEENS HEAD, Old Hill v Old Hill Liberal Club.

This fixture was shot at QUEENS HEAD, on Friday evening last, and after some excellent shooting by both sides, the homesters, with the good score of 307, won by 33 points. After the match a most convivial evening was spent, thanks to the kindness of some of the visitors and homesters.”

County Advertiser 24/10/1903

“Airgun Shooting. Rowley Regis and District League.

QUEENS HEAD, Old Hill v WHITE LION, Old Hill. Shot at WHITE LION.....”

[QUEENS HEAD won 314 - 302.]

County Advertiser 4/6/1904 - Advert

“To Let, QUEENS HEAD, Garratts Lane, Old Hill; easy terms.

Apply, personally, North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd., Stourbridge.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/2/1906

“The annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty 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.....

QUEENS HEAD INN, Old Hill, 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 Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday.....

Mr. Bassano said the bench had under consideration the nine houses, five of which were objected to on the ground of convictions and four others on the ground of redundancy. It had raised a very large question, and the magistrates had had before them the consideration of the parish as a whole. He threw out a 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.....

QUEENS HEAD INN, Old Hill.”

County Advertiser 13/4/1907

“An application was made by Mr. W. Waldron for the transfer of the license of the QUEENS HEAD INN, Old Hill, from *John Busby* to *Joseph Smith*. In reply to Superintendent Johnson applicant denied that he was a betting man. The application was granted, Mr. Waldron remarking that he would give an undertaking that nothing of that kind should take place on the premises.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/6/1909

“The principal meeting of the Staffordshire County Compensation Authority, adjourned from the 11th inst.....

The decision of the local licensing magistrates to refuse the renewal of the FOX HUNT alehouse, Old Hill, tenant, Arthur E. Jew, was opposed.....

In opening the case, Mr. Lawrence said that the house was fully licensed, and he thought the main fact to be borne in mind in coming to a decision was the situation of the adjoining licensed houses. There was one – the QUEENS HEAD (a beerhouse) – actually next door. There was another full licence – the BRITISH OAK – only 51 yards away, and there were others within a short

distance.....”

Indenture 28/10/1909

“All that plot of land situate at or near Old Hill in the Parish of Rowley Regis aforesaid containing 296 square yards or thereabouts.

And also all that messuage or dwelling house erected thereon used as a beerhouse and known as the QUEENS HEAD.

And Also all that brewhouse and other outbuildings partly erected on the site of two cottages facing Black Waggon Street.....”

Brierley Hill Advertiser 24/9/1910

“A destructive gas explosion occurred late on Wednesday night at the QUEENS HEAD INN, High Street, Old Hill. It appears that about 10.45pm the landlord, *Silas Chambers*, who only took over the management of the house that day, was talking in the smoke room with two customers, Messrs. John Rock and Charles Priest, when they were startled by a loud report. Leaking gas had been fired by a flame, and the shock was felt throughout the house. The door of the smoke room, which was closed at the time, was completely blown out and smashed to splinters. The windows were all broken, blinds burnt, and the pictures dislodged from the wall, which cracked from end to end, the brickwork being pushed out in many places. The woodwork of the large windows in the bar was displaced, and the windows in the kitchen and scullery were also smashed. There were also signs upstairs of the severe shaking which the structure had experienced, and glass was scattered in all directions. The landlord and the two customers narrowly escaped serious injury. *Chambers* was sent reeling into the bar, burnt on the face and arms, and sustained a severe wrist injury, and the other men were considerably shaken and slightly burnt. Their escape from further hurt was miraculous, as they were in the room which was most affected by the explosion. It is said that for some time gas has been known to escape in the smoke room, but the exact spot could not be located. It is thought that the gas had accumulated behind the skirting boards and the wall cavities, and had gradually risen until into contact with the gas. The damage to property is estimated at about £150.”

County Express 21/1/1911

“Court Miners Protection Society, held at the QUEENS HEAD INN, High Street, held recently their annual audit for the year ending 1910, Bro. H. Blunt, PCR, presiding. The results were as follows: Sick and funeral receipts £144 4s 6d, expenditure £97 19s 4d, gain £46 5s 2d; receipts for management £26 6s 3d, expenditure £21 1s 6d, gain £5 4s 9d; receipts for subsidiary fund £4 14s 9d, expenditure £6 16s 3d, loss £1 1s 6d; net gain for the year £49 8s 5d; total worth of the society £1,1042 10s 9d. The funds were invested as follows: £850 on mortgage security; £166 19s 10d in post office saving bank and balance in hand £25 10s 11d. The accounts were certified as correct by the auditors, Messrs. W. Edge and I. Wakeman. Mr. Moses Bagley is the secretary of the society.”

1911 Census

76, High Street – QUEENS HEAD

- [1] *Silas Chambers* (30), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Charlotte Chambers (34), wife, married 6 years, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Garnett Chambers (5), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Sarah Chambers (4), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

Staffordshire Sentinel 7/6/1913

“The Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910. Notice of Principal Meeting. County of Stafford.

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Principal Meeting to be held pursuant to the Licensing Rules, 1901, by the Compensation Authority for the above Area, will be held at the Shirehall, Stafford, at 10-45 o'clock am on Thursday, the 24th day of July, 1913.

And Notice Is Hereby Also Given, that the Compensation Authority will at the Meeting be prepared to hear, with reference to the Renewal of the Licenses of the several Premises specified in the subjoined list, all those Persons to whom under the Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910, they are bound to give an opportunity of being heard.....

List of Licensed Premises.....

QUEENS HEAD, Old Hill. Beerhouse, ante 1869. Licensee, *Silas Tilley Chambers*.”

Staffordshire Sentinel 24/7/1913

“The principal meeting of the County Licensing Compensation Authority was held in the Shire Hall, Stafford, today (Thursday), when 38 houses appeared in the list to be dealt with by the magistrates.....

The licenses of the SWAN INN, Rowley Regis, and the QUEENS HEAD, Old Hill, in the Rowley Regis division, were taken away.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/7/1913

“The Staffordshire Licensing Committee, at their meeting at Stafford yesterday, had thirty-eight cases to consider, the question being whether the licenses should be withdrawn and the houses extinguished under the compensation clauses of the Licensing Acts.....

The licenses of the SWAN INN, Rowley Regis, and the QUEENS HEAD, Old Hill, were renewed.”

[It would appear that the license of the QUEENS HEAD was renewed but that of the SWAN was not.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/1/1938

“Mr. *Silas T. Chambers*, aged 57, a haulage contractor, of 116, Powke Lane, Old Hill, collapsed and died in the stand when

Wolverhampton Wanderers scored their first goal in the match against Arsenal, at Wolverhampton, on Saturday. Mr. *Chambers* was a keen supporter of the 'Wolves,' and rarely missed one of their home matches.....
He was interested in all branches of sport, including pigeon flying, a popular Black Country pastime, in connection with which he had won several prizes.....
Before starting as a haulage contractor, Mr. *Chambers* was a licensee at Old Hill.”

Silas Henry Tilley Chambers – see also PRINCE OF WALES.

1939 Register

76, High Street

- [1] *Richard Edge*, date of birth 12/11/1892, licensee, married;
- [2] P. Blanche Edge, dob 11/8/1895, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [5] Edward Edge, dob 25/5/1923, junior clerk, single;
- [6] E. (Evelyn) Blanche (Edge) Bradley, dob 19/9/1925, tailoring trade, single;
- [7] Audrey (Edge) Gwilliam, dob 13/7/1927, at school, single:

Evening Despatch 9/4/1941

“The plea that he thought that if gave a tradesman calling on him on business a glass of beer there would be no offence in law if the beer was drunk after closing time, was advanced at Old Hill Police Court today.

This explanation was made by *Richard Edge*, licensee of the QUEENS HEAD, High Street, Old Hill, who was summoned for aiding and abetting in the consumption of beer after hours.

Three tradesmen, Victor Edmonds, of 116, Halesowen Road, Old Hill; Thomas Hadley, of 39, Hickman Avenue, Old Hill; and William Dumolo, of Ingestre, Birmingham New Road, Dudley, summoned for consuming, were stated to have called at the house just before two o'clock and to have each been given a drink by the licensee.

PC Venables, looking through the window shortly before 2-30, said he saw the three men and the licensee playing cards. He saw Edwards drink from his glass, and there were full glasses of freshly-drawn beer in front of the other two.

Submitting that there was no intention to defy the law, Mr. R. Baker said *Edge* gave his tradesmen a friendly drink, but they had apparently been 'a little slow in the swallow.'

Each defendant was fined £2, the licensee, in addition, being ordered to pay £5 5s costs.”

A Publican's license was granted on 1st February 1950.

Closed

It was demolished in 1971.

Check OLD HILL.

RAILWAY

14, (103), (107), Oldbury Road, BLACKHEATH

OWNERS

Thomas B. Williams and Lizzie Bate

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (acquired on 2nd February 1927)

LICENSEES

David Parsons [1874] – **1883)**

Henry Parsons [1885]

Solomon Roberts [1889] – [1891]

John Edward Partridge [1893]

Edwin Heath [1896]

Jethro Sidaway [1898] – [1901]

John Hipkiss [] – **1905);**

George Sidaway (**1905** – []

Mary Ann Bennion [1911]

James 'Jimmy' Dunn [1919] – **1924);**

Harry Fletcher (**1924** – **1930);**

Thomas Potter (**1930** – **1940);**

Sydney Chapman (1940 – 1951);
Harold Preston (1951 – 1954);
Leonard Henry Woodcock (1954);
Leonard Frederick Cope (1954);
Leslie Attwood (1954 – 1957);
Henry William Parkes (1957 – 1962);
William Jones (1962 – 1965);
Tony Thompson (1965 – []

NOTES

107, Oldbury Road [1881]
103, Oldbury Road [1891], [1901]
14, Oldbury Road [1939], [1940]

It had an ante '69 beerhouse license.

Stourbridge Observer 10/10/1874

“Thomas Pool, William Pool, and Richard Pool, were charged by *David Parsons*, landlord of the RAILWAY INN, Blackheath, with refusing to quit his house, on the 26th ult, when requested. Complainant said that the three brothers were in his house about half-past 8 o'clock. They began to quarrel among themselves, and he was afraid of a disturbance and sent for the police. He ordered them out, and they refused to go. After some difficulty he got Thomas out, and he returned, and they all began to fight. William and Richard were not so bad. Fined 1s each and costs, or default seven days.”

County Advertiser 29/9/1877

“Adjourned Licensing Session.....

David Parsons of the RAILWAY INN, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, applied for a six-days' spirit license. Mr. Hayes supported and Mr. Addison opposed the application, the latter appearing on behalf of Mr. Laister, owner of the HANDEL HOTEL. Mr. Hayes urged that his client had established a car and vehicle agency, and his house being near the railway station, and not near to any old-licensed house, accommodation of the nature asked for was necessary. Mr. Addison's cross-examination elicited from the applicant that his house was a little over a hundred yards from the HANDEL HOTEL; but he did not think there were seven beerhouses within three hundred yards of it. The magistrates' clerk did not think the latter fact applied to the present case, the application being for a spirit license. Mr. Hayes presented a testimonial, signed by residents of the neighbourhood, in support of his client's application. There was no opposition made to it other than by Mr. Addison. Application refused.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 2/4/1881

“On Thursday night a dinner was given at Mr. *Parsons*' RAILWAY INN, in connection with the debating club started a few months ago. Our report of this meeting is unavoidably held over till next week.”

1881 Census

107, Oldbury Road – RAILWAY INN

- [1] *David Parsons* (68), beerhouse keeper, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Catherine Parsons (70), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Selina Parsons (26), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Caroline Parsons (24), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Fanny Parsons (8), granddaughter, born Rowley Regis:

Birmingham Mail 14/4/1883 - Died

“On the 12th inst, *David Parsons*, RAILWAY INN, Black Heath, Rowley Regis, in his 71st year; beloved and respected by all who knew him.”

County Express 14/3/1885 - Advert

“Important Sale at the RAILWAY INN, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, Rowley Regis.

Mr. Joseph Hackett has received instructions from the Executors of the late Mr. *David Parsons*, to Sell by Auction, on Wednesday, March 25th, 1885, the whole of the Clean and Genteel Furniture and Effects, comprising Tables, Windsor and other Chairs, Chest of Drawers, Washing Stands, Dressing Tables, Toilet Ware, Night Commode, Oak Chest, Mahogany-cased Eight-day Clock, Carpets, Two Horses, Two Carts, Two Spring Carts, Water Cart, Dog Trap, Two Sets of Harness, Thirteen Pairs of Large Bellows, Sack Weighing Machine, Chaff Machine, Sewing Machine (by Wheeler & Wilson), and other Effects too numerous to mention. Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.

Book Catalogues may be had from the Auctioneer.

Auctioneer's Office: Blackheath, near Dudley.”

County Express 6/6/1885

“The Bench allowed the transfer of the following licenses.....

RAILWAY INN, Halesowen Street, Blackheath, from the executors of *David Parsons* to *Henry Parsons*.”

County Express 23/2/1889

“*Solomon Roberts*, publican, Blackheath, was charged by the Rowley Regis and Blackheath Gas Company, with fraudulently abstracting and consuming gas belonging to the company. Mr. Tansfield appeared for the company, and stated that defendant admitted using the gas, and had made an apology. He asked for the case to be withdrawn, and this was allowed on payment of the costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/8/1890

“The Licensing Session for Old Hill division was held yesterday.....

Mr. H. S. Jackson applied, on behalf of *Solomon Roberts*, of the RAILWAY INN, Blackheath, for a seven-days license, he now holding a six-days license. The application was granted.”

1891 Census

103, Oldbury Road – RAILWAY INN

- [1] *Solomon Roberts* (31), publican, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Mary Ann Roberts* (30), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *William Roberts* (10), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Harry Roberts* (8), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *George Roberts* (6), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Annie Roberts* (4), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *James Roberts* (1), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] *Jesse Roberts* (1), son, born Rowley Regis:

Midland Sun 27/5/1893

“*John Edward Partridge*, landlord of the RAILWAY INN, Blackheath, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises, and also with selling ale to a drunken person, on the 18th inst. Mr. Waldron prosecuted, and explained that on the date in question Police constables Jewson and Wood visited defendant’s premises, and in the taproom found two men named Jones and Taylor drunk, and the latter was drinking out of a pint cup of ale.

For the defence Mr. J. S. Sharpe urged that the men were not drunk, but excited over a previous row. The case was dismissed. George Taylor and William Jones, were each fined 10s, for being drunk on the above licensed premises.”

County Advertiser 27/6/1896

“*Edwin Heath*, landlord of the RAILWAY INN, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, was charged with keeping open his house during prohibited hours on the 6th inst.

Sergeant Wingfield said that at 11.30 on Saturday night, the 6th inst, he visited the RAILWAY INN, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, occupied by the defendant. In the back kitchen he found a man named Lewis. Lewis was sitting down at a table upon which was a pint cup of ale. The landlord was present, and witness asked him how he accounted for having Lewis there drinking at that time of night. He replied, ‘We have been to a cricket match together at Stourbridge, and we had a little private business to do, and came into this back room to ourselves to do it. Lewis has had nothing to drink here since 11 o’clock tonight.’ The man Lewis at the same time said, ‘We had a little private business to do, and we came in this room to do it.’ Witness had visited the house at 10.30 and saw Lewis in the bar drinking.

Cross-examined: He did not say what the business was. Witness saw Lewis drink twice.

Mr. Waldron said the facts were not disputed, but the case was not one of the bad cases which really called for the interference of the Court. Defendant and Lewis had been out to a cricket match together, defendant having supplied the brake to convey the team, and they were settling up the business, as they were officers of the club. The beer was sold before eleven o’clock.

William Lewis, of Blackheath, was charged with being on licensed premises during prohibited hours on the same date.

The Bench considered that a technical offence had been committed, and fined each of the defendants 1s and costs.”

County Advertiser 29/8/1896

“*Alfred Heath*, Blackheath, was summoned for being drunk on the licensed premises of *Edwin Heath*, landlord of the RAILWAY INN, Blackheath. Police-constable Poultney proved the offence, and said the landlord was defendant’s brother. Defendant was drunk in the back premises of the public house. Fined 10s.”

County Advertiser 12/2/1898

“*Mary Ann Hingley*, Market Place, Blackheath, wife of a well-known tradesman in the neighbourhood, was charged with stealing 3d on the 20th ult, and 2½d on the 21st ult, from the till of Mr. *Jethro Sidaway*, landlord of the RAILWAY INN, Oldbury Road, Blackheath. The case was heard last week, but as the Bench could not agree it was put off till this week. Mr. Waldron appeared for complainant, and Mr. C. H. Darby, of West Bromwich, defended.

The evidence for the prosecution was to the effect that about half-past ten in the morning of the 20th ult, prisoner came into his house and went into the bar. She called for a glass of ale, and the landlord went out of the bar, leaving prisoner alone in the room. The landlord, who was in the kitchen, and who could see into the bar from where he was standing, saw the prisoner open his till, which was in the bar, and put her hand inside. Prisoner afterwards left, and when the landlord subsequently counted his money

he found that threepence was missing. The next day prisoner again came to the house, and again went into the bar. Mrs. *Sidaway* saw the prisoner open and shut the till drawer, and after prisoner had gone away she counted the money, and found a halfpenny short. Prisoner went into the house again about half-past five. She went into the tap room, and then into the bar. The complainant went into the cellar, leaving his wife, Mary Louisa Hipkiss, his sister-in-law, and a servant girl named Willetts in the kitchen. Mrs. Hipkiss then saw prisoner with one hand on the door and another in the till. Mrs. Hipkiss heard money rattle and went into the bar. She said, 'Who is at the till?' Prisoner replied, 'There is no one here but me.' Mrs. Hipkiss replied, 'I thought the child was in.' The till was divided into two compartments; one being devoted to silver. The prisoner went away, but returned. The prosecutor came up from the cellar, and prisoner asked if she could see the master. Mrs. *Sidaway* said she could, and prisoner then asked the landlord whether he had missed any money. Prosecutor said he had, and told her it was not the first time she had been at the till, because he saw her with his own eyes the previous day. Prisoner said, 'Why should I do a thing like that?' Information was then given to the police, and Police-sergeant Onions went to the house and charged prisoner with the theft, to which prisoner replied, 'All right, I will go with you.'

In cross-examination, prosecutor said he did not say anything to prisoner on the first occasion. It was out of regard for her in the neighbourhood. She had lived in Blackheath for 26 years, and he had known her for many years. Her husband was a wealthy man, and she had no occasion to want money.

Mrs. Hipkiss, in cross-examination, said her child was not in the room on the 21st ult. When she said she thought it was the child, it was an excuse.

Mr. Darby said he must draw the attention of the Bench to the improbability of the story told by the prosecution. It was an extraordinary story, and had been rehearsed so often that they had convinced themselves that prisoner had committed the theft. But he thought it was very strange that as prosecutor was so convinced of the guilt of prisoner he did not accuse her of the theft directly after he saw her at the till, and not only that, but on two occasions afterwards prisoner was not accused of the theft. She had no notice of having been suspected until the Friday evening. It was said this was done out of respect to her, but he thought that was not the act of a friend. He rather thought it was because of complainant not being sure that prisoner had committed the theft. There was no motive for such an act, as prisoner's husband was in a good position, and prisoner herself was well-known in the neighbourhood, where she had lived for many years. Prisoner protested her innocence, and refused to make any apology. He submitted that if the Bench thought there was any doubt in the case they should give prisoner the benefit.

The Bench retired to consult, and upon returning into Court, Mr. Walker intimated that they considered the prisoner guilty. She would be fined £5 and costs, or one month."

1901 Census

103, Oldbury Road

[1] *Jethro Sidaway* (30), publican, born Blackheath;

[2] Sarah Sidaway (30), wife, born Blackheath;

[3] Flossie Sidaway (10), daughter, born Blackheath;

[4] Annie Sidaway (2), daughter, born Blackheath;

[5] Jane Gould (20), general servant, born Blackheath:

County Express 25/5/1901

"There was a regular row at the RAILWAY INN, Blackheath, on Saturday, and as a result, several charges of assault etc, were issued.

Hezekiah Plant and Henry Skitt, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, were charged with assaulting Caroline Plant, on May 18th. The complainant stated a dispute arose in the house, and alleged that Skitt caught hold of her by the head, damaged a new hat, and pulled out a handful of hair. Hezekiah Plant, her brother-in-law, did not hurt her much. He only pushed her into the fire place, but, she added, 'I was served 'orrid.' Plant said it was a family affair, which arose over some photos of a brother of his, nicknamed 'Darkey,' who was at the front. The Bench decided to hear some other cases before adjudicating upon this. They were: Benjamin Plant, of Rowley Village, was charged with being disorderly upon, and refusing to quit, the licensed premises of *Jethro Sidaway*, on May 18th, and with assaulting Sarah *Sidaway* and Alice Skitt at the same time and place; and Richard Plant, of Siviters Lane, Rowley, was charged with assaulting Sarah Bastable, Caroline Plant's mother. In the charges against Benjamin Plant, Mrs. *Sidaway* said defendant went into the house, and commenced the row about the photos, she went into the room, and he then struck her, and also refused to quit when asked. Alice Skitt corroborated this evidence.

In the charge against Richard Plant, Sarah Bastable said she was in the room while the dispute was on, and defendant caught hold of her and swung her backwards, and she fell against the screen, hurting her head. Defendant said his sons were fighting, and he simply pushed the old woman away from them. He did not strike or assault her in any way. *Jethro Sidaway* was called to support this evidence.

The charges against Hezekiah Plant and Henry Skitt were dismissed. Benjamin Plant was fined 10s for refusing to quit, and 10s each in the charges of assault, and the charge against Richard Plant was also dismissed."

1911 Census

Oldbury Road

[1] *Mary Ann Bennion* (52), widow, licensed victualler, born Blackheath;

[2] William Henry Bennion (27), son, barman, born Blackheath;

[3] Percy Bennion (19), son, coal miner, born Blackheath;

[4] Clara Dodson (27), domestic servant, born Blackheath:

Blackcountryman (Autumn 2020)

Norma Postin tells of her Grandfather, James 'Jimmy' Dunn, and his life in Rowley Regis

“.....My maternal grandfather was *James Dunn*, usually known as Jimmy, and he was born in Rowley Regis in 1888, the eldest son of Simeon and Isabella Dunn. Jimmy married May Chatwin, also born in Rowley Regis, in 1915. He began the illegal betting venture with Archie Bellingham. I am unaware of my grandfather's relationship with Archie, or for how long Archie was involved in the business.

From 1919 until 1924 Jimmy was the licensee of the RAILWAY INN public house on Oldbury Road in Blackheath, but he and his family had to leave when Arthur Bagnall, a member of the Salvation Army, notified the brewery of the illegal gambling that had been going on there. Jimmy, his wife May and their two young children (Ivan and my mother, Nora) left the RAILWAY INN and moved to live for a while with May's family in Oldbury Road, where the betting business continued. Eventually, Jimmy and his family moved to a council house in Regis Road Jimmy Dunn died in 1949 due to heart failure.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/3/1938

“Mr. Gilbert Griffiths unsuccessfully applying for a wine license for the RAILWAY INN, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, before the Rowley Regis Justices at Old Hill yesterday, criticised opposition unsupported by evidence which could be subject to cross-examination, and alleged that ‘a very impassioned speech on the evils of drinking in general,’ made by the Rev. W. C. Chrimes at the annual meeting was not relevant.”

1939 Register

14, Oldbury Road

[1] *Thomas Potter*, date of birth 30/11/1893, licence beer, married;

[2] *Gertrude Potter*, dob 18/12/1892, unpaid domestic duties, married;

It was transferred to a full license on 2nd February 1955.

It closed in 1984.

It was demolished in 1984, as part of the ring road.

RAILWAY TAVERN

78, Corngreaves Road, (78, Club Building), CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

North Worcestershire Brewery Company [1906]

LICENSEES

Benjamin Hill [] – **1869**);

Eli Hill (**1869 – 1880**);

Thomas Mobberley (**1880**)

James Mobberley (**1880**);

Jeremiah Westwood (**1880** – [1885]

John Smith [1886] – **1887**)

William Alfred Smith [1890] – [1898]

Harry Garratt [1900] – **1903**);

William Titus Smith (**1903** – [1905]

William Thomas Smith [1904]

NOTES

County Advertiser 9/12/1865 - Advert

“RAILWAY TAVERN, Cradley Heath.

To be Disposed Of, the above Tavern, in an excellent situation in the main road leading from the Five Ways (from which it is only a short distance) towards Corngreaves; and is now doing a fair trade. The proprietor is removing to a distance, in consequence of other engagements. Coming-in about £50. Rent low.

Apply to Mr. Chandler, Publicans' Valuer, &c, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 3/12/1870

“*Eli Hill* [sic], landlord of the RAILWAY TAVERN, Cradley, was summoned for having his house open on Sunday the 27th inst, during prohibited hours. Police-constable John Dix said he visited defendant’s house in company with Police-constable Craddock, and four men were sitting in the kitchen. There was a quart jug full of ale on the table, and on witness going into the room, one of the party threw another quart jug on the floor and broke it. It contained ale, and a glass was put under a bench. Mr. Mills, in reply to the Bench, said that defendant had not been convicted, but he had had several complaints against him, and the police were unable to detect him before. Being the first conviction, the Bench fined him twenty shillings and costs.”

County Advertiser 10/12/1870

“*Eli Hill* prayed for sureties of the peace against Thomas Davis, and other summonses of the same kind were taken out by members of both families. Mr. Shakespeare appeared for *Hill*, and Mr. Hayes was engaged on the other side.

Hill keeps the RAILWAY TAVERN, Cradley Heath, and the defendant went into the house and asked a person there to toss with him for ale. *Hill* refused to allow this, whereupon a very disgraceful disturbance was created by defendant.

The defence was that the charge was bought through spite.

The Bench ordered defendant to find sureties to keep the peace, and the other summonses were dismissed.”

AND

“*Eli Willets*, John Crumpton, and John Woodhouse, were charged with drinking at illegal hours, at the RAILWAY TAVERN, Cradley Heath, on Sunday, the 27th ult. The defendants urged that they were at work on the day in question, and thought it no harm to have some ale with their breakfast. They were ordered to pay costs.”

1871 Census

Club Building

[1] *Eli Hill* (35), publican, beer seller, born Halesowen;

[2] Phebe Hill (30), wife, born Bromsgrove;

[3] Martha Holmes (17), general servant, born Bromsgrove:

County Advertiser 9/6/1877

“James Littlewood, labourer, was charged by *Eli Hill*, landlord of the RAILWAY TAVERN, Corngreaves Road, with having been disorderly on his premises and with having refused to quit the same when ordered to do so by him. Mr. Stokes appeared for the prosecutor, and Mr. Addison defended.

The prosecutor gave evidence to the effect that on the night of Saturday, the 2nd inst, the defendant came to his house in a drunken state, and because he refused to supply him with ale, he became disorderly. Witness attempted to eject him, but he was very violent and struck him several times. Witness’s wife also assisted him in getting the man out, and he threatened her with a brick which he snatched up.

Cross-examined: His wife did not strike the defendant on the head with an iron bar several times. Did not say when he first saw him, ‘Here’s the b—— informer.’

By Mr. Stokes: Would swear that his wife never had an iron bar in her hand at the time of the occurrence.

Mrs. Ann Smith said that she went into Mr. *Hill*’s house on the evening in question about a quarter before ten o’clock and saw the defendant there in the kitchen. He appeared to be causing a disturbance, and Mr. *Hill* came in and told the defendant if he didn’t go he would put him out of the house. A struggle then took place, and the defendant struck the landlord several times, causing him to bleed ‘fearfully.’ Mrs. *Hill* went towards him, and he threatened to knock her face in with a brick which he had in his hand. Mrs. *Hill* took the brick from him, and as she did so the defendant fell backwards to the floor.

Cross-examined: She (Mrs. *Hill*) had no such thing as a crowbar in her hand. She did not supply him with any drink. The brick which defendant had he pulled from near the front door, where it was loose.

Phoebe *Hill*, the wife of the prosecutor, deposed that defendant came into her house and asked for some ale, but as he appeared to have had sufficient she refused to supply it. He then pulled some money from his pocket, and wanted to gamble with it, on seeing which her husband ordered him to leave. He would not go, and resisted her husband’s endeavours to eject him. He afterwards caught up a brick, which witness took from him. He fell down when she did so.

Cross-examined: Did not strike him with an iron bar.

This being the case for the prosecution, Mr. Addison addressed the Bench for the defence, urging that the facts were totally different from what had been stated. He was instructed that his client went to the house quite sober, in order to see a man there. As soon as he went in, the landlord, *Hill*, cried out ‘Here comes the b—— informer,’ and commenced abusing him. He afterwards knocked him about, and struck him several times in forcing him out of the house. Mrs. *Hill* also struck him violent blows on the head with an iron bar, doing him very severe injury. There would be charges preferred against the two *Hills* when the facts he had stated would be proved.

Eli Hill and Phoebe *Hill* were then charged with assaulting Littlewood on the date and at the place above referred to. Littlewood gave evidence in accordance with Mr. Addison’s statement, and a witness named Tromans was called to support it. He said he saw Mrs. *Hill* strike Littlewood on the head with some iron instrument, and he caught hold of the weapon, but could not take it from her.

Police-constable Cooper, who said that the last witness called him on the night on question in a drunken condition, was called by Mr. Stokes.

After hearing the whole of the evidence, the magistrates had very little hesitation in dismissing the charges against Mr. and Mrs. *Hill*. They fined Littlewood for refusing to quit the former’s house 20s and costs; in default, a month’s imprisonment.”

County Advertiser 29/12/1877- Advert

“Apology. To Mr. George Goring.

Whereas I have made use of certain Slanderous Expressions reflecting upon the character of Mr. George Goring, of Corngreaves, I beg to Retract such expressions, and express my regret for having made use of them, as I am well aware they are utterly untrue, and without foundation, and in consideration of Mr. George Goring withdrawing the legal proceedings he has commenced against me, I have paid his Solicitor’s costs, and authorise him to publish this Apology in the newspapers.

Dated this 24th day of December, 1877.

Phoebe *Hill*, RAILWAY TAVERN, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 1/3/1879

“A charge was preferred by the police against *Eli Hill* and *Phoebe Hill*, of the RAILWAY TAVERN, Corngreaves Street, Cradley Heath, alleging that they were drunk and disorderly on their own premises on the night of the 16th ult. Mr. W. Shakespeare (Old-bury) defended.

Police-constable Sylvester stated that at nine o’clock on the night named he visited defendant’s house and found Mr. *Hill* and his wife intoxicated and quarrelling. At twenty minutes to ten o’clock he went again to the house along with Police-constable Parker, and then found the two defendants in a similar condition.

Police-constable Parker, who corroborated his brother office, said Mr. *Hill* was standing near the table, and his wife was supporting herself by it. They both tried to speak, but witness could not understand what they said.

Mr. Shakespeare submitted that the drunkenness was an invention of the constables, and arose out of a vindictive feeling on the part of Sylvester. This officer had some time ago bought a pig from Mr. *Hill* for 28s, and having paid 10s defendant pressed him for the money and threatened to ‘County Court’ him. He called John Williams and a man named Rider and his wife, to prove that the defendants were not drunk, but perfectly sober, at the time in question. When the officers entered they were reading Peace’s trial in the *Advertiser*, and all that *Hill* did was to make a joke about having ‘Peace on earth,’ and hoping they should have ‘Peace in Heaven.’

The male defendant was also called, and gave evidence relating to the pig, and to Sylvester having said he would ‘make it out’ with him.

After retiring the Bench said they thought the case proved, and the male defendant having been convicted three times, they should fine him 20s and costs; and his wife 10s and costs.”

Dudley Herald 1/11/1879

“*Eli Hill* and *Phoebe Hill*, beerhouse keepers, Cradley Heath, were charged with being drunk on their licensed premises on the 20th ult. Mr. Hayes defended.

PC Buckley said he went to the defendant’s house and heard the defendants quarrelling. On going into the house he found that they were both drunk. They used language which was perfectly disgusting. He told them he would summon them for being drunk.

Superintendent Woollaston said he went to the defendant’s house and found them both drunk. The female defendant was in a worse state than the male defendant. She was in a dirty state, as was also the house.

Defendant admitted the offence, and asked the Bench to deal leniently with him. If they would he would not drink any more beer for 12 months, and would make a grand present to the Guest Hospital.

There being previous convictions against both the defendants, the Bench said they would not be doing their duty unless they inflicted the full penalty.

Eli was fined 40s and costs, and *Phoebe* 20s and costs.”

County Advertiser 14/2/1880

“*Eli Hill*, landlord of the RAILWAY TAVERN, was charged with being drunk on his own licensed premises on the 31st ult. Mr. Hayes defended.

Police-constable Martin’s evidence was to the effect that about half-past six on the day named in the charge, he visited the defendant’s house in Corngreaves Road, and found defendant quarrelling with his wife. About an hour afterwards he went to the house again and found the defendant drunk and making use of bad language. Defendant went to the beer-machine, drew half-a-glass of ale, and supported himself against the machine.

Similar evidence was given by Police-constable Sylvester.

Mr. Hayes totally denied the charge of drunkenness against the defendant, and called a witness who said he was in defendant’s house for several hours, and the defendant was sober.

The Bench said they were willing to give him another chance, as he was heavily fined when he was before them last time, and they should only fine him 5s and costs.”

County Express 13/3/1880

“*Eli Hill*, landlord of the RAILWAY TAVERN, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, was charged with being drunk on his own licensed premises, on the 16th inst, and he was further charged with having been twice previously convicted of similar offences within twelve months. Mr. Hayes defended.

It appeared from the evidence given by Police-inspector Walters, and Police-constables Sylvester and Rowlands, that on the night of the above date they found the defendant drunk and staggering about a passage in his house. When he saw the officers he lighted a candle and took them into another room, where they found his wife lying helplessly drunk.

Mr. Hayes, in defence, denied that the defendant was drunk. He said that he was a man of excitable temperament, and the officers might easily have mistaken his real condition.

During the hearing of the case the defendant behaved very disorderly, and called one of the witnesses a liar. He also told the Bench that he was being driven to death through spite; and said he would sooner be brought to the gallows than live in his present state.

The Bench fined him 40s and costs.

Phoebe *Hill*, his wife, was then charged with being drunk on her husband's licensed premises.

Mr. Hayes, on her behalf, pleaded guilty. She was fined 5s and costs.

Eli Hill was then further charged with using threatening language towards Herbert Hall. The charge was proved, and defendant was ordered to be bound over in his own surety of £10 to keep the peace.

Defendant resolutely announced that he would not pay a shilling, and asked for what term he would have to go to prison in default. He was told that if he did not pay, his goods would be distrained."

County Advertiser 1/5/1880

"On Saturday, an inquest was held at the CORNGREAVES HOTEL, Cradley Heath, before Mr. E. Hooper (district coroner) touching the death of Phoebe *Hill* (35), the wife of *Eli Hill*, of Cradley Road, until lately the landlord of the RAILWAY TAVERN, Cradley Heath.

It appeared that on the 22nd inst, the deceased woman was asleep on a screen at the house where she and her husband lodged, when she fell off the screen apparently in a fit, and died a few hours later. Deceased had been a woman of intemperate habits, and a rum bottle was found by her side after the fall, and upon her body being examined after death several bruises were found, including a blackened eye.

Deceased's husband being now called into the room to give evidence, was found to be in a state of drunkenness, and at the request of the jury, the coroner administered to him a severe reprimand.

Dr. Standish gave it as his opinion that deceased died from the effects of an apoplectic fit.

The jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes, and expressed their opinion that deceased's intemperate habits had accelerated her death."

1881 Census

78, Club Building

[1] *Jeremiah Westwood* (26), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Priscilla Westwood (24), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Benjamin Westwood (4), son, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Florence Lottie Westwood (4 months), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Ellen Hardy (17), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

Dudley and District News 16/8/1884

"*Jeremiah Westwood*, landlord of the RAILWAY TAVERN, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, was charged with assaulting Joseph Weston, chainmaker, of Cradley. Mr. Waldron appeared for the complainant and Mr. Wright for the defendant.

It seemed that on the 4th inst after some sports had taken place at Cradley the complainant and a man named Mallen repaired to the RAILWAY TAVERN and there ordered half a pint of beer and a bottle of ginger beer. A number of people were in the room at the time. Some gambling was going on, and complainant tossed and won and lost several cigars. As the two men were going out, the defendant, who stood at the door, asked Weston if he had got a horse to trot. He replied that he could get one, and it was agreed that they should have a match for £10 a side. Both parties made a deposit of 2s each, Mallen holding the money. A dispute arose as to the height of the ponies and defendant demanded his money back again, at the same time seizing hold of Mallen by the collar and telling him to give him the money. Mrs. *Westwood* shouted out to her husband, 'Give me your watch and chain and take it out of him.' Complainant told Mallen not to give the money up, and defendant, loosing Mallen, struck complainant a heavy blow on the face, felling him to the ground. He followed him up and kicked him on the head, face, and shoulders. Leaving complainant, defendant turned his attention towards Mallen whom he knocked down and shamefully jumped on, and kicked whilst on the ground. Several people cried shame on the defendant for his cowardly conduct. As soon as the row was over the complainant went to the doctor who sewed up his wounds.

Mallen and a woman named Clara Smith gave evidence in support of the charge.

For the defence, it was urged that when defendant asked for his money complainant told Mallen not to give it up. Mallen was about to give it up when complainant said, 'We'll fight him for it.' At the same time striking defendant on the ear. Defendant struck back again in self-defence and both the other men started kicking him.

Evidence for the defence was given by William Golding, John Hill, and William Rock.

Defendant was further charged with assaulting Mallen.

The Bench considered both charges proved and fined defendant 40s and costs in each case, or two months. The solicitor's fee of 10s 6d in each case was also allowed. The total amounted to £6 9s 6d."

Birmingham Daily Post 4/9/1884

"*Jeremiah Westwood*, landlord of the RAILWAY TAVERN, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, was summoned for permitting gambling on his licensed premises, on the 4th ult. Mr. Waldron prosecuted on behalf of the police, and Mr. Shakespeare defended. Joseph Weston, chainmaker, stated that on the day mentioned, whilst in defendant's house, he tossed with a man named Golding for ten cigars, and also laid a wager of £10 with the landlord on a trotting match.

Defendant was fined 40s and costs."

County Express 15/8/1885

“Josiah Barnsley Nock, Spinners End, was charged with being disorderly and refusing to quit the RAILWAY TAVERN INN, Corngreaves Road. Mr. T. Cooksey prosecuted.

The defendant went into the house and wished to gamble. He refused to go out when asked by the landlord, and the police had to be sent for.

Defendant said he had been hurt in the ironworks, and became excited if he had anything to drink.

Mr. Bassano said defendant should not go into public houses to get excited.

A fine of 10s and costs was imposed, in default fourteen days.”

County Advertiser 29/8/1885

“On Wednesday the annual brewster sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Rowley Regis, were held at the Court House, Old Hill.

The following was the black list Beerhouse keepers.

Jeremiah Westwood, RAILWAY TAVERN, Cradley Heath, permitting gaming, 3rd September, 1884, fined 40s and costs.

The Bench said they would not now renew the licenses of those who had been convicted, but would reserve them for consideration till the adjourned licensing day.”

County Express 3/10/1885

“This being the adjourned licensing day the magistrates granted the renewal of licenses to the following persons, whose names had appeared on the black list.

Jeremiah Westwood, RAILWAY TAVERN, Cradley Heath.”

Jeremiah Westwood – see also BEEHIVE, Cradley Heath.

County Advertiser 6/2/1886 - Advert

“To Let, RAILWAY TAVERN, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath. Best Beerhouse in the neighbourhood. In-coming low. Apply, T. Pateshall, Auctioneer, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 4/9/1886 - Advert

“Rowley Wake!!!

A Fete and Gala will be held in the Old Fields, Cradley Heath, on Rowley Wake Monday and Tuesday, September 13th and 14th, 1886.

A Fat Ox Will Be Roasted and Disposed of on the Grounds.

Grand Promenade Open-Air Concert, by the celebrated Dudley Glee Union (Messrs. E. W. Smith, Alex Smith, G. H. Newns, and W. H. Smith).

Important Engagement at a great cost of Miss Kate McCoy, one of the greatest Serio-Comics in the world. Expensive Engagement, and First Appearance in this town, of Mr. C. P. Gill, one of the Finest and Neatest Irish Comedians on the stage. The Renowned Serio-Comic Artistes of the London and Birmingham Concert Halls, will appear in their Side-splitting and Laughable Entertainments.

Old English Sports and Pastimes, Foot Racing, &c, each day for Valuable Prizes, by Amateurs residing within three miles of Cradley Heath. Entries on the Grounds.

The Cradley Heath Brass and Reed Band will perform Selections of Popular and Operatic Airs. Conductor, Mr. Joseph Mansell. Fireworks and Scenic Displays, under the superintendence of Professor Heaton, Adams and Co., Birmingham.

Refreshments of first class quality, and at town prices, will be supplied on the grounds by Mr. Jeremiah Westwood, the BEEHIVE, Cradley Heath.

Admittance 3d each. Tickets may be obtained from Messrs. F. Hingley, the HEATH TAVERN, High Street; J. Westwood, the BEEHIVE INN, Graingers Lane; H. Hickton, the QUEENS HEAD INN; *John Smith*, RAILWAY TAVERN, Corngreaves Road; and H. Heaton, New Town, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 16/10/1886

“Charles Westwood, Cradley Heath, for a similar offence [drunkenness/refusing to quit] at the house of *John Smith*, RAILWAY TAVERN, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, on the 8th inst, was fined 2s 6d and costs.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 6/8/1887

“On Saturday evening Mr. W. F. Topham (deputy coroner) held an inquest at the RAILWAY TAVERN INN, Corngreaves Road, relative to the death of *John Smith* (33), landlord of the above named Inn. It appears from the evidence that a short time ago the deceased was driving at Round Oak in company with others when his vehicle came into collision with a greengrocer’s cart, the result being that the occupants of the former were thrown out, *Smith* sustaining severe injuries to his ankle, from the effects of which he died.

Verdict Accidental Death.”

1891 Census

78, Corngreaves Road

[1] *William A. Smith* (26), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

- [2] Sarah A. Smith (29), wife, born Lye;
[3] Beatrice Smith (4), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
[4] Lizzie Davis (16), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 27/6/1891

“*William Alfred Smith*, landlord of the RAILWAY TAVERN, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises. Mr. W. Waldron defended.

Police-constable Wynn said at nine pm on the 30th ult he visited the defendant’s house in company with Police-constable Davies. In the tap room he saw a man named William Swingler very drunk, and making use of bad language. He had a pint cup containing ale in his hand. Witness spoke to the landlord about the man’s condition, and he replied, ‘I have only filled him one pint of ale, and the son paid for that.’ They went into the tap room and the son of Swingler said he had paid for the ale. The defendant requested the man to leave, and he left, staggering across the room, the defendant assisting him to the door.

Cross-examined: He had not noticed that the man ‘limped.’

Police-constable Davies gave corroborative evidence.

Mr. Waldron said the defendant had kept his house for twelve months in a satisfactory manner. He thought it should be shown that there was a want of control and care in the management of the house before the Bench could say that the landlord was guilty of permitting drunkenness. The police did not say that there was general drunkenness in the house, but that it was an isolated case. Defendant was called, and said Swingler had only been in the house a quarter of an hour before the police came in, and had only been supplied with one pint. Swingler was perfectly sober.

William Swingler said he only had one pint of ale in the house, and that was paid for by his son.

Elizabeth Davies, servant, said Swingler only had one pint.

George Swingler and Samuel Ryder swore that Swingler was perfectly sober.

Defendant was fined £5 and costs.

William Swingler, Corngreaves Road, was fined 2s 6d and costs for being drunk on the premises.”

County Express 29/8/1891

“The annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis division of Staffordshire were held at the Police Court, Old Hill, on Wednesday.....

William Alfred Smith, of the RAILWAY TAVERN, was represented by Mr. Waldron. Inspector Bishop deposed to applicant being fined £5 and costs on June 24th last for permitting drunkenness. This beerhouse had been in existence continuously for 50 years. Mr. *Smith* had conducted the house satisfactorily since the conviction. Adjourned.”

County Express 3/10/1891

“Old Hill Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. W. Bassano said the only case in which they proposed not to renew the license was in the case of the CROSS INN, Old Hill.....

Mr. Ward asked if all the other licenses were granted without any special application being necessary. Mr. Bassano said this was so. Of course they had, in the exercise of their discretion, thought there were several cases in which they might reasonably withhold the license, and the Bench had had a long discussion that morning before coming into Court as to whether they should do so in the case of a man fined £10 and costs. However, they had decided to grant the whole of the licenses this year, and they gave an intimation that in future the Bench would deal very stringently in cases of conviction under the licensing laws, both as regards the amount of fines and endorsements, and in the cases of endorsements they would deal more stringently. In plain English, this meant that a person with an endorsement against the house would in future have a very small chance indeed of getting his license renewed. They hoped the licensed victuallers and other licensed persons in the district would take a warning from that.”

London Gazette 15/2/1895

“*Jeremiah Westwood*, formerly the BEE HIVE INN, Cradley Heath, Staffordshire, afterwards Southalls Lane, Dudley, Worcestershire, now residing in lodgings at the RAILWAY TAVERN, Cradley Heath aforesaid, formerly licensed victualler, afterwards fish and fruit dealer, now out of business.”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/3/1895

“Bankruptcy Proceedings. Re *Jeremiah Westwood*, licensed victualler.

Yesterday, at the Dudley County Court – before Mr. Kettle – *Jeremiah Westwood*, formerly of the BEEHIVE INN, Cradley Heath, afterwards of Southalls Lane, Dudley, and now living in lodgings at the RAILWAY TAVERN, Cradley Heath, came up for his public examination in bankruptcy. Debtor’s liabilities amounted to £587, and his assets, it was estimated, would produce £64, leaving a deficiency of £523. Mr. Martin (from the office of Mr. Waldron, Brierley Hill) appeared on behalf of the debtor, who was examined by the Official Receiver (Mr. E. P. Jobson).

About seventeen years ago debtor commenced business at the RAILWAY TAVERN, Cradley Heath, having previously been in business at the CROSS INN, Old Hill. The in-going valuation at the RAILWAY TAVERN was £160, of which £70 was advanced by the debtor’s father. He traded at that house for eight years, and in the meantime he purchased the freehold for £360, of which £300 was advanced upon mortgage. When the debtor disposed of the premises and business he received £100 from his successor. This was not sufficient to pay his creditors 20s in the pound, so he used it in part payment of the in-going valuation (£230) at the BEEHIVE INN, Cradley Heath, then acquired by him. The payment was advanced by a local maltster, with whom was deposited, as security, a lease of the premises. He traded there about seven years, when a firm of brewers purchased the lease, and

ultimately arranged for the debtor to remain on the premises as their tenant. They also paid him £100. His indebtedness at that period considerably exceeded his assets, and at the end of two years, also his connection with the brewery company ceased, his liabilities amounted to about £500. During the latter period of the debtor's trading at the BEEHIVE INN, he speculated with a theatrical company for the production of several stage plays. This company was sent on tour for two months to several provincial towns. The salary and travelling expenses averaged about £32 per week. The debtor did not personally superintend the finances of the company, being satisfied to leave them in the hands of his son, a youth of fifteen, who reported weekly. This speculation involved a loss of £250. He admitted that when he embarked on this undertaking he was insolvent. When he left the BEEHIVE, in March, 1893, his affairs were put into the hands of a solicitor to arrange with his creditors. An arrangement for the acceptance of a composition was not completed, and debtor was pressed for payment, and compelled to file his petition in bankruptcy. During a portion of the last two years he had traded as a fishmonger, and his liabilities had been slightly increased. His wife carried on business as a fishmonger at Dudley. With regard to the theatrical business, he had to pay an agent 25s a week and his travelling expenses, and the first week he made 12s 6d profit, but the next week he lost £13. He came from Canada seventeen years ago, and during most of the time since he had been in difficulties. Debtor was allowed to pass."

Dudley Herald 29/10/1898

"Charles Westwood, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, was charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of *William Alfred Smith*, and also with assaulting Mr. *Smith*. Complainant stated that on the 17th October defendant came to his house, the RAILWAY TAVERN, Cradley Heath, and witness could see that he had had sufficient drink, and refused to fill him anything. He ordered him to leave the house, but defendant refused, and he was eventually put out. Witness went to the door to see if he had gone, and defendant came and struck him twice in the face. Defendant said he did not know anything about the affair. He was fined 10s and costs in each case."

Harry Garratt = Harry Garrott

1901 Census

78, Corngreaves Road – RAILWAY TAVERN

- [1] *Harry Garrott* (30), chain maker, born Cradley Heath;
- [2] *Mary Garrott* (29), wife, born Swansea;
- [3] *Albert Garrott* (9), son, born Cradley Heath;
- [4] *Gertie Garrott* (8), daughter, born Cradley Heath;
- [5] *Maude Garrott* (3), daughter, born Cradley Heath;
- [6] *John Garrott* (1), son, born Cradley Heath;

County Advertiser 25/5/1901

"*Harry Garratt*, RAILWAY TAVERN, Cradley Heath, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 30th ult. Mr. J. Walter Clulow prosecuted, and Mr. W. Waldron defended.

Mr. Clulow said the facts were that on the 30th ult Police-constable Dale saw a man named Cole go into the RAILWAY INN in a drunken condition. About twenty minutes later he and the sergeant went into the house and found Cole sitting down in a drunken condition with two glasses in front of him. The sergeant called the defendant's attention to the man's condition, and he asked him to look over it this once.

Mr. Waldron said the man was not served with anything but ginger beer. The question was whether a publican ought to turn a drunken man out or not, some Benches thought so, but others did not. He thought the costs would meet the case.

Mr. Clulow said he must ask for a small penalty.

Police-constable Dale and Police-sergeant Pitcher gave evidence.

A fine of 20s and costs was imposed, and solicitor's fee.

Stuart Cole, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, was fined 10s including costs for being drunk on the premises."

County Advertiser 11/2/1905

"The annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday.....

The following is a list of the licenses objected to by Superintendent Johnson.....

Thomas Hackerson, of the NEPTUNE INN, Old Hill; George Payne, of the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Cradley Heath; and *William Titus Smith*, of the RAILWAY TAVERN, Cradley Heath; on the ground that the premises are structurally deficient and unsuitable.....

The objection was deferred to the adjourned sessions, as well as the opposition to the RAILWAY TAVERN, Cradley Heath, another house belonging to the North Worcestershire Brewery Company."

County Advertiser 11/3/1905

"The adjourned licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday, at the Police Court.....

Mr. Thompson referred to three objections made by the police at the annual licensing day for certain alterations which were deferred. The houses in question were the NEPTUNE INN, Old Hill, the RAILWAY TAVERN, Cradley Heath, and the PLOUGH AND HARROW, Cradley Heath. Superintendent Johnson raised certain points, and he asked them to be deferred because they were of considerable importance to his clients. Since then he had consulted with his clients. With regard to the NEPTUNE INN, the police objected to a door which led out of the licensed premises on to the canal side. His clients would give an understanding that this door would be closed altogether excepting to allow horses to be taken to the stables. Otherwise it would be necessary

to take the horses a considerable distance round. With regard to the RAILWAY TAVERN they had consented to close the back entrance to these premises and also to close a doorway leading from the back premises of the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN to public passages, after sunset each evening. This was a matter of considerable importance to them inasmuch as the passages were public ones, but his clients had decided to close the doorway at night and he believed this would meet with the wishes of the police.

Superintendent Johnson said he should be willing to withdraw his objections to the renewal of the licenses providing the conditions named by Mr. Thompson were given in writing and carried out by the owners. Mr. Thompson agreed to these conditions, and the renewal of the licenses was granted.”

William Titus Smith – see also ROUND OF BEEF.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/2/1906

“The annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty 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.....

RAILWAY TAVERN, Corngreave Road, 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 Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday.....

Mr. Bassano said the bench had under consideration the nine houses, five of which were objected to on the ground of convictions and four others on the ground of redundancy. It had raised a very large question, and the magistrates had had before them the consideration of the parish as a whole. He threw out a 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.....

The next objection gone into was that of the RAILWAY TAVERN, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath. Mr. W. H. Thompson (Dudley) appeared for the licensee and the owners.

Inspector Gibbs stated that the premises were small and stuffy, and there was no accommodation for the licensee or his family.

The house was not properly constructed for a licensed house. Two transfers had taken place within the last ten years. There were 13 licensed houses within 500 yards. The nearest licensed house was the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, owned by the same firm, 30 yards away. There were two previous convictions against the house, and the business done was very small.

Mr. Thompson said the North Worcestershire Brewery Company felt there were too many houses in the locality, and did not propose to offer any opposition to this house being submitted to the Quarter Sessions on the question of redundancy.

The Bench decided to take this course.”

County Advertiser 23/6/1906

“Staffordshire Licensing Committee.....

The Rowley Regis justices referred two houses –the RAILWAY TAVERN, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, and the ROUND OF BEEF INN, Cradley Heath. The committee refused the license of the RAILWAY TAVERN, but renewed that of the ROUND OF BEEF.

The committee adjourned until Monday next.”

Lichfield Mercury 17/8/1906

“Staffordshire Licensing Committee.....

The meeting of the Committee on Wednesday was for the purpose of further considering the question of compensation to persons interested on those public-houses the licenses of which had not been renewed by the Committee.....

Several cases were decided, the result being.....

RAILWAY TAVERN, Cradley Heath, £700. £600 to debenture trustee, £50 to tenant, and £50 to licensee.”

It closed in 1906.

RAILWAY

23, (24), Graingers Lane, CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

William Henry Simpkins [1896]

North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd. [1910]

Esau Watts, Handsworth

Exors. of Esau Watts [1919]
Harry Bellfield
Caleb Batham (leased from December 1932 to 1940)
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1940)

LICENSEES

William Billingham [1868] – 1902);
James Billingham [] – 1903);
Henry ‘Harry’ Watts (1903 – 1910);
Harry Bellfield (1910 – 1928);
Lewis Bradney (1928 – 1931);
William Richard Boyman (1931 – 1932);
Harry Wheatley (1932);
Caleb William Batham (1932 – 1935);
Sidney Lane (1935 – 1942);
Edward Darby (1942);
Charles Tucker (1942 – 1956);
Samuel Harris (1956):

NOTES

24, Graingers Lane [1881], [1882], [1891]
23, Graingers Lane [1939], [1940]

It was known locally as “Bellyfields”.

It had an ante ‘69 beerhouse license.

It was a home brew house.

William Billingham, beer retailer, Cradley Heath. [1868], [1870]
He issued tokens from here.

Stourbridge Observer 26/12/1868

“Edward Matthews, of Cradley Heath, was charged with stealing a quantity of wearing apparel on the 8th instant, the property of *William Billingham*.

Caroline Billingham, wife of prosecutor, said they kept a beerhouse, at Cradley Heath. On the above date she lost two pillow cases, 1 bolster case, 1 baby’s frock, 8 pinafores, 1 towel, and 1 chemise. Witness missed them about six o’clock. They were worth 10s. Could swear the articles produced were her own property, as she had made them herself.

Police-constable Hammond proved finding the articles produced in the prisoner’s house, upstairs, inside a flock bed. Prisoner denied stealing them, and said, ‘That cat of a wife has put them there,’ and if he got out of this mess he would never live with her again. Prisoner had hitherto borne a good character. The articles could have been put in the bed without the knowledge of prisoner. Prisoner said he was quite innocent, and never stole anything in his life. Had worked for Messrs. Bagnall all his life, till last Whitsuntide, when he went to work at the Corngraves. Prisoner was then discharged.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 29/5/1869

“At the Old Hill Petty Sessions, on Wednesday, before Messrs. N. Hingley, and G. W. F. Barrs, Emma Payne, domestic servant, was charged, on remand, with stealing £5, the moneys of her master, *William Billingham*, a publican, of Cradley; and Eliza Willetts, another young woman, was charged with receiving a part of the same, knowing it to be stolen. Mr. Addison defended Willetts. Enoch Gould, a draper, of Cradley Heath, deposed that the two girls came to his shop on two occasions about a fortnight ago. They bought gloves, a sunshade, and several neckties. Payne paid for the articles on one day with a sovereign, and on the other with a half-sovereign, but Willetts selected the goods. On the prisoners being brought up together and charged, they incriminated one another, and before the magistrates Payne said that Willetts had tempted her. Both were committed for trial, but bail was allowed for Willetts.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 3/7/1869

“Staffordshire Midsummer Sessions.....

Emma Payne was charged with stealing five sovereigns, the property of *William Bellingham*, beerseller, of Cradley Heath; and Eliza Willits with receiving part of the same knowing it to have been stolen.

Mr. Underhill for the prosecution, called Mrs. *Bellingham*, from whose statement it appeared that on the 8th of May she placed nine sovereigns in a drawer in her room, locked it, and placed the key in the pocket of her dress, which was hung up. On the 15th

she missed five sovereigns, which Payne afterwards acknowledged to have taken. The question now was as to the guilt of Willits, and the learned counsel for the prosecution said he felt compelled to put Payne in the witness box, with the view of eliciting that fact.

Payne said, in substance, that the prisoner knew how she (Payne) had got the money, although she had never told her personally, but had told another in her presence; and that they bought articles together, which were paid for out of the stolen money.

William Bevan and Enoch Gold, tradesmen, of Cradley Heath, deposed to both prisoners coming to their shops to purchase various articles; but in one case it turned out that Payne paid for the things, and in the other the witness could not tell who paid for them.

Willits, when taken into custody, acknowledged to having some of the furniture bought by Payne, but denied that she had received any of the money. The prisoner Willits received an excellent character from two persons who had known her from childhood; and after an earnest appeal to the jury on her behalf by Mr. Smith the jury, without waiting for the Chairman's summing up, returned a verdict of not guilty. Payne was sentenced to three months' imprisonment."

1871 Census

Corngreaves Road [sic]

[1] *William Billingham* (25), publican, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Caroline Billingham* (24), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *Alice Billingham* (4), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *James Billingham* (1), son, born Rowley Regis;

[5] *Sarah Rose* (17), general servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 19/10/1872

"*William Billingham* was charged with permitting drunkenness in his house, the RAILWAY TAVERN, Cradley Heath. Defendant was ordered to pay costs."

Stourbridge Observer 22/2/1873

"*William Billingham*, beerhouse keeper, of Cradley Heath, was charged with using a bagatelle table without a license, on the 8th. PC Taylor proved the case. Defendant, who expressed his ignorance of the law in question, was ordered to pay costs."

County Advertiser 19/4/1873 - Advert

"Wanted, a Servant Girl, for Public-house.

Apply to *William Billingham*, RAILWAY TAVERN INN, Cradley Heath."

County Advertiser 27/9/1873

"Adjourned Licensing Meeting.....

Joseph Sidaway, landlord of the OLD HOUSE AT HOME, Old Hill, and *William Billingham*, landlord of the RAILWAY TAVERN, Cradley Heath applied for the renewal of their licenses. Superintendent Mills said there had been two convictions against each of the applicants. The licenses were granted."

Birmingham Daily Post 17/4/1874 - Advert

"For Sale, a good Bagatelle Table, cheap.

Apply, *William Billingham*, RAILWAY TAVERN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath."

1881 Census

24, Graingers Lane

[1] *William Billingham* (33), publican, born Rowley;

[2] *Caroline Billingham* (33), wife, born Rowley;

[3] *James Billingham* (10), son, scholar, born Rowley;

[4] *Jeremiah Billingham* (9), son, scholar, born Rowley;

[5] *Benjamin Billingham* (8), son, scholar, born Rowley;

[6] *William Billingham* (6), son, scholar, born Rowley;

[7] *Mary Raybould* (25), general servant, born Rowley:

County Advertiser 15/7/1882 - Advert

"Copper Refrigerator to be Sold, cheap.

Apply, RAILWAY TAVERN INN, 24, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath."

1891 Census

24, Graingers Lane – RAILWAY INN

[1] *William Billingham* (43), shipping tackle manufacturer, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Caroline Billingham* (43), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *James Billingham* (20), son, shipping tackle maker, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Jeremiah Billingham* (19), son, shipping tackle maker, born Rowley Regis;

[5] *William Billingham* (17), son, shipping tackle maker, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Alice Bishop (17), servant, born Cradley:

1901 Census

Graingers Lane – RAILWAY TAVERN

[1] *William Billingham* (53), beer seller, shipping tackle manufacturer, born Cradley Heath;

[2] *Caroline Billingham* (54), wife, born Cradley Heath;

[3] *James Billingham* (31), son, clerk in shipping tackle works, born Cradley Heath;

[4] *Jeremiah Billingham* (30), son, clerk in shipping tackle works, born Cradley Heath;

[5] *Mary Johnson* (28), domestic servant, born Cradley Heath:

County Advertiser 8/11/1902 - Advert

“To Brewers, Publicans, Maltsters, and Property Investors.

Important Sale of Freehold Beerhouse and Dwelling Houses at Cradley Heath; and Building Land at Mount Pleasant, Kingswinford.

Arthur H. Sidaway is favoured with instructions from the Trustees of the late William Tibbetts, Esq, to Sell by Auction, on Tuesday, the 18th day of November, 1902, at the house of Mr. Harry Dingley, the TALBOT HOTEL Cradley Heath, at Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to Conditions then to be produced.....

Lot 3. All that Freehold Beerhouse, known as the RAILWAY TAVERN, Situate fronting Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath, now in the occupation of Mr. *Billingham*, upon a yearly tenancy, at the annual rent of £30.

The Accommodation consists of Bar, Tap Room, Parlour, Kitchen, Brewing-house, Pantry, Cellar, Three Bed Rooms, Malt Room, Yard, and usual Outbuildings. Also the Freehold Double-Fronted Dwelling House adjoining, being No.46 Graingers Lane, now let to Josh. Shaw, at a weekly rent producing £10 8s 0d per annum.

The Auctioneer begs to call the attention of the trade to this Property, which possesses great advantage of position, being upon a very busy thoroughfare and in the midst of large and important Works.

The House is perfectly Free from any Trade Tie.....”

County Express 22/11/1902

“On Tuesday night Mr. Arthur H. Sidaway held a very successful sale of properties at the TALBOT HOTEL, High Street, Cradley Heath. Eight houses in Tibbetts Gardens were sold for £700; six freehold houses, Graingers Lane, made £620; the RAILWAY TAVERN and house adjoining, after spirited competition, realised £1,835; a plot of land at Kingswinford, £101. The total amount of sale, £3,256. Mr. James Hinds, of Stourbridge, acted as solicitor.”

County Advertiser 30/1/1904

“Mr. S. Vernon applied, on behalf of *Harry Watts*, for the sanction of the Bench to make alterations at the RAILWAY TAVERN, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath. He explained that the alterations were required to give the landlord more domestic accommodation. This application was granted.”

County Advertiser 16/4/1904

“*Watt's* A1 Money Club held its first dinner at the RAILWAY TAVERN, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath, on Saturday evening last, when a good muster of members were present. After an excellent dinner a programme of songs and recitations was gone through, the following taking part: J. Nicholls, J. Felton, F. Tipton, Mr. Tromans, G. Garratt, A. Tipton, and T. Nock. Hearty votes of thanks was passed to the host and hostess for their catering. Mr. *Hy. Watts* responding.”

County Express 12/9/1908

“Friendly Societies' Parade. On Wednesday evening the committee of the above met at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Mr. W. Coley presiding over a large attendance. The following was a complete list of those boxes which contained amounts of 1s and upwards.....

Mr. *H. Watts*, RAILWAY TAVERN, 1s 7½d.”

County Express 17/4/1909 - Advert

“Cradley Heath, Staffs. To Brewers, Maltsters, Publicans, and Others.

Important Sale of a Well-known Free, Freehold, Home-Brewing Beerhouse with Up-to-date Two-storey Brewery and Premises, which will be Sold By Auction by Samuel Jones, Son & Vernon, instructed by the Executors of the late Mr. Esau Watts, at the DUDLEY ARMS HOTEL, on Tuesday, May, 4th, 1909, at 6.30 for 7 o'clock pm prompt, subject to Conditions of Sale to be then produced and read.

All that Popular and Well-known Home-Brewing Beerhouse, the RAILWAY TAVERN, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath, Staffs, with Modern Two-storey Brewery and Premises and Cottage adjoining. This house is situate in a popular district, just off the main road and tram terminus, close to several large and important works, and is doing a capital trade, averaging about 8 barrels weekly. For full particulars apply to Messrs. W. Shakespeare and Co., Solicitors, Oldbury and Smethwick; or to the Auctioneers, 29, Church Street, Oldbury, and Lloyds Bank Chambers, High Street, Smethwick.”

County Express 2/10/1909

“Friendly Societies' Parade Committee.

A meeting of this committee was held at the RAILWAY INN, Graingers Lane, on Tuesday evening. Mr. W. Cley presided over a

rather poor attendance, supported by Mr. J. Dearn (treasurer).....”

County Express 14/5/1910 - Advert

“Re Mr. *Harry Watts*, late of the RAILWAY TAVERN, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath, Innkeeper, deceased.

All Person having Claims against the Estate of the above-named deceased are requested forthwith to send particulars of the same to us, the undersigned.

Dated this 28th day of April, 1910.

Gould & Elcock, Solicitors, Stourbridge.”

County Express 21/5/1910 - Advert

“Preliminary.

A. H. Sidaway is favoured with instructions to Sell by Auction, at the House of Mr. H. Dingley, TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on Tuesday, June 14th, 1910.

All that Valuable Freehold Home-Brewing Beerhouse, known as the RAILWAY TAVERN, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath, together with the Double-fronted Dwelling House adjoining.

Full particulars will appear in future advertisements.

Solicitors: Messrs. Gould and Elcock, Stourbridge. Auctioneer’s Office: Cradley Heath.”

County Express 11/6/1910 - Advert

“On Tuesday Next. To Brewers, Maltsters, Publicans and Others.

Sale of Valuable Freehold Home-Brewing Beerhouse and Dwelling House, at Cradley Heath.

A. H. Sidaway is favoured with instructions to Sell by Auction, at the House of Mr. H. Dingley, the TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on Tuesday, June 14th, 1910, at 7 o’clock in the Evening, subject to Conditions then to be produced.

All that Highly Valuable Freehold Old-established Beerhouse, known as the RAILWAY TAVERN, situate in Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath, and now in the occupation of Mr. *Harry Watts*. [sic]

The Accommodation consists of Bar, Tap Room, Smoke Room, Kitchen, Four Bed Rooms, spacious Cellar with Rolling-way, modern 3-storey Brewery, Malt and Hop Rooms, brick-paved Yard with Cartway Entrance from Tibbetts Gardens.

Also the Valuable Freehold Double-fronted Dwelling House adjoining, now in the occupation of Mr. Joseph Share.

The Property is situated in the midst of a densely populated part of Cradley Heath, commanding an extensive and profitable trade, being surrounded by large and important works, and is free from any trade tie.

Possession can be had on completion.

For further information apply to Messrs. Gould and Elcock, Solicitors, Stourbridge; or the Auctioneer, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 18/6/1910

“The RAILWAY TAVERN, Cradley Heath, which was kept by the late Mr. *Henry Watts*, was on Monday evening offered for sale by Mr. A. H. Sidaway, but was withdrawn at £1,300.”

Harry Bellfield = Harry Belfield

1911 Census

Graingers Lane – RAILWAY TAVERN

- [1] *Harry Bellfield* (45), publican, brewing, born Quarry Bank;
- [2] Elizabeth Bellfield (37), wife, married 15 years, born Lye;
- [3] Bert Bellfield (13), son, painting machinery, born Quarry Bank;
- [4] Winnifred Bellfield (11), daughter, born Quarry Bank;
- [5] Dorothy Bellfield (8), daughter, school, born Quarry Bank;
- [6] Elon Bellfield (6), son, school, born Quarry Bank;
- [7] Horace Bellfield (1), son, born Old Hill;
- [8] Janet Randle (15), domestic servant, born Quarry Bank:

Harry Bellfield, beer retailer, 23, Graingers Lane. [1912], [1916], [1921], [1924]

He was also a brewer. [1920]

Dudley Herald 28/2/1931

“The monthly meeting of the Executive Committee of the Brierley Hill and District Licensed Victuallers’ Association was held at the RAILWAY TAVERN, Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath, on Thursday of last week. Mr. Samuel Jones (president) presided, and there also attended Messrs. C. F. Moore (vice-chairman), J. P. Simpkins (treasurer), W. Dysen Drakeford (secretary), J. B. Hill (trustee), Alfred Fraggley (auditor), Hy. Bellfield, F. Bradley, Arthur Batham, P. Southall, F. Webster, R. Dimmock, William Cartwright, J. H. Hobson, E. J. Adey. Apologies were received from Messrs. J. Yates, W. A. Thompson, T. Bywater and Roland Batham. Final arrangements were made for the annual dinner, which takes place next Thursday at the FOLEY ARMS HOTEL, Brettell Lane. The next meeting will be held at the THREE FURNACES INN, Level Street, Brierley Hill.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/12/1931

“The license of the RAILWAY TAVERN, Cradley Heath, was at Old Hill yesterday transferred to *William Boyman*, the former

Aston Villa footballer.”

Sidney Lane = Sydney Lane

1939 Register

23, Graingers Lane

[1] *Sidney Lane*, date of birth 18/4/1898, holloware trade (operator), married;

[2] Else Lane, dob 20/10/1901, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] Kenneth Lane, dob 7/3/1924, tool maker, electric motor trade, single:

The license was surrendered on 21st November 1956, on the removal of the license of the BEEHIVE, Cradley Heath, to the BRICKHOUSE.

RAILWAY

99, (100), Lower High Street, (99, Lomey Town), Five Ways, CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

Julia Hanson and Sons Ltd. [1905], [1907]

LICENSEES

Thomas Parsons [1864] – **1879**);

James Bunn (**1879** – [1886]

Mrs. Elizabeth Bunn [1887]

Israel Worton [1889]

David Charles Price [1890] – [1892]

Thomas White [1896]

Thomas Scriven [1900] – **1902**)

Charles Henry Mansell [] – **1903**);

William Edmonds* (**1903** – [1905]

William Edwards* [] – **1905**);

James Pegg (**1905** – **1909**);

Joseph Henry Cole (**1909** – [1911]

Llewelyn Probyn** [1912]

Richard Llewelyn Province** [1912] – [1916]

Harry Pegg [1919] – **1921**);

Henry Horan (**1921** – **1924**);

Harry Samuel Hancock (**1924** – **1934**);

Alfred Powell (**1934** – **1935**);

William Thomas Clay (**1935** – **1937**);

Joseph Bennett (**1937** – **1950**);

Beatrice Alice Bennett (**1950** – **1962**);

Malcolm Leslie Corbett (**1962** – **1963**);

William Smart (**1963** – [1965]

NOTES

Lomey Town [1896]

99, Lomey Town [1881], [1904], [1908], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1924], [1932]

100, Lower High Street [1939]

99, Lower High Street [1940]

It was situated just below Christ Church, next to Station Street.

RAILWAY HOTEL [1896], [1904], [1908], [1924], [1932], [1940]

County Advertiser 27/8/1864

“Yesterday, the annual licensing of the Rowley division was held at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill..... There were nine applications by beerhouse keepers for licenses, only one of which was granted.....
Thomas Parsons, RAILWAY INN, Five Ways (refused).”

County Advertiser 15/12/1866 - Advert

“Wanted, a good Servant Girl. One accustomed to a public house preferred.
Apply to Mrs. *Parsons*, RAILWAY INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 5/12/1868 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant, used to the Public Business.
Apply, Mrs. *Parsons*, the RAILWAY INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 5/2/1870 - Advert

“Wanted, a strong, respectable Servant Girl, suitable for a Public-house.”
Apply, Mrs. *Parsons*, the RAILWAY INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath.”

1871 Census

Lomey Town – RAILWAY INN

- [1] *Thomas Parsons* (53), licensed victualler, born Netherton;
- [2] Mary A. *Parsons* (51), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] *Thomas Parsons* (25), son, brewer, born Netherton;
- [4] *Susannah Parsons* (11), daughter, scholar, born Cradley;
- [5] *Martha Parsons* (9), daughter, scholar, born Cradley;
- [6] *Elizabeth Grainger* (12), general servant, born Quarry Bank:

County Advertiser 15/11/1873

“Wanted, a good, General Servant.
Apply, Mrs. *Parsons*, the RAILWAY INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath.”

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.....

Parsons’s, RAILWAY INN, Cradley.....

Betting and gambling strictly prohibited. No one allowed to run unless in proper costume.”

County Advertiser 8/5/1875

“*Thomas Parsons*, landlord of the RAILWAY INN, Cradley Heath, was charged with having, on the night of the 20th ult, permitted drunkenness in his house. Mr. Homer defended.

Police-constable Cooper said that he visited the defendant’s house at about ten minutes to eleven o’clock on the night in question in company with two other officers, and he found there two men there named Mansell and Felton. They were drunk, and Felton was bleeding from the mouth. There were also some broken cups strewn about the floor.

Police-constable Stiles gave confirmatory evidence.

James Mansell was called, and said he was in the defendant’s house when the officers arrived. He was not very drunk although he had had some beer.

A witness named Brooks deposed that he saw the defendant’s son put a sovereign on the table, and bet on the fight which was to take place between Mansell and Felton.

Mr. Homer addressed the Bench, and contended that the men were not drunk.

Defendant was fined 20s and costs.”

County Advertiser 22/5/1875 - Advert

“At a Public Meeting held at the RAILWAY HOTEL, Lomey Town, the following resolutions were unanimously passed. Resolved, that we as Delegates from various Friendly Societies in this District, representing 4,000 members, do deplore the language made use of by the Stipendiary, at the late trial, viz, ‘That if we wish to meet to feast and drink at our funerals, we must not meet on Sunday,’ thereby creating an impression that we meet only for that purpose, a statement we indignantly repudiate, and consider the Stipendiary ought to know that we, as bodies of respectable working men, are united for higher purposes, and that such remarks from such a source are calculated to injure friendly societies if uncontradicted.

That we, the Representatives of various Friendly Societies numbering 4,000 Members, at a Public Meeting held on May 4th, do pledge ourselves to Agitate for the Alteration of the Laws affecting Friendly Societies, seeing that we as self-supporting and

respectable bodies of Working Men, whose only object is to meet to relieve and alleviate our distressed bretheren and to bury our dead, and as Sunday is the only day we can spare without losing our time, which is our capital that we obtain our livelihood by, and as we cannot meet on that day at our club rooms without being treated as Felons under the existing laws, and whereas gentlemen's clubs are exempt from any Police supervision whatever, we, as a body of working men who strive to aid each other and be respectable, only ask for a portion of the privileges enjoyed by the Gentlemen's Clubs, viz, that we be allowed to meet at our Club Houses on a Sunday (for the purpose of burying our dead, when required) without Police supervision.

And we earnestly invite the Co-operateion of all Societies for the above objects.

Resolved that the next meeting be held at the RAILWAY HOTEL, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, at 7pm, May 25th, when all Societies are invited to send Delegates."

County Advertiser 29/5/1875

"Some dissatisfaction has occurred in consequence of the language made use of by the Stipendiary Magistrate, Mr. I. Spooner, in a case recently brought before him at the Brierley Hill Police Court, and meetings of delegates from the various friendly societies have been held, and resolutions passed, pledging themselves to agitate for an alteration of the law as affecting friendly societies. On Tuesday night last a meeting was held at the RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, at which Mr. T. Homer, auctioneer, presided. The Chairman, in the course of a lengthy address, said that they, as respectable bodies of working men, felt themselves aggrieved at the treatment they had received from the Stipendiary. They did not attend funerals to feast and drink, but to inter deceased members in a respectable and decent manner. He urged upon them the necessity of agitating for some alteration in the law. It was necessary that they should bring all their united influence to bear; and by bringing in the influence of members of Parliament and other men, and making them understand the feasibility of their efforts, they should get that for which they were asking awarded to them. Such was the power of friendly societies that if the matter were taken up throughout England their power would be felt both in the House of Commons and out.

Addresses were also delivered by Messrs. J. Rock and D. Bryce.

On the motion of Mr. Thomas Aston, of Stourbridge, seconded by Mr. Joseph Cox, of Brierley Hill, the following resolution was unanimously passed: That, in the opinion of this meeting, it is advisable that the various friendly societies should hold meetings for the above purpose in their various districts, and use their utmost endeavours to procure a mass meeting of the various societies at a place and time hereafter to be determined upon, and that all local divisions be invited to co-operate with the chairman of this 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 Parsons, RAILWAY INN, Cradley Heath."

County Express 19/4/1879

"A meeting of the members of the Conservative Association was held on Wednesday evening last, at Mr. *James Bunn*'s, RAILWAY INN, Five Ways. There was a capital attendance. Mr. S. Hill occupied the chair. After the minutes of the last meeting had been read and confirmed, the chairman and several others delivered short addresses upon the principles of Free Trade....."

County Advertiser 5/7/1879

"The following transfers of ale-house licenses were allowed by the Bench.....

RAILWAY INN, Cradley Heath, from the executors of *Thomas Parsons* to *James Bull* [sic]."

County Express 4/10/1879

"A meeting of the members of the Conservative Association was held on Wednesday evening at the house of Mr. *James Bunn*, RAILWAY INN, Five Ways. There was a fair attendance.....

The next meeting will be held at the QUEENS HEAD HOTEL, Corngreaves Road, on the 29th inst."

County Express 1/11/1879 - Notice

"*Thomas Parsons*, Deceased.

Pursuant to an Act of Parliament made and passed in the 22nd and 23rd years of the reign of her present Majesty, cap.35, intituled An Act to further amend the Law of Property and to relieve Trustees.

Notice Is Hereby Given, that all creditors and persons having any claims or demands upon or against the estate of *Thomas Parsons*, late of Cradley Heath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, Publican, deceased (who died on or about the 2nd day of June, 1879, and whose Will was proved by Thomas Davenport, of Brettell Lane, Staffordshire, Gentleman, and Thomas Parsons, of Withymoor, in the Borough of Dudley, in the County of Worcester, Publican, the Executors therein named, on the 11th day of September, 1879, in the District Registry of Her Majesty's Court of Probate, at Lichfield), are hereby required to send in the particulars of their claims of demands to the said Thomas Davenport and Thomas Parsons, or to the undersigned, their Solicitor, on or before the 21st day of November, 1879, and notice is hereby also given, that after that day the said Executors will proceed to distribute the assets of the deceased among the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which the said Executors shall then have notice, and that they will not be liable for the assets or any part thereof so distributed to any persons of whose debt or claim they shall not then have had notice.

Dated the 31st day of October, 1879.

Thomas Homer, Solicitor, Brierley Hill."

County Advertiser 22/1/1881

“A gale of unusual violence passed over Cradley Heath district on Tuesday, and continued during the night until noon on Wednesday. The unseen element in its unbridled passion was simply merciless, and carried everything before it. About half-past two on Tuesday afternoon a serious accident happened at the RAILWAY INN. The public house stands just at the corner of the Five Ways and it caught the full force of the blast. The chimney was blown on to the roof, and falling through the ceiling seriously damaged the furniture and pictures. A considerable portion of the roof was stripped off, and the house seemed to have been shaken to its foundation. The ceiling of the large club room fell in a body at the same time. The damage is estimated at over £100. Mr. *James Bunn*, the proprietor of the house, fearing that another chimney on the same side of the house might share the same fate had it taken down.....

On Wednesday there was a heavy downfall of snow, accompanied by a strong wind, which drifted the snow into high piles at various points, rendering traffic – both vehicular and foot – a very difficult matter. The weather continues intensely cold.”

1881 Census

99, Lomey Town – RAILWAY INN

[1] *James Bunn* (34), publican, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Elizabeth Bunn* (30), wife, born Netherton;

[3] Suseannah Parsons (21), boarder, born Cradley Heath;

[4] Martha Parsons (19), boarder, born Cradley Heath:

County Advertiser 16/4/1881

“Stourbridge. County Court. Tuesday.

Nock v Bunn. Edwin Nock, hay, straw, and corn dealer, High Street, Brierley Hill, was the plaintiff in this case, and *James Bunn*, landlord of the RAILWAY INN, Cradley Heath, was the defendant. Mr. Waldron appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. W. O. C. Addison for the defendant.

Plaintiff’s solicitor said the claim was to recover the sum of £14 14s 1d, balance due to the plaintiff on a horse corn account. It appeared that the defendant carried on business with his brother as chartermasters of a colliery at the Saltwell Wood. The goods were supplied to the partnership firm; and plaintiff now sued defendant, he having been one of the partners.

Plaintiff was put in the box and gave evidence in keeping with Mr. Waldron’s opening statement.

For the defence Mr. Addison contended that the defendant was never in partnership, as was alleged.

The defendant in his evidence denied that he ever was in partnership with his brother. In cross-examination defendant said he did not leave the pits to take to the public house.

Richard *Bunn*, the brother of the defendant, was called and also denied the partnership.

A verdict for the defendant, with costs, was given.”

James Burn issued tokens from here.

Wednesbury Leader 26/8/1882

“A meeting of delegates representing the various trades in the South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire district was held on Saturday afternoon at the RAILWAY ARMS INN, High Street, Cradley Heath, Rowley Regis, for the purpose of taking steps for the formation of a trades council. There was a good attendance of delegates.....”

Worcestershire Chronicle 7/10/1882

“The first meeting of the Anti-Truck League was held on Wednesday, at the RAILWAY INN, Cradley Heath, Mr. John Price, chairman of the National Association of Nailmakers, presiding. The districts represented were Oldswinford, Lye, Lye Waste, Blackheath, and Rowley. Mr. C. Williams, secretary, explained that the league had for its object the suppression of the truck system. This mode of trading existed to a greater extent than a great many were aware of, and it was increasing every day. The nail trade was not the only industry that was hampered by such debasing proceedings. In the chain trade and also in the coal trade it was prevalent. A day or two previously he asked a miner whether there was any trucking in the mines, when he replied, ‘If I were to tell you anything I should have a brand on me like Cain.’ People were afraid to give any information. Whilst the truck system was followed by a large number of persons, it was well known that the respectable employers were averse to it, and some of them at Halesowen had been considering the advisability of forming a sort of co-operative society, in order to combat with the truck system. Another employer had consented to become a subscriber to the Anti-Truck League. The Chairman, in the course of a long address on the evils of trucking, said he did not think there would be one dissenting voice throughout England as to the necessity for such an association, In the case of a man who worked for a ‘truckster,’ earning 20s per week, it was well known in the trade that 7s of that money was returned to the pockets of the employer over and above the legitimate price for provisions. He was prepared to prove that such was the case before any tribunal. At Rowley it was well known that one of these ‘trucksters’ was charging 7d per peck more for the same quality of flour than was charged at the other shops. This showed an illegitimate gain of 9s 4d upon every sack of flour. This was no exaggeration, and he considered that the time had arrived when active measures should be adopted to suppress the growing evil. By resorting to such practices the ‘petty fogger’ was enabled to convey nails six miles across the country, and sell them 10 per cent below the standard price of the district. This had the effect of throwing out a large number of single hands, for what master would pay 10 per cent more for the same class of nails than he had cause to? There were something like 60,000 or 70,000 people dependant on the nail trade for their subsistence, and amongst these trucking was carried on to an alarming extent; in some instances 40 per cent of their earnings was again returned to the employers over and

above the fair price for provisions. It was a mystery to him how the nailmakers made two ends meet, but they lived in wretchedness and misery, and it was very seldom they sat down to get a substantial meal of good common food. ('Hear, Hear,' and 'Shame.')

Mr. Williams then moved, 'That we form ourselves into a National Anti-Truck League, and that we solicit public support to assist us to destroy for ever a system which is a standing disgrace to this country.' Mr. Willetts, of Netherton, proposed, and Mr. Hill, of Oldswinford, seconded, 'That a memorial be drawn up and signed by the inhabitants of the various districts, pointing out the necessity which exists for further legislation, such memorial to be presented to Parliament as early as possible.' Both resolutions were carried unanimously, and it was resolved to issue an appeal to the public for support."

Dudley and District News 5/7/1884

"Ellen Garrett, married, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of *James Bunn*, the RAILWAY INN, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, on the 27th ult. PC Keegan proved the case. Defendant denied the charge. Fined 5s and costs, or 14 days."

County Advertiser 17/4/1886

"Emanuel Billingham, anchor smith, Lomey Town, was charged with assaulting Thomas Priest by giving him a punch in the eye and striking him about the body on the 7th inst, at *Bunn's* public house. Defendant pleaded that complainant provoked him by a reference to his (defendant's) brother having died suddenly, and a witness for the defence spoke to having heard complainant say he should outlive defendant's family. Fined 5s, including costs."

James Bunn died in the 4th quarter of 1886.

County Advertiser 31/12/1887

"On Christmas Eve the men and boys in the employ of Messrs. Holt and Willetts, engineers and pulley-block manufacturers, sat down to their annual dinner, given by their employers, and a splendid repast was served up at the house of Mrs. *J. Bunn*, RAILWAY TAVERN. After dinner the usual toasts were given and responded to. The health of the firm was proposed by Mr. McEwan, and supported by Mr. Thompson. Both spoke of the good feeling which existed between the firm and their men. The toast was responded to by Mr. Willetts, the senior member of the firm, and also by Mr. Holt. The toast was drunk with musical honours. Mr. Walter James amused the company with his funny extempore songs. Other employés gave songs and recitations, and a pleasant evening was spent, the proceedings closing with the National Anthem."

County Advertiser 12/1/1889 - Advert

"Business Premises and Dwelling House, Quarry Bank, and Building Land at Cradley Heath.

Mr. T. Pateshall is instructed to Sell by Auction at the House of Mr. *Israel Worton*, the RAILWAY INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath, on Tuesday, the 23rd day of January, 1889, at Six for Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions....."

Dudley Mercury 2/3/1889

"Samuel Perry, chainmaker, Lomey Town, was charged with being disorderly on the licensed premises of *Israel Worton*, RAILWAY TAVERN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath, on the 5th ult, and also with assaulting Elizabeth *Worton*. Mrs. *Worton* said the defendant was drunk at her house, and she refused to supply him with beer. He thereupon commenced abusing the other customers, and she turned him out. In the passage he pulled her down and pulled her hair. Defendant, who said he was helplessly drunk, was fined 5s and costs in each case."

Dudley Mercury 1/2/1890 - Advert

"Wanted, good strong General Servant.

Apply, RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath."

Birmingham Daily Post 20/2/1890

"Last night, a meeting of the Midland Counties Trades Federation was held at the RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath; Mr. J. Richards presiding. A delegate made a report as to the white brick makers' strike. Mr. R. Juggins mentioned that one employer had consented to give the advance, but the men refused to continue working because the firm would not give the increase to the females. It would be known on the following day whether the firm would concede the advance to the females or not. He should be glad to see the time when the federation could see its way to stand by the females, not only in the brick trade, but in every other trade. It was resolved that the council of the federation should contribute £30 per week until the next meeting of the council towards the support of the strikers."

Birmingham Daily Post 31/7/1890 - Advert

"General Servant (strong) Wanted, 20 to 25; good character.

Apply, Mrs. *Price*, RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath."

1891 Census

Lomey Town – RAILWAY HOTEL

[1] *David Price* (46), manager of hotel, born Evesham;

[2] *Ellen Price* (36), wife, born Birmingham;

[3] *Louisa Adams* (5), niece, born Evesham;

[4] Maria Powell (20), general servant, born Oldbury;

[5] Charles Murray (52), boarder, lodger, widower, army pensioner, born Edinburgh:

County Advertiser 25/4/1891 - Advert

“RAILWAY HOTEL, Five Ways, Cradley Heath. To Publicans and Brokers.

Messrs. Hawkins and Son have received instructions to Sell by Auction, on Tuesday, April 28th, 1891, the whole of the Brewing Plant, comprising Copper Boilers, Mashing Tubs, Vats, Refrigerator, 30 Ale Casks, Cooking Range, Drinking Tables, Malt Crusher, Three Bay Windows, Doors, Sashes, and other Effects.

Sale to commence at Twelve o'clock.

Auctioneers' Offices, 20, Temple Street, Birmingham.”

County Advertiser 10/12/1892

“David Priest, chainmaker, Netherend, Cradley, was charged with stealing a walking stick, the property of Charles Murray, an army pensioner.

On the 3rd inst, defendant went to the RAILWAY INN, Cradley Heath, where complainant lodged, and it was alleged that he took the prosecutor's stick out of the smoke room. When accused of taking it he alleged that he found it in the street. In reply to the magistrates, defendant admitted he took the stick for a lark. He had no intention of committing a felony, and, as he had hitherto borne a good character, he hoped the magistrates would deal leniently with him.

The magistrates said they would deal with the defendant under the First Offenders' Act, and would order him to come up for judgment three months hence. He would also be ordered to pay the costs, £1 4s 6d.

The value of the stick was 9d.”

County Express 23/1/1897

“The annual dinner of the officers and staff of the goods department G.W.R. at Cradley Station took place at the RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on Saturday. Upwards of 80 were present, and the proprietor catered excellently.....”

County Express 20/3/1897 - Advert

“Wanted at once, a Smart Youth.

Apply, RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 9/6/1900

“Ernest Turner, RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, was charged with obstructing the public highway at Clent on the 3rd inst. Police-constable Hayden proved the case. Defendant was fined 5s and costs.”

[Perhaps a resident.]

County Advertiser 30/6/1900 - Advert

“To Brewers, Maltsters, Publicans, and Others.

Important Sale of a Valuable Freehold Fully-Licensed House, Malthouse, Grocer's Shop, and Premises, At Cradley Heath.

Arthur H. Sidaway is favoured with instructions to Sell by Auction, on Tuesday, the 17th day of July, 1900, at the House of Mr.

Thomas Scriven, the RAILWAY INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath, at Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to Conditions then to be produced.....”

Thomas Scriven's license (full) was renewed in August 1900, despite 'long pull' offences.

County Express 25/8/1900

“The annual licensing sessions for the petty sessional division of Rowley Regis were held on Wednesday, at the Court House, Old Hill. The magistrates present were Messrs. W. Bassano (chairman), G. Green, and J. W. Tilley.....

Mr. E. W. Cave (instructed by Mr. Jeffries) said he was instructed, on behalf of the local Licensed Victuallers' Association and the Birmingham District Brewers' Association to oppose the renewal of the licenses of the RAILWAY INN and RED LION INN, Cradley Heath, kept by Mr. *Thomas Scriven* and Mr. Thomas Price respectively, the first being a fully-licensed house, and the latter a beerhouse. He thought the cases could be dealt with together. Mr. Waldron appeared to support the renewal of the licenses.

Mr. Cave said the objections were limited to four, the chief of which were that the license-holders were guilty of unfair trading by giving excessive over-measure, and that the premises were not required for the needs of the neighbourhood. The facts were that for a considerable time there had been a custom in the trade to give what was known as the long pull, which means that a man asking for a half-pint would get a pint, and asking for a pint would get a quart. Several attempts had been made to put an end to this, but the efforts had not been very successful until recently. Some time ago it was proposed there should be a combination on the part of license-holders to stop the practice, and it was only recently that it had come to a head, and it was desired now to prevent license-holders from indulging in the practice. The practice was one which he did not think they would dispute was detrimental to the interests of the public, and the trade were showing a genuine desire to bring about a reform and improvement in the cases in which drink was supplied to the public, and he considered they should be encouraged in that desire. That was the meaning of the objections, and as the trade had devoted itself to a system of internal reform, he thought the Bench should support it by refusing the licenses to these two houses until they conformed to the movement instituted by the trade in the interests of the public.

Edward Every, clerk, in the employ of Mr. Jeffries proved posting of notices of objection.

Mr. W. Green, jeweller, of Oldbury, gave evidence as to purchasing ale from the houses, and stated that for half a pint he got near-

ly a pint.

Cross-examined: He did not know whether these houses were 'free houses' or not.

Mr. Waldron said that anyone who knew anything about this question of fair trading practices amongst publicans could not be blind to the real object of those associations, they never were aware of any injury being done either to themselves or to the general public until the unfortunate extra shilling per barrel duty came into existence. The result was, as soon as it came into existence, then the very large brewers – he saw in the paper in the case of Allsopp's there was a loss of £30,000 to the shareholders – throughout the country began to hold meetings to see how that could be taken out of the public pocket, and put into the shareholders' in the shape of profit. That was the real inception of the beginning of the so-called 'fair trade,' and what was known as ceasing to give long pulls. The Bench were not there to deal with private quarrels amongst the trade, but only to see the license-holders conformed with the regulations of the statute. It seemed to have been a regular thing to give greater measure than was asked for, but he ventured to suggest there was nothing unlawful or immoral in that, as long as the competition was fair and legitimate. The question that it led to drunkenness was nonsensical from its inception, because if there were drunkenness in the house it would mean not the white gloves they had heard of that day, but the Court would be inundated with prosecutions. He asked the Bench not to make themselves parties to a trade dispute, but to renew the licenses. There had not been a word suggested against the character of the two licensees that they were not fit and proper persons, neither that the houses were unsuitable, and he asked for the licenses to be renewed.

The Bench said they would renew the licenses. There were no special grounds for refusing, and it would be monstrously unfair to do so. Whatever the association might try to do for the public good and morality it would have the Bench's sympathy; but they were not altogether clear that there were any great benefits for public morality to be expected from this movement. It appeared that if a man went into a house and asked for a pint of beer, and he got a quart, it did no damage to his morality, for he was not obliged to drink it. It would be advantageous to a man and his family, inasmuch as he would get two pints for the price of one. If the trade was honest in its endeavor for the public good, let it go on and show itself in a better form than it had hitherto done. It did not come to the Court with the cleanest hands that day."

County Express 22/12/1900

"Amalgamated Forgemens, Blacksmiths, Fork-Drawers, Fork-Makers, and Spade-Finishers Association.

The members of the above association held their first annual dinner at Mr. *T. Scriven's*, RAILWAY HOTEL, on Saturday week. Mr. Josiah Tilley (president) was in the chair, and Mr. Simeon in the vice-chair...."

1901 Census

Lomey Town

- [1] *Thomas Scriven* (53), innkeeper, born Cradley;
- [2] *Sophia Scriven* (51), wife, born Mushroom Green;
- [3] *William Scriven* (19), son, wood turner, born Mushroom Green;
- [4] *Florence Scriven* (17), daughter, barmaid, born Mushroom Green;
- [5] *Daisy Scriven* (16), daughter, barmaid, born Mushroom Green;
- [6] *Horace Scriven* (12), son, born Mushroom Green;
- [7] *Francis Scriven* (5), son, born Mushroom Green;
- [8] *Elizabeth Pearson* (18), domestic servant, born Quarry Bank:

County Express 28/9/1901

"On Thursday evening, the first of a series of smoking concert under the auspices of the Cradley Heath Conservative and Unionist Association took place at the RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, and the attendance was such as augured well for the future of the association...."

Smethwick Weekly News 15/2/1902

"*Thomas Scriven*, landlord of the RAILWAY INN, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, was summoned under the Food and Drugs Act for selling whisky which was not of the nature, substance, and quality demanded by the purchaser on the 1st of January. Mr. Van Tromp (Inspector under the Food and Drugs Act) explained that a sample of whisky was purchased from defendant's house, which upon being analysed, was found to be diluted 20 per cent beyond the statutory limit of 25 per cent allowed by law. It was a bad case, and he asked the Bench to inflict a heavy penalty.

The Bench fined defendant £10 and costs, amounting in all to £11 3s 6d."

Manchester Courier 7/4/1902

"The South Staffordshire police on Saturday made raids on betting men at the BULLS HEAD, Blackheath, and the RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, arresting altogether 33 men, including the two publicans. An inspector and 20 policeman arrived at each house in a furniture van. The men were brought up and remanded."

County Express 12/4/1902

"As a result of a clever ruse on the part of the police authorities, the RAILWAY HOTEL, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, and the BULLS HEAD INN, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, were raided on Saturday afternoon, and a large number of men, who, it is alleged, frequented the houses for the purposes of betting, were captured. The police adopted a modus operandi which, although new in the annals of the force, was new to the district, and caused considerable amusement to those not immediately concerned. Two large furniture vans were chartered, and the one, containing Inspector Hodgkinson, PS Pitcher, and fourteen constables, drew

up outside the RAILWAY HOTEL; while the other, containing Supt. Spendlove, PS Harris, and twelve constables, was drawn up outside the BULLS HEAD INN. Immediately the vehicles stopped, the officers raided the premises and secured the men they found there. It is alleged upon being searched, these were found to be in possession of betting papers and tickets. The men submitted quietly to the arrests, and were conveyed to Old Hill Police station in the vans. Naturally, the news of the occurrences quickly spread, and caused great excitement and some consternation in the districts. Later in the evening they were all brought before Messrs. W. Bassano and C. W. Bassano, and charged with offences under the Betting Act. Formal evidence was given by Supt. Spendlove and Inspector Hodgkinson, and the prisoners remanded until Wednesday, bail being allowed to the landlords themselves in £50 each and one surety of £50 or two £25 each, and the other men on their own recognisances of £10 each.....”

County Express 19/4/1902

“A large crowd assembled at the Old Hill Police Court yesterday, when a special session was held to hear the charges against the persons concerned in the recent betting raids at Cradley Heath and Blackheath. The magistrates in attendance were Messrs. W. Bassano, J. F. Pearson, A. H. Bassano, R. Hill, and J. Billingham.....

Thomas Scriven, senior, landlord of the RAILWAY INN, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, was charged with knowingly and wilfully permitting his house to be used for betting purposes on March 26th and 31st, April 1st and 5th, James Tromans, described as a bookmaker, of Scholdings Green Road, Cradley Heath, was charged with unlawfully using the house for the purpose of betting on March 26th and 31st; and Thomas Insull, described as his clerk, who lives at Colley Gate, was charged with similar offences on March 26th and 31st and April 1st.

Mr. Clulow prosecuted, and Mr. Vachell (instructed by Mr. P. Baker and Co. Birmingham), defended. Mr. Waldron represented the owner of the house. In this case the evidence for the prosecution was similar to that in the preceding case. An independent witness visited the house on March 26th, 31st, and April 1st, and saw betting transactions taking place, Tromans and Insull taking and making bets with the customers, the former paying out money which had been won. The witness received 1s 7d from him on a bet he won by backing a horse. *Scriven*'s son and wife were seen to give Insull slips of paper containing money. When the police raided the house on April 5th Inspector Hodgkinson and his man found numerous papers relating to betting upon those in the house.

Inspector Hodgkinson, PS Pitcher, and numerous witnesses were called for the prosecution.

For the defence, Mr. Vachell said the landlord, *Scriven*, was not aware any bets were being made upon the premises, therefore he could not be said to have knowingly and wilfully allowed his house to be used for betting.

The landlord and other witnesses were called. The former denied all knowledge of betting transactions in his house, and the witnesses sated they saw no betting.

Scriven was fined £100, costs, and solicitor's fee of £2 2s; Tromans was fined £100 and costs; Insull was fined £25 and costs.

Mr. Vachell asked the Bench to grant a case in *Scriven*'s and Troman's, cases and this was consented to.

The following men who were charged with using the licensed premises for the purposes of betting were bound over not to take part in any betting transactions for six months, and ordered to pay the costs.....

Thomas *Scriven*, junior, Thomas Homer, chainmaker, Bank Street, Cradley Heath; Charles Lester, miner, King Street, Old Hill; James Raybould, chainmaker, New Street, Overend, Cradley; Thomas Brettle, chainstriker, Bank Street, Cradley Heath; John Bloomer, chainmaker, Spring Meadow, Old Hill; Henry Stokes, chainmaker, Whitley Terrace, Stourbridge Road, Halesowen; George Weaver, miner, Tibbetts Gardens, Cradley Heath; Thomas Nock, labourer, Mill Street, Cradley; John Homer, chainmaker, Bank Street, Cradley Heath; Benjamin Jones, miner, 'Z' Street, Quarry Bank; Samuel Priest, miner, High Street, Cradley Heath; Thomas Woodall, chainmaker, Reddall Hill Road, Old Hill; George Nock, miner, King Street, Old Hill; Benjamin Hingley, chainmaker, Colley Gate, Cradley; George Malin, anchorsmith, Cradley Road, Cradley Heath; Thomas Cross, horse driver, Butchers Lane, Cradley; and Alexander Griffiths, chainmaker, Park Street, Old Hill.”

County Express 31/5/1902

“Mr. Phillip Baker of Birmingham, appeared on behalf of James Tromans, of Scholdings Green Road, Cradley Heath, and stated that he had a gentleman present who was willing to enter into recognisance of £100 so that Tromans could appeal against the decision of the justices in fining him £100 and costs for using licensed premises for the purpose of betting. There were one or two complex points upon which they would like to have the decision of the High Court.

Mr. W. Bassano said he failed to see where the complex points came in.

Mr. George Bearwood, commission agent, of Bearwood Road, Smethwick, then entered into the recognisance of £100.”

County Advertiser 6/9/1902

“Police-constable Kent, who created such a stir in Cradley Heath and Blackheath districts, and took the principal part in the betting raids successfully made at the RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, and the BULLS HEAD INN, Blackheath, retired on Monday last from the Staffordshire police force, after serving for ten years.....”

County Express 8/11/1902

“In the King's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice, on Monday, the case of Tromans v. Hodgkinson came before the Lord Chief Justices Wills and Channell, sitting as a Divisional Court, on the appeal from a decision of the Justices of Staffordshire, sitting at Old Hill Petty Sessional Court. Mr. Stutfield (instructed by Messrs. P. Baker and Co. Birmingham) appeared for the appellant, and Mr. Shakespeare (instructed by Mr. J. W. Clulow, Brierley Hill) for the respondent justice.

The question raised was one under the Betting Houses Act, the point being whether a bookmaker, professedly going from day to day to a public house and carrying on business there, could be convicted, under the Betting Houses Act, of using the public house for the purpose of betting. The appellant was charged with using the house on various days in March and April last, and convicted

and fined £100; and the landlord was convicted of permitting him to use the house for the purpose alleged, and fined; whilst the bookmaker's clerk was also fined. The appellant (the bookmaker) appealed against the conviction on the ground that there was no evidence to show that he had an exclusive right to use the premises, and was not in occupation, possession or control of the premises.

Counsel read the information of John Hodgkinson, inspector of police, who swore that on various days in March the appellant visited the RAILWAY INN, Cradley Heath, and convictions and fines were set out as above. The appellant was known as a professional bookmaker, and was on divers occasions observed in the bar of the inn making money bets, and his clerk, Thomas Insoll, acted as his agent. There was no evidence to show that the appellant frequented the RAILWAY INN solely for the purpose of procuring refreshments, or that he was a customer in that respect. The appellant did not constitute 'a place' within the meaning of the Act, but he maintained that there was not sufficient evidence to warrant the justices convicting, because the appellant was neither the owner or occupier of the house, and was not in sole possession or control of the premises. There was no evidence to show that the appellant had an exclusive right to carry on business there.

The Lord Chief Justice, without calling Mr. Shakespeare for the other side, said there was no dispute that this was 'a place' within the meaning of the Act. The only point was whether, as the appellant had no interest in the house, the case was brought within the meaning of the Act. Clearly the case did come within the Act. The appellant was in the habit of frequenting the bar of the public house for the purpose of there carrying on a ready-money betting business with the persons assembled there. In his Lordship's opinion there was a clear breach of the statute, and the magistrates were perfectly right.

Mr. Justice Williams concurred, and said that having of half-a-pint of beer on occasion would not make any difference.

Mr. Justice Channell also concurred, and remarked that he would like to make it quite clear that the appellant used the place, as it were, as a betting office.

The appeal was accordingly dismissed with costs."

County Advertiser 14/2/1903

"On Wednesday the annual licensing session for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held at the Court House.....

Superintendent Spendlove had given notice that he should oppose the following licenses.....

Charles Henry Mansell, RAILWAY INN, Cradley Heath, Betting House Act.....

License renewed."

County Advertiser 28/3/1903

"Echoes Of The Betting Raid.

John Woodcock, of Mushroom Green, applied for the transfer of the license of the RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, from *Charles Henry Mansell*. Applicant said he had not given the necessary seven days' notice to the superintendent of the police, neither was he in possession of the premises.

Mr. Cooksey (magistrates' clerk) told the applicant that he could not apply for the transfer of the house until he was in possession of the premises.

Applicant was subjected to a lengthy cross-examination by Superintendent Spendlove, who asked the applicant how long he had known about the premises.

Applicant said he had known them for ten years.

Superintendent Spendlove: You frequented the premises very much when Mr. Stevens [sic] kept it? – Applicant: Yes, sir.

He was your father-in-law? – Yes, sir.

He was the man who was fined £100 and costs for betting? – Yes, sir.

You gave him assistance in that business? – No, sir.

Did you ever assist in the gambling transactions? – No, sir.

Did you ever make a bet? – No, sir.

You never heard that gambling took place on the premises – Not until the raid was made.

Is your father-in-law going to assist you in the business? – No, sir.

Superintendent Spendlove said that he should call evidence next week to support the questions he had raised.

The Magistrates' Clerk informed *Mansell* that he would have to remain in possession until next week, and the application was to be adjourned for seven days to enable applicant to give the necessary notice to the superintendent."

* possibly the same person

William Edmonds = William Edmunds

County Advertiser 11/4/1903

"*William Edmonds* applied for the transfer of the license of the RAILWAY INN, Cradley Heath, formerly occupied by *Charles Henry Mansell*. Applicant stated that he had given the necessary seven days' notice, but had failed to obtain the out-going licensee's presence at the Court as he had to go to Birmingham to be medically attended. The Bench granted the application, but explained that defendant must cause the out-going tenant to appear on the 10th of June."

County Advertiser 11/7/1903 - Advert

"To Parties Furnishing And Others.

RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, Staffs. Monday July 13th, 1903.

Messrs. Slim and Ridding will Sell by Auction, upon the Premises as above, a large and valuable Assemblage of Household Furni-

ture and Effects....”

County Advertiser 30/1/1904

“Jabez Batham, chainmaker, of Quarry Bank, was charged with stealing 19s 9d, belonging to *William Edmonds*, landlord of the RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on Monday. Mr. Waldron defended.

Alice *Edmonds*, daughter of the prosecutor, stated that on Monday afternoon a meeting of chainmakers was held a short distance from the hotel, and at the conclusion of the meeting defendant and another man called at the house. They called for a pint of ale, defendant tendering 2s in payment. A man named Alfred Little also came in and tendered a sovereign for his refreshments. Witness put down the change in each case, and defendant, instead of picking up the 1s 9d, picked up 19s 9d, which should have been received by Little. Defendant afterwards left the house.

In reply to Mr. Waldron, witness said she did not give defendant into custody, but she was sure he was the man who picked up the 19s 9d.

Evidence was given by two other witnesses and Police-constable Foulkes, who arrested the defendant.

Mr. Waldron, for the defence, denied the theft.

The Bench, however, considered that the defendant submitted to a sudden temptation, and fined him 20s and costs, or one month's imprisonment.”

County Advertiser 22/10/1904

“Shortly after seven o'clock on Tuesday evening an alarming accident, fortunately unattended by any serious consequences, occurred in High Street, Cradley Heath. A young man named Forrest, of Spinners End, was standing with his bicycle on the side of the horse road near to the top of King Street, talking to an acquaintance. A trap belonging to Mr. *William Edmonds*, of the RAILWAY HOTEL, Lomey Town, came down at a trot. Mr. *Edmonds* was in the trap, accompanied by Mrs. Collier, his sister-in-law, and Mr. John Perry, who was driving. They shouted to Forrest to get out of the way, and he attempted to do so, but in his confusion backed the machine into the horse's feet. There was in a moment a scene of the utmost confusion. Forrest was thrown under the wheel of the trap, which ran over him and disturbed the balance of the vehicle, throwing the trap over and pitching its occupants into the road. The wonder is someone was not killed or dangerously hurt, but when the participants in the scrimmage picked themselves up, they found they were not nearly so bad as they might have been. Mr. *Edmonds* had escaped with a shaking and a bruised shoulder. His sister-in-law complained of bruises on her face and leg. Perry was suffering from a scalp wound in the right side of the head which necessitated a visit from Dr. Branday. Forrest, though considerably shaken, had personally come off the best, but his bicycle was badly damaged, and it will cost 30s to put the trap in good condition again.”

County Advertiser 11/3/1905 - Advert

“On Monday Next. RAILWAY INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath.

Mr. T. Pateshall will Sell by Auction, as above, on Monday Next, March 13th, 1905, a quantity of Household Furniture, &c, Comprising Mahogany and Polished Chests of Drawers, lot of Pictures, Ornaments, Rocking and other Chairs, Sofas, Tables, Music Stool, Three Sets, Brass-mounted Bedsteads, Spring and Straw Mattresses, Feather and Wool Beds, Musical Clock, Wringing Machine, Fenders, lot of old Iron and Timber, and other Effects, belonging to Mr. *William Edmonds*, who is leaving the Premises. Sale at One o'clock in the Afternoon.”

County Advertiser 22/4/1905

“What might have been a disastrous fire was discovered in the nick of time on Wednesday morning at the premises of the RAILWAY HOTEL, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath. The house belongs to Messrs. Anson (Dudley), and is managed by Mr. *James Pegg*, a well-known Quarry Bank man, who removed there only five weeks ago. The building stands rather high, and the bar and smoke room are to the left and right respectively of the central passage, their somewhat old-fashioned square windows looking out upon the main street. It was in the smoke room that the fire originated. This is a large square room, very comfortably fitted with seats upholstered in leather, and well furnished with the company's and the landlord's effects. A pier glass hung over the mantelpiece, which was adorned by a marble timepiece and handsome vases; and the walls were hung with attractive pictures and valuable cases of stuffed birds. There had been a fire in the room on Tuesday evening, but it was removed before the inmates went to bed; and when, approaching midnight, Mrs. *Pegg* went to take a final look round, all appeared safe. At about half-past two Mr. *Pegg* awoke, and was startled by a crackling noise and a distinct smell of fire. He hurried downstairs, and found the smoke room all ablaze. The two children who were sleeping in the house were at once removed for safety to Mr. Buttery's, the SALUTATION INN, across the way, and the alarm given by the landlord brought on the scene Police-sergeant Wood, with Police-constables Turner and Bridgwood. Mrs. *Pegg* had opportunely closed the door of the smoke room with when she left it, and the fire had been to some extent smothered by the lack of air. When Mr. *Pegg* opened the door, the flames and smoke burst out fiercely, and made the task of putting them out, which was essayed at first with buckets of water, a very dangerous one. At a quarter to three the alarm was given by Police-constable Turner to the local fire brigade. Superintendent Tustin, with Firemen Denning and Round, immediately turned out, and securing a good supply of water from a hydrant in the main street, were playing on the flames within the next quarter of an hour. It was impossible to save much in the smoke room, and the efforts of the brigade were directed to confining the flames to that room. This they did, although the wood ceiling of the passage was badly scorched. It was three of four hours before they could venture to leave, as although the flames were quickly got under, with the assistance of the police, the fire smouldered for some time in the stuffing of the seats. The sitting room above the smoke room was full of smoke and would soon have been ablaze; and one cannot but think how fortunate it was that none of the inmates slept near to the seat of the fire. When the danger was over, the smoke room was a complete wreck. Charred table-tops and empty picture frames showed how the fire had raged, and the whole of the leather upholstery was scorched to tinder. Indeed, there was but a few shillings' worth left in

the room. The wood ceiling was ominously burnt and blistered, and had the discovery of the fire been delayed for half an hour, or had the door been left open, or had the fire brigade been absent, the whole house would probably have been involved. As it is about £100 will meet the damage, which we understand is covered by insurance. A large hole eaten into the floor by the flames at the foot of the left chimney jamb suggests that the fire originated here, though how can only be conjectured.”

County Advertiser 12/1/1907

“By the kindly thought of Mrs. *James Pegg*, of the RAILWAY HOTEL, a smoking concert in aid of a fund to assist the aged poor, was held at the RAILWAY HOTEL on Tuesday evening. There was a good attendance. Mr. S. Head, who presided, remarked that the object of the gathering was a good one, as the proceeds were to provide garments for the aged poor and widows. The programme was a varied one. Mrs. *Province* sang three songs excellently, and was joined by Mrs. Barnes in a duet, and Mr. J. Baynham gave in pleasing style ‘Rocked in the cradle of the deep.’ Messrs. T. W. Duke-Smith and A. James contributed recitations, Messrs. W. Clarence and E. Garner supplied the comic element, Mr. H. Griffiths was the ventriloquist, Mr. T. Salt produced gramophone records, and Mr. Raybould accompanied on the piano. The concert was very successful, and we are promised a statement of proceeds for our next issue.”

County Advertiser 19/1/1907

“In reference to the smoking concert held at the RAILWAY HOTEL on the 8th inst, for providing garments for the aged poor, Mrs. *J. Pegg* begs to announce that the concert and donations realised £7 10s, which has been distributed to sixty people in the district. Each old man received a shirt, and each old woman a woollen petticoat, costing 2s 6d each. The ladies and gentlemen who gave donations are: Mrs. *J. Pegg* £2 6s, Julia Hanson (Dudley) £1, Mr. G. Foster (Dudley) 5s, Mr. Conison (Brierley Hill) 2s, Mr. S. Priest (Pensnett) 1s, Mr. Potts (Brierley Hill) 1s. The ladies and gentlemen who assisted in selling tickets are Mrs. *J. Pegg* £1 17s 6d, Mrs. J. Lowe 3s 6d, Mrs. F. Hill 3s, Mrs. H. Watts 6s, Mr. H. Crompton 7s, Mr. W. Harris 7s 6d, Mr. Parkes 4s 6d, Mr. J. Barnes 6s – total £7 10s. Mr. and Mrs. Pegg desire to thank all who gave donations or who aided in any way in the movement.”

County Advertiser 11/5/1907

“On Monday evening Mr. and Mrs. *James Pegg* entertained their customers to supper at the RAILWAY HOTEL. Mr. Walter Harris presided, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the host and hostess, on the proposition of Mr. A. Woodhouse, seconded by Mr. D. Round, the host responding. Songs were given by Messrs. *J. Pegg*, junior, W. Dunn, T. *Pegg*, F. Priest, and W. Barnbrook, duets by Mrs. *Province* and Mrs. Barnes and a recitation by Mr. D. Round.”

Tipton Herald 10/7/1909

“The members of the RAILWAY HOTEL Sick and Draw Club held their half-yearly dinner in the clubroom of that house on Monday evening. About 50 members sat down to a capital spread provided by the host and hostess, Mr. *J. H. Cole*, and his mother, Mrs. Farndon. After the meal the chair was taken by Mr. E. Willetts, the vice chair being occupied by Mr. S. Raybould.....”

County Express 8/7/1910

“In connection with the sick and draw club held at the RAILWAY, Lomey Town, a supper was held on Monday. Mr. E. Willetts presided over a good attendance. Mr. T. Willetts (secretary) stated that the club was in a good financial position, and they were now worth 6d a member. A musical programme followed.”

1911 Census

99, Lomey Town – RAILWAY HOTEL

- [1] *Joseph Henry Cole* (23), unmarried, licensed victualler, manager, born Old Hill;
- [2] John Farndon (38), step-father, assisting in business, born Halesowen;
- [3] Amelia Farndon (48), mother, married 12 years, assisting in business, born Wilnecote, Warwickshire;
- [4] Amy Maria Cole (18), sister, assisting in business, born Old Hill;
- [5] Charles Robert Baden Farndon (10), step-brother, school, born Old Hill:

** probably the same person

County Express 18/5/1912

“On Monday evening, at the RAILWAY HOTEL, Five Ways, 52 members of the dividend club were entertained to dinner by the proprietor, Mr. *Llewelyn Province*. A splendid dinner was put upon the table, after which Mr. J. H. Cox was unanimously voted to the chair, and music ensued. Mr. William Hancox was encored for ‘If they ask what your name is,’ responding with ‘Sweetheart.’ Mr. Thomas Webb’s selections, ‘Josser Cricketer’ and ‘I’d like to go halves in that,’ were greatly enjoyed. Mrs. *Llewelyn Province* sang splendidly ‘Rich or poor.’ Mr. W. Priest contributed ‘Love rules the world’; Mr. *Llewelyn Province*, ‘A picture on the table’; Mr. James Pegg, ‘My Girl’ and ‘Jessie dear’; Mr. Thomas Whitehouse, ‘Pat-a-cake,’ encore ‘Patrick John O’More’; and Mr. Charles Cole, ‘The scene was at Chatham.’ Gramophone selections were also given by the kindness of Mr. Jos. Robinson. Votes of thanks to the host and hostess, and to the chairman, closed a most enjoyable evening.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 7/8/1915 - Advert

“General wanted, aged 20 or 22, for August; references required. Mrs. *Province*, RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

Richard Llewelyn Province was also a brewer. [1916]

Henry Horan – see also OLD CROSS GUNS.

Mr. *Hancox* became the first secretary of the Cradley Heath Licensed Victuallers' Association in August 1925.

1939 Register

100, Lower High Street – RAILWAY HOTEL

[1] *Joseph Bennett*, date of birth 25/12/1885, chain maker, heavy work, and licensee, married;

[2] *Beatrice A. Bennett*, dob 18/4/1886, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Victor S. Bennett*, dob 10/8/1902, tool fitter, general post office work, single;

[4] *Ada A. (Bennett) Jasper*, dob 16/2/1916, laundry shop assistant, single;

[5] *Joseph S. Bennett*, dob 13/5/1921, tailor's apprentice, single;

[6] *John J. Bennett*, dob 17/12/1924, builder's labourer, single;

[7] *Ronald V. Bennett*, dob 1/7/1925, at school, single;

[8] *Kenneth W. Bennett*, dob 17/1/1927, at school, single:

Closed [1970]

Demolished

RED COW

The Knowle, ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Joseph Danks [1851] – [1851]

NOTES

1851 Census

Knowle

[1] *Joseph Danks* (42), publican, born Rowley;

[2] *Elizabeth Danks* (42), wife, born Rowley;

[3] *Henry Danks* (19), son, born Rowley;

[4] *Thomas Danks* (17), son, born Rowley;

[5] *Mary Danks* (14), daughter, born Rowley;

[5] *Edwin Danks* (11), son, born Rowley;

[6] *Lydia Danks* (8), daughter, born Rowley;

[7] *Elizabeth Danks* (4), daughter, born Rowley:

RED LION

74, (75), Cradley Road, Five Ways, CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

Thomas Price, Hagley (father-in-law of *David Tromans*)

Netherton Bottling Co. Ltd.

David Tromans [1912 – 1924]

Grigg and Brettell Ltd. (acquired on 26th June 1936)

LICENSEES

Benjamin Billingham [1865]
Hezekiah Goulding [1866]
Ann Gibbs [1870]
John Biggs [1871] – [1872]
Abraham Billingham [] – 1877);
Joseph Partridge (1877 – [1884]
Thomas Charles [1891]
Thomas Price [1896] – 1903);
David Thomas* (1903 – []
David Troman* [1904]
David Tromans* [1908] – 1927);
Clifford Harris Pearson (1927 – 1928);
Joseph 'Joe' Turner (1928 – 1931);
Major Allport (1931);
Henry Robbins (1931 – 1934);
Bertram Billingham (1934 – 1936);
Harold Slater (1936 – 1941):

NOTES

75, Cradley Road [1881], [1891], [1924]
74, Cradley Road [1939], [1940]

It was situated opposite to the CROSS GUNS.

It had an ante '69 beerhouse license.

County Advertiser 25/3/1865 - Advert

“RED LION INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath.

To be Let, with early possession, the above House and Premises, which are situate near to the Market Place, Five Ways, Cradley Heath. Coming-in can be reduced to about £50. Being double-fronted, it is well adapted for two trades. Apply to Mr. Chandler, Auctioneer, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 22/4/1865 - Advert

“Notice.

Unless the Chainmaker's Tools which were left upon my Premises, the RED LION INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath, about eight months since, by Joseph Billingham, are paid for and removed within seven days from this date, they will be Sold, without further notice, to defray expenses.

Benjamin Billingham. Dated this 21st day of April, 1865.”

Hezekiah Goulding = Hezekiah Golden

Birmingham Daily Post 19/2/1866 - Notice

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1861.

Hezekiah Golden, of the RED LION Beerhouse, Five Ways, Cradley Heath, in the County of Stafford, Beerhouse-keeper and Furniture Dealer, having been adjudged Bankrupt in the County Court of Worcestershire holden at Dudley, on the 16th day of February, 1866, is hereby required to surrender himself to Thomas Walker, Esquire, a Registrar of the County Court of Worcestershire holden at Dudley, at the First Meeting of Creditors, to be held on the 3rd day of March, 1866, at Eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely, at the said Court. W. O. C. Addison, of Brierley Hill, 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 delivered them to the Registrar, and all Debts due to the Bankrupt must be paid to the Registrar.
F. H. Boott, Messenger.”

London Gazette 20/2/1866

“*Hezekiah Goulding*, of the RED LION, Beerhouse Keeper, Five Ways, Cradley Heath, in the county of Stafford, Beerhouse Keeper and Furniture Dealer, having been adjudged bankrupt under a petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Worcestershire, holden at Dudley, on the 16th day of February, 1866, is hereby required to surrender himself to Thomas Walker, Esq., Registrar of the said Court, at the first meeting of creditors to be held before the said Registrar, on the 3rd day of March next, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely, at the said Court. Thomas Walker, Esq., is the Official Assignee, and W. O. C. Addison, of Brierley-hill, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.”

Stourbridge Observer 8/10/1870

“Henry Edwards was charged with assaulting *Ann Gibbs*, landlady of the RED LION INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath, on the 3rd inst.

Complainant said on the above date defendant came to her house, and asked for her son. She told him he was not there, and he began cursing her, and shook his fist at her. She called Eliza Slater, who corroborated her.

Defendant was ordered to pay the costs.”

1871 Census

Cradley Road

[1] *John Biggs* (27), labourer and publican, born Cradley;

[2] *Ann Biggs* (31), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *Benjamin H. Biggs* (13), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Mary Cooper* (18), general servant, born Cradley:

John Biggs, beer retailer, Cradley Heath. [1872]

He issued tokens from here.

County Express 25/8/1877

“After the business of the Petty Sessions had been disposed of the Annual Licensing Sessions were held.

The application of *Joseph Partridge*, beerhouse keeper, of Five Ways, for a retail wine license, was opposed by *Daniel Willetts*, of the CROSS GUNS. The Bench, however, complied with the application.”

Dudley Herald 7/2/1880

“*James Harris* was charged with being disorderly and refusing to quit the premises of *Joseph Partridge*, on the 2nd inst.

Joseph Partridge, landlord of the RED LION INN, Cradley Heath, said on the day in question the defendant came into his premises and began to pull the servant girl about. He ordered him to go out, but he refused.

Samuel Partridge said he saw the defendant in the house, and seeing he was disorderly, asked him to go out. After a deal of bad language had been used by the defendant, he went out and picked up a stone, and threw it at a window and broke it, doing damage to the extent of 4s.

Defendant was fined 5s and costs, and 4s, the value of the window, or, in default, one month’s imprisonment.”

County Advertiser 15/5/1880

“*David Willetts*, chainmaker, Cradley Heath, was charged with being disorderly and refusing to quit licensed premises, on the 5th inst. *Joseph Partridge*, landlord of the RED LION INN, Cradley Heath, gave evidence that the defendant came into his house, commenced to use abusive language, and refused to leave when requested. Defendant was fined only 2s 6d and costs, as the costs were rather heavy. Defendant was summoned for last week. He, however, did not appear, and a warrant was issued.”

1881 Census

75, Cradley Road – RED LION

[1] *Joseph Partridge* (60), publican, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Hannah Partridge* (59), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *Harry Partridge* (18), son, cord winder, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Sarah Hayward* (17), general servant, born Dudley:

Birmingham Daily Post 27/1/1883

“At a meeting of chainmakers, held on Thursday night, at the RED LION INN, Cradley Heath – Mr. S. Penroyce presiding – a committee was appointed for considering the advisability of making an early application for an advance of 20 per cent on all sizes of chains. The deputation from Newcastle-on-Tyne attended the meeting, and urged the operatives in that district to co-operate with the operatives in the North Country districts.”

Dudley and District News 26/1/1884

“*Joseph Partridge*, landlord of the RED LION INN, Cradley Road, Cradley Heath, was summoned for keeping open during prohibited hours. Mr. T. Cooksey defended.

PC Dunn stated that on the night of the 11th inst, about 11.16, he visited the defendant’s premises, and found a man named Southwick there, with a jug containing ale before him. When he called the landlady’s attention to it she said she was not aware that it was after eleven o’clock. The summons was withdrawn on payment of costs.”

Dudley and District News 4/10/1884

“At a meeting of ‘factory’ chainmakers held on Monday night, at the RED LION INN, Cradley Heath, a resolution was passed not to submit to any reduction of prices.”

County Advertiser 17/4/1886 - Advert

Wanted, good General Servant, used to the Public Business.

Apply, *Joseph Partridge*, RED LION INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 18/9/1886

“A large meeting of cable chainmakers was held on Tuesday at the RED LION INN, Cradley Heath, Rowley Regis, Mr. A. Smith presiding. It was stated that some of the employers had conceded the required advance of 4d per cwt, and it was resolved to continue the strike until the whole of the employers paid the extra 4d.”

County Advertiser 11/8/1888

“On Friday, a meeting of cable chainmakers was held at the RED LION INN, Cradley Heath, Rowley Regis, at which it was stated that with the exception of one firm, the whole of the employers in the South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire districts have conceded an advance in wages. The prices which will in future be paid will be 1s 7d per cwt for open tested chains, and 1s 6d per cwt for ordinary tested chains.”

County Express 15/3/1890 - Advert

“Cradley Heath, Staffordshire.

Highly-important and Very-valuable Freehold Public House, RED LION INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath.

Mr. E. H. Boilstone has been favoured with instructions to Sell by Auction, at the house of Mr. H. Cole, CROSS INN, Old Hill, on Monday, the 31st day of March, 1890, at Six for Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions (incorporating the common form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society).

All that truly Valuable Double-fronted Public House and Premises, with Wine License attached, well known as the RED LION INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath, aforesaid, and containing extensive Front Shop, Smoke Room, large Club Room, three Bed Rooms, three capital Cellars, Malt Room, large Brewhouse, covered Gateway Entrance, and necessary Outbuildings.

The above Inn has an imposing frontage, occupies an important position in the centre of Cradley Heath, and the immense traffic, together with the numerous works and factories and the large population surrounding it, show at once its value and importance. Brewers and others requiring a well-situated Inn, with good trade attached thereto, will find this well worthy of their attention. For further particulars apply to Thomas Cooksey, Esq, Solicitor, or the Auctioneer, both of Old Hill.”

1891 Census

75, Cradley Road

[1] *Thomas Charles* (39), coal miner and publican, born Brierley Hill;

[2] *Leah Charles* (38), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *John Charles* (20), son, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Matilda Charles* (13), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[5] *Enzie Charles* (10), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[6] *Emily Charles* (8), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[7] *Luther Charles* (5), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[8] *Joseph Charles* (3), son, born Rowley Regis;

[9] *Ezra Charles* (1), son, born Rowley Regis:

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.”

Thomas Price, beer retailer, Cradley Road. [1896]

County Advertiser 4/1/1896

“Club Anniversaries.....

On Monday a supper was given at the RED LION INN, Powke Lane, Blackheath, by Mr. and Mrs. *Thomas Price*. Mr. S. Woodhouse was chairman, and appropriate songs and toasts were given during the evening.”

County Advertiser 10/10/1896

“The first annual dinner in connection with the Cradley and District Small Anchorsmiths’ Association, was held on Monday afternoon at the RED LION INN, Cradley Road, Cradley Heath. A large number of workmen sat down to a substantial meal, excellently served by the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. *Price*. On the removal of the cloth the operatives showed their appreciation of the services rendered by according host and hostess a hearty vote of thanks. Afterwards the annual general meeting was held.....”

County Express 20/3/1897

“A largely-attended meeting in connection with the Anchorsmiths’ and Shacklemakers’ Association was held at the RED LION INN, Cradley Heath, on Monday afternoon, to receive the report of the delegates who attended Friday’s conference with the employers respecting the small anchorsmiths’ application for an advance of wages. They ask the establishment of a 3s basis, equivalent to an advance of 20 per cent on existing prices. The whole of the Midlands, as well as the North of England anchorsmiths, are affected by this movement. Mr. Thomas Sitch presided, and there were also present: Mr. T. Jones (president of the Midland Counties’ Trades’ Federation), Mr. J. Taylor (secretary of the Federation), Mr. Dixon (Gateshead-on-Tyne), Mr. J. Smith (men’s secretary), etc.....”

County Advertiser 25/3/1899

“Strange Allegation Against A Brother. A singular charge of theft, preferred by Hezekiah Bills, chainmaker, Cradley Heath, against his brother, Alfred Bills, grocer, of Cradley.

The evidence given by a number of witnesses showed that on the 17th ult the father of the prosecutor was fined 12s by the Stourbridge magistrates for drunkenness, and as he had no money to pay the fine, his sons and a few friends decided to make a collection to pay the fine. On the 18th ult they met at the RED LION INN, Cradley Heath, and prosecutor put 5s on the table towards the 12s required. It was alleged that the defendant picked up the two half crowns, and at the same time remarked, ‘I am glad my brother has got plenty of money.’ He refused to give up the money and walked away.

Mr. Hinds, of Stourbridge, who defended, submitted that no offence had been committed, because after defendant had left the public house he handed over to his father the amount of the fine, which was paid to the police at Cradley, and the old man was set free.

The case was dismissed.”

County Advertiser 10/3/1900

“On Monday afternoon, the annual dinner and meeting of the members of the Amalgamated Society of Anchorsmiths took place at the RED LION INN, Cradley Heath. A large number of members sat down to an excellent repast, provided by the landlord (Mr. *Thomas Price*). Afterwards, the President (Mr. Caleb Worton) occupied the chair.....”

Thomas Price’s license was renewed in August 1900, despite long pull offences.

County Express 25/8/1900

“The annual licensing sessions for the petty sessional division of Rowley Regis were held on Wednesday, at the Court House, Old Hill. The magistrates present were Messrs. W. Bassano (chairman), G. Green, and J. W. Tilley.....

Mr. E. W. Cave (instructed by Mr. Jeffries) said he was instructed, on behalf of the local Licensed Victuallers’ Association and the Birmingham District Brewers’ Association to oppose the renewal of the licenses of the RAILWAY INN and RED LION INN, Cradley Heath, kept by Mr. Thomas Scriven and Mr. *Thomas Price* respectively, the first being a fully-licensed house, and the latter a beerhouse. He thought the cases could be dealt with together. Mr. Waldron appeared to support the renewal of the licenses.

Mr. Cave said the objections were limited to four, the chief of which were that the license-holders were guilty of unfair trading by giving excessive over-measure, and that the premises were not required for the needs of the neighbourhood. The facts were that

for a considerable time there had been a custom in the trade to give what was known as the long pull, which means that a man asking for a half-pint would get a pint, and asking for a pint would get a quart. Several attempts had been made to put an end to this, but the efforts had not been very successful until recently. Some time ago it was proposed there should be a combination on the part of license-holders to stop the practice, and it was only recently that it had come to a head, and it was desired now to prevent license-holders from indulging in the practice. The practice was one which he did not think they would dispute was detrimental to the interests of the public, and the trade were showing a genuine desire to bring about a reform and improvement in the cases in which drink was supplied to the public, and he considered they should be encouraged in that desire. That was the meaning of the objections, and as the trade had devoted itself to a system of internal reform, he thought the Bench should support it by refusing the licenses to these two houses until they conformed to the movement instituted by the trade in the interests of the public.

Edward Every, clerk, in the employ of Mr. Jeffries proved posting of notices of objection.

Mr. W. Green, jeweller, of Oldbury, gave evidence as to purchasing ale from the houses, and stated that for half a pint he got nearly a pint.

Cross-examined: He did not know whether these houses were 'free houses' or not.

Mr. Waldron said that anyone who knew anything about this question of fair trading practices amongst publicans could not be blind to the real object of those associations, they never were aware of any injury being done either to themselves or to the general public until the unfortunate extra shilling per barrel duty came into existence. The result was, as soon as it came into existence, then the very large brewers – he saw in the paper in the case of Allsopp's there was a loss of £30,000 to the shareholders – throughout the country began to hold meetings to see how that could be taken out of the public pocket, and put into the shareholders' in the shape of profit. That was the real inception of the beginning of the so-called 'fair trade,' and what was known as ceasing to give long pulls. The Bench were not there to deal with private quarrels amongst the trade, but only to see the license-holders conformed with the regulations of the statute. It seemed to have been a regular thing to give greater measure than was asked for, but he ventured to suggest there was nothing unlawful or immoral in that, as long as the competition was fair and legitimate. The question that it led to drunkenness was nonsensical from its inception, because if there were drunkenness in the house it would mean not the white gloves they had heard of that day, but the Court would be inundated with prosecutions. He asked the Bench not to make themselves parties to a trade dispute, but to renew the licenses. There had not been a word suggested against the character of the two licensees that they were not fit and proper persons, neither that the houses were unsuitable, and he asked for the licenses to be renewed.

The Bench said they would renew the licenses. There were no special grounds for refusing, and it would be monstrously unfair to do so. Whatever the association might try to do for the public good and morality it would have the Bench's sympathy; but they were not altogether clear that there were any great benefits for public morality to be expected from this movement. It appeared that if a man went into a house and asked for a pint of beer, and he got a quart, it did no damage to his morality, for he was not obliged to drink it. It would be advantageous to a man and his family, inasmuch as he would get two pints for the price of one. If the trade was honest in its endeavor for the public good, let it go on and show itself in a better form than it had hitherto done. It did not come to the Court with the cleanest hands that day."

County Advertiser 9/2/1901 - Advert

"I, John Dimmock, of Foxoak Street, Cradley Heath, Do Hereby Apologise to Mrs. *Thomas Price*, of the RED LION INN, Cradley Road, Cradley Heath, for the Abusive and Slandorous Language I used towards her on Monday, the 28th day of January last, and I Express my Regret that I used same, and further I agree to Pay all Costs in the Matter.

Dated this 1st day of February, 1901.

The Mark of X John Dimmock.

Witness: J. A. Hingley, Solicitor, Cradley Heath."

County Express 23/3/1901

"Bertha Buckley, a girl, of Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath, was charged with stealing a gold brooch, value 17s, belonging to Elizabeth *Price*, wife of *Thomas Price*, landlord of the RED LION INN, Cradley Road; and Sylvia Billingham, her grandmother, was charged with receiving it.

Mrs. *Price* said that Buckley was a servant in her employ, commencing duty on the 28th January, and leaving on February 25th.

She (witness) afterwards missed the brooch produced from a writing desk.

Arthur Griffiths, jeweller, said the brooch was brought to his shop to have a catch put on it.

Charles Dewitt, manager for Mr. Chambers, pawnbroker, said that Billingham offered the brooch in pledge, saying, on being questioned, that her grand-daughter had given it to her.

Police-sergeant Pitcher arrested the girl, who in reply to the charge said, 'I found it behind the bar, and thought I could keep it.'

The grandmother, on being apprehended, said, 'It was given to me by my grand-daughter, who found it.'

Mr. Ward, in defence, said the girl, in cleaning up the room, sometimes came across coins on the floor, and it was an understood thing that those on the bar side of the counter belonged to the landlord, and those on the other to the sweeper. She found the brooch in some sawdust, and picked it up, not knowing that it was of any value whatever.

Bertha Buckley, in evidence, said she found the brooch produced on the customers' side of the bar amongst some sawdust. She did not think it was worth a penny, and put it in her pocket. The jeweller Griffiths first told her it was gold.

Sylvia Billingham said she saw the brooch for the first time on the previous Friday. The lodgers were talking about their rings, and one said the brooch was gold, and the other that it was not.

The Bench fined Bertha Buckley 10s, and the grandmother 20s, costs being included in each case."

1901 Census

Cradley Road

- [1] *Thomas Price* (29), innkeeper, born Cradley Heath;
- [2] *Eliza Price* (30), wife, born Cradley Heath;
- [3] *Elizabeth Price* (8), daughter, born Cradley Heath;
- [4] *Millicent Price* (5), daughter, born Cradley Heath;
- [5] *Thomas Price* (4), son, born Cradley Heath;
- [6] *Mary Weaver* (19), domestic servant, born Mushroom Green:

County Express 2/8/1902

“*Thomas Cross*, a cattle drover, living at Overend, Cradley, was summoned for refusing to quit the RED LION INN, Cradley Heath, when requested on the night of the 23rd ult. *Mr. G. Williams* appeared for the landlord. Fined 20s and costs.”

Thomas Price died on 6th January 1903 and was buried at St. Luke’s Church, Cradley Heath.

County Advertiser 17/1/1903 - Advert

“RED LION INN, Cradley Road, Cradley Heath.

E. O. Nightingale has received instructions from the Trustee of the late *Mr. Thomas Price*, to Sell by Auction, as above, on Tuesday Next, 20th January, 1903, at Eleven am prompt.

The Excellent Household Furniture, consisting of Mahogany, Brass and Iron Bedsteads, excellent Feather and Wool Beds, well-made Washstands and Dressing Tables, Toilet Ware, Trinket Set, Towel Rail, Night Commode, fitted; Mahogany and other Chests of Drawers, Cane-seated, Easy, Kitchen, and other Chairs, Tables, Capital Dining Room Suite, consisting of Six small Chairs, Lady’s and Gent’s Easy Chairs and Couch, in red figured plush; Corner Cupboards, Overmantels, Clocks, 13 Silver Watches, Thermometer, Pictures, Ornaments, Cornice Pole, Mail Cart, Hanging and other Lamps, small Oil Stove, ‘Omega’ Gas Stove, Brass and other Fenders and Fire-irons, Cooking Utensils, Wringer, Scullery Requisites, and other Effects.

Auctioneer’s Offices: High Street, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 24/1/1903

“*Mr. G. Williams* applied for a transfer of the RED LION INN, Cradley Heath, from *Thomas Price*, jun, who was now dead, to his executor. He explained that the circumstances of the case were very urgent because the late tenant had died on the 6th inst, and a new tenant, who had agreed to accept the license, had now refused. He therefore applied for the transfer to be made to the executor of the late tenant until a new tenant could be found. The application was granted.”

* possibly the same person

David Troman, beer and wine retailer, 75, Cradley Road. [1904]

County Advertiser 16/6/1906

“Friendly Societies’ Parade Committee. A meeting was held on Wednesday evening at the RED LION INN, when *Mr. Parrish* presided over a full attendance of delegates. It was decided that a deputation wait upon the *Rev. A. E. J. Cosson* and arrange with him as to the order of service to be held in Christ Church in connection with the parade. The committee unanimously decided to invite the *Rev. E. A. Cooke*, the *Rev. F. R. Brunskill*, and the *Rev. J. Walker*, together with the local Councillors and the local fire brigade to take part in the service. The next meeting will be held at the REINDEER INN.”

County Express 12/9/1908

“On Wednesday evening the committee of the Friendly Societies’ Parade met at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, *Mr. W. Coley* presiding over a large attendance. The following was a complete list of those boxes which contained amounts of 1s and upwards.....

Mr. D. Tromans, RED LION INN, £1 10s.”

Tipton Herald 17/7/1909

“The members of the RED LION Sick and Draw Club held their half-yearly draw at the RED LION INN, Cradley Road, Cradley Heath, on Tuesday evening, 32 out of the 36 members attending. A capital dinner was served by *Mr. David Tromans* (the host) and staff, to which exhaustive justice was done. After the meal *Bro. James Harback* took the chair.....”

County Express 1/1/1910

“A girl named *Alice Lycett*, aged 17 years, who lives at Springfields, Rowley, has disappeared from her home under circumstances which are causing her relatives great anxiety. She was employed as a domestic servant at the RED LION INN, Cradley Heath, which she left on Wednesday afternoon, stating that she was returning to her home. She went home, took off her hat and jacket, and went out again, since when she has not been seen. The police have a letter in their possession, which she left at her place of service, in which the girl states she has nothing to live for.”

1911 Census

Cradley Road – RED LION INN

- [1] *David Tromans* (41), widower, beerseller, born Old Hill;
[2] *Thomas William Tromans* (10), son, school, born Chester Road, Cradley Heath;
[3] *Marian Alice Hampton* (35), servant, manageress to above business, born High Street, Halesowen;
[4] *Nellie Mansell* (18), general servant, born Old Hill:

David Tromans, beer and wine retailer, 75, Cradley Road. [1912]

David Tromans, beer retailer, 75, Cradley Road. [1924]

David Tromans died on 14th June 1937.

He was married twice.

1939 Register

74, Cradley Road

- [1] *Harold Slater*, date of birth 26/5/1891, licensee, married;
[2] *Ethel M. Slater*, dob 25/9/1890, domestic duties, married;
[4] *Edith B. (Slater) Jones*, dob 23/5/1926, at school, single:

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 5th March 1941.

It closed on 31st December 1941.

Birmingham Daily Post 19/6/1941 - Notice

“The Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910. Notice of Principal Meeting. County of Stafford.

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Principal Meeting to be held pursuant to the Licensing Rules, 1910, by the Compensation Authority for the above Area, will be held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Saturday, the 12th day of July, 1941, at 2.15pm.

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 License of the Premises specified in the subjoined list, all those persons to whom under the Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910, they are bound to give an opportunity of being heard.....

List of Licensed Premises.

RED LION INN, Cradley Road, Cradley Heath. Beerhouse (Ante 1869). Licensee, *Harold Slater*.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/7/1941

“When the Staffordshire Licensing Committee and Compensation Authority sat at Stafford on Saturday to consider the license of the RED LION INN, Cradley Heath, which had been referred on grounds of redundancy, it was stated that within an area of a quarter of a mile there were 26 other licensed houses.

Mr. I. Sunderland, representing the Rowley Regis justices who had referred the license, said that in the first place the structure and lay-out of the house were such that nobody could be in doubt as to its undesirability. There was, however, another matter which, he thought, should be taken into consideration. Within a quarter of a mile of the RED LION there were no fewer than 26 licensed houses where similar facilities could be obtained. Some of the houses had been improved considerably and offered amenities that the RED LION could never offer. The committee would hear from a police inspector that from a structural point of view, design, and repair, the house could hardly be in a more deplorable state. It was only fair to state, however, that a few years ago the owners of the property prepared plans for its improvement, but on the advice of the licensing justices they were withdrawn. Today the circumstances were different, because not only would it be most uneconomical to reconstruct the house, but it would be impossible under existing conditions to undertake rebuilding. Furthermore, it was not in accordance with the interests of the public or the interests of the trade at present that there should be a number of services catering for the public when it could be served by a few. Here they had a licensed house for which nothing could be said for its structure or lay-out, and within a quarter of a mile there were 26 other houses. The licensing justices took the view, therefore, that the license should not be renewed.

Describing the condition of the RED LION, Police Inspector Hughes stated that no painting or decoration had been done for a number of years, and structurally the property was bad. Witness had paid 11 visits to the house on different days and at different times of the day and the number of customers averaged 19.

Major E. J. Hardy, DSO, who presided, mentioned that the justices' report showed that the barrelage was between five and six barrels per week.

Mr. H. Wallace Copland, who appeared for the owners of the house, handed in a statement giving details of the trade, and formally applied for the renewal of the license.

The committee refused renewal of the license.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/1/1942

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

The report of the County Licensing Committee for the year 1941 was submitted.....

Dealing with the Compensation Fund, the report stated that on January 1, 1941, after taking into consideration cheques drawn and not presented, there was a balance of £1,156 8s 9d. During the year the sum of £14,100 was received from the Commissioners of Customs and Excise, and a further sum of approximately £2,500 was expected for the year 1941. After payment of the compensation monies in the cases of the Elephant and Castle and the RED LION, Cradley Heath (£4,700), and taking into account any other expenses of the committee, there would be a credit balance of approximately £6,200 on December 31, 18941.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/1/1942 - Advert

“Business For Sale. Cradley.

Freehold Delicensed Property, known at the RED LION, Cradley Road, Cradley Heath; valuable site, facing cinema, busy main thoroughfare; with possession.

Full particulars, Frazier, 43, Cannon Street, Birmingham.”

The premises became a fish and chip shop.

RED LION

24, Regent Road, Tividale, ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

Ansells Ltd.

Punch Pub Co.

LICENSEES

Thomas Benjamin Williams (1939 – 1946);

Alfred Hardy (1946 – 1949);

Bertie Norman Bufton (1949 – 1950);

Clifford Halliwell (1950 – 1952);

Robert Arthur Kendricks (1952 – 1953);

Leslie John Bill (1953 – 1959);

Lancelot Rowland Twells (1959 – [1962]

Fred Barker (1981 – []

Trevor Purcell [1988] – [1993]

David Sutton [2000]

NOTES

It was known locally as ‘The Green Top’.

It was opened in November 1939.

The license was transferred from the OLD ENGINE.

Evening Despatch 28/12/1939 - Advert

“Barmaid for Lounge and Smoke-room in New House off Birmingham-Wolverhampton Road; good home, good wages, live in; must be willing help manageress with light work; young, good looking, smart and quick; previous experience not absolutely essential; start immediately.

Apply, with references, Manager, NEW RED LION, Regent Road, Tividale, near Dudley. Midlands’ Most Beautiful House.”

Evening Despatch 19/1/1940

“NEW RED LION INN, Regent Road, Tividale (150 Yards off Birmingham-Wolverhampton Road).

Official Opening 20th January, 1940.

The whole of the decorations, furnishings, pewtering, and lighting at the above has been carried out under the direction of the architects, Messrs. Collins & Smeeton, 16, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham, by White Allom Ltd., 43, North Audley Street, London W1.”

Evening Despatch 20/1/1940

“Richard (‘Stinker’) Murdoch, of Band-Waggon fame, pulled beers for early customers at the NEW RED LION INN, Tividale, when he officially opened the house today. The NEW RED LION has been decorated inside by the London firm of White Allom Ltd., and the architects are Messrs. Collins and Smeeton, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham.”

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

Tipton Herald 15/12/1956

“A cheque for £17 from the RED LION INN Darts Club, Tividale, was presented by the Treasurer, Mr. J. Walters, to Tividale and

Oakham Old Folks Christmas Fund Committee at a social entertainment at the inn on Saturday.
A further £17 was collected during the evening, bringing the total raised for the Committee this year to £100.
Mr. L. Twells accepted the cheque on behalf of the Fund Committee.”

Sports Argus 13/3/1965

“*Sports Argus* darts player Len Cotton made history for the team last night when, throwing against the Tividale League, he had a six-dart game. It was the first by an *Argus* player – or against one – in the 18 years the team has been in existence. It was the first time, too, that Cotton has ever performed this feat which not only made sure of another *Argus* victory, but put the seal on his long and distinguished career in Midlands darts circles.

Cotton has lost count, over the years, of the number of maximums he has thrown. He has had several seven-dart games previously and eight and nine-dart games have cropped up comparatively frequently; but never previously has he scored a six-dart game in match play.

It was a wonderful moment for him, for his colleagues and, indeed, the packed room at the RED LION, Tividale, and it was certainly the highlight of a night of memorable throwing – big scores, fine finishes and two nine-darts games by other *Argus* players.....”

Sports Argus 4/3/1967

“The *Sports Argus* darts team defeated the Tividale League 5-4 at the RED LION, Regent Road, Dudley, last night, to maintain their winning sequence. But the closeness of the score tells nothing of the night of high drama in which fortunes ebbed first one way, then the other, and which culminated in the visitors winning on the third leg of the last match. It could not have been closer; it could not have been more thrilling or more entertaining. It was indeed a match to remember.....”

Sports Argus 9/3/1974

“Darts..... Next Friday the *Sports Argus* visit the Tividale League at the RED LION, Regent Road, Tividale.”

Sports Argus 10/9/1977

“Albion defender Paddy Mulligan had a surprise in store for his team-mates when they visited the RED LION, Tividale, this week for a darts match against the new holders of the world record for playing a million and one.

Goalkeeper John Osborne told me, ‘Paddy had seen dart boards before but as far as he was concerned I think he thought they were some sort of traditional English wall plaque.’ However, with his first three darts Mulligan scored 152 with a treble 18, bull and double 19! But it was Len Cantello who turned out to be Albion’s match-winner, having the top score of 156 and throwing the winning double on the deciding leg.

I’m told though that the RED LION players, who scored a million points in under seven hours recently, all complained of mysterious arm injuries just when they looked like taking the match 2-0.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/7/1978 - Advert

“Rebel Road Show. Rock and Roll Disco. Tonight.
RED LION, Tividale, Dudley T.”

The darts team played in the Tividale League. [1981]

Fred Barker was married to Rene.

See also FOX AND GOOSE, West Bromwich.

Sandwell Evening Mail 23/3/1988

“Regulars at a Dudley pub will be pitting their wits against each other in a bid to raise cash for the Birmingham Children’s Hospital. Drinkers from the RED LION pub in Regent Road, Tividale, will be taking part in a trivia quiz on Friday in aid of the Children’s Hospital heart appeal fund.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 29/3/1988

“Five regulars at a Tividale pub had a close shave in a stunt to raise more than £400 for Birmingham Children’s Hospital. Mr. Dave Allen, Mr. Ian Troman, Mr. Neville Simms, Mr. Geoff Cleaves and Mr. Steve Crompton volunteered to have their heads shaved during a charity fun night at the RED LION, in Regent Road. The evening raised of £750 with regulars taking part in a trivia quiz, disco, and buying special cardboard ‘heart’ badges made by handicapped children at Regent Road Special School.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 18/4/1988

“Tividale landlord *Trevor Purcell* found himself roped into action when he staged a head shave for regulars. Attempts were made to ‘scalp’ him but *Trevor* escaped with just the loss of his beard at the RED LION in Regent Road.

Ian Tromans, Dave Allen, Neville Sims, Geoff Klee and Stephen Crompton lost their hair but gained £700 for the Birmingham Children’s Hospital heart appeal.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 4/11/1989

“Steel traders in the Black Country have given a £5,000 boost to a Midland children’s hospital after a gruelling marathon. Ten people took part in a 24-mile cycling, swimming, and running quadrathlon which ended with them tackling an army assault course

at Lichfield. Their efforts were rewarded by raising a total of £5,000 which will now be handed over to the Birmingham Children's Hospital at the RED LION pub in Tividale next Thursday.

The event was organized by Mr. Paul Lingwood and Mr. Mike Waldron, of Coseley steel firm, Lingwood Steels. Sales executive Mr. Waldron said, 'We are both family men and knew there was a £1 million appeal at that time for a new operating theatre at the children's hospital. We persuaded three colleagues from the steel trade together with five friends to take part and managed to raise about £5,000 between us.'

The quadrathlon began with a three-mile run from Firs Bank community centre in Willenhall to Walsall Gala Baths where all ten men had to swim a mile. They then cycled the 20 miles to Whittington Barracks in Lichfield for the army assault course. The cheque is due to be presented by former European boxing champion Pat Cowdell on November 9."

Sandwell Evening Mail 19/3/1993

"Down your Local. RED LION, Tividale.

The Monday Crowd were having a whale of a time. It was the monthly get-together for eight close friends and landlady Linda Purcell had laid on another treat for them.

'We wouldn't go anywhere else for our little outing,' said Chris Jukes, one of the group of old folk clearly at home in their favourite spot at the RED LION. In fact, they never leave the pub in Regent Road, Tividale, without booking themselves in for their next visit.

Chris, and her husband, Bill, are two of the many regulars who call back at other times – especially if there's something special to celebrate. 'We had a family party here to mark our 46th wedding anniversary and, as is always the case, we were well looked after,' added Chris as she and her friends relaxed over a lunchtime meal and drink in the lounge.

Linda, wife of licensee Trevor Purcell, had served up a tasty looking dish of the day – a good helping of liver and onions – for just £1.75. 'It's great value,' said Bill Ashcroft, there with his wife, Nellie, 80, and other sprightly members of a happy gang including Alf Whitehouse, 83, a regular since the pub opened 52 years ago.

This RED LION is roaring away on all social fronts. 'You won't find a better pub anywhere around here for raising money when help is needed,' said Ray Johnson, a key member of fund-boosting teams. 'We've given thousands to help sufferers of cystic fibrosis, and we'll support any worthy cause. Mind you, we have fun doing it.'

Martin Whittall has all his mates in the bar to thank for making life easier for his daughter, Dannielle, aged four, who has cystic fibrosis. The pub has raised about £10,000 for the Birmingham Children's Hospital.

'I've got a brilliant bunch of customers,' said landlord Trevor whose own efforts to create a good community local are roundly applauded. 'The place was a dump when we arrived 11 years ago, but if a licensee gets himself involved in new interests, the regulars soon join in – and that's what we've done.'

The first eye-catching feature of this gem of a pub is Trevor's collection of some 800 beer mugs and jugs hanging from rafters. They've come from all over the world.

Other 'counter' attractions include live entertainment twice a week; Sunday lunches; indoor bowls plus teams set up for darts, dominoes and cricket; Charity Quiz Nights; a children's play area and free Christmas treats for the kids and old folk.

The pub's 100-seater Functions Room is fully booked for Mother's Day lunch treats. And they're expecting another big crowd for a 1940s style party night.

Pubfile:

Pick of the pints: Ansells bitter; Tetley bitter; Hanson's mild.

Plus points: A pub for all good reasons.

Food: Home-cooked dishes, lunchtime and early evening.

Bar price of a pint: Mild £1, Ansells and Tetley bitter £1 12, Happy Two Hours 90p a pint for draught beer (Mon to Fri, 6pm to 8pm).

Opening hours: Noon to 3.30pm and 6pm to 11pm (Mon to Sat). Normal Sunday hours."

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.....

RED LION, Regent Road, Tividale, Tue 7.00pm."

It reopened as THE LION, after £40,000 refurbishment, on 8th December 2000.

It was renamed the RED LION. [2007]

[2008]

Closed

Demolished

REINDEER

39, Prince Street, (27, Kings Street), CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

Mr. F. Jones, Raglan Road, Cape, near Birmingham [1880]
Esther Lane
Frank Murdock Tibbetts (acquired c.1931)
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. (acquired c.1940)

LICENSEES

Tibbetts [1856]
William Worrall [1860] – [1862]
Hezekiah Golding [1864] – [1865]
Isaiah Northall [] – **1866**;
John Handley (**1866** – [1870])
Edward Dagger [1871]
William Smith [1872]
Alfred William Tibbetts [1873]
Samuel Jones [1875] – **1881**;
Frank Jones (**1881** – **1882**);
Thomas Malin [1881] – [1882]
Edward Phelps [1891] – [1892]
Yarnall [1894]
Mrs. Ellen Jane Arnold [1896]
Mrs. Esther Lane [1898] – **1931**;
Frank Murdock Tibbetts (**1931** – **1942**);
Edward ‘Ted’ Darby (**1942** – **1949**);
Blanche Darby (**1949** – **1955**);
Sidney Charles Rogers (**1955** – **1962**);
Harry Andrew Edge (**1962** – **1965**);
Leonard Fradgley (**1965** – **1967**);
Rex Jones (**1967** – **1968**);
Jack Willetts (**1968**);
Norman Edwin Brookes (**1968** – **1981**);
Stephen John Walker (**1981** – **1983**);
Terence William Millward (**1983** – **1984**);
Robert Franklyn Smith (**1984** – **1988**);
Lynn Smith (**1988** – **1990**);
Nina Morna Rendell (**1990** – []
Renee Rogers []
David Norton []
Kathleen Duff [2002]

NOTES

27, Kings Street [1904], [1908], [1912], [1924], [1940]
27, King Street [1881], [1891], [1932], [1940]
39, King Street [1939]
The name of King Street was changed to Prince Street on 17th August 1967.
39, Prince Street [1997], [2003]

It had a beerhouse license.

Birmingham Journal 13/9/1856 - Advert

“Cradley Heath.

To be Let, a Public House, now doing a good Trade. It may be used as a Butcher’s Shop likewise.
Apply on the Premises, Mr. *Tibbitts*, REINDEER INN, Cradley Heath, Staffordshire.”

County Advertiser 29/11/1856 - Advert

“A Rare Opportunity to Parties Wishing to Enter the Public Business.

To Be Let, with immediate possession, that Old-Licensed Public House, known by the sign of the REIN-DEER INN, Cradley Heath. The coming-in can be reduced to £40.

For further particulars apply to H. Detheridge, Public House Agent, High Street, Brierley Hill.”

County Advertiser 13/12/1856 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale at the REIN-DEER INN, Cradley Heath.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Detheridge, on Monday Next, December 15th, 1856, Several lots of Household Furniture, comprising Eighteen Windsor Chairs, Four Ale Tables, Two Sets of Pierced Window Blinds, Two Sets of Pewter Measures, Four dozen Ale Glasses, Painted Tables, Mahogany Chest of Drawers, Sofa, Eight-day Spring Time-piece, Iron Spittoons, Mahogany Loo Table, Chimney Glass, Oil Paintings, Six Half-hogshead Casks, Two Hogshead ditto, One strong 300-Gallon Ale Cask, Lot of Bottles, One Hundred Gallons of Prime Old Ale, Small Mashing Tub, Two Cart Saddles, Two Hay Cratches, Very Strong Broad-wheel Waggon, and other effects, belonging to Mr. *Tibbets*, who is giving up the public business on account of ill health.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock in the morning.

The House and Premises to let, for particulars apply to the Auctioneer, High Street, Brierley Hill.”

County Advertiser 11/7/1857 - Advert

“Important Notice.

The REIN DEER INN, Cradley Heath.

To be Disposed Of, by Private Treaty, the Licenses, Good-will, and valuable Possession of the above excellent house of business. A person of business habits would realise a fortune, it being situated in a densely populated and manufacturing district. Payments low.

For further particulars apply to Mr. H. Detheridge, Public-house and General Agent, High Street, Brierley Hill.”

William Worrall = William Worall = William Worrall

1861 Census

King Street – REIN DEER INN

[1] *William Worall* (55), victualler, born Stourbridge;

[2] *Ellen Worall* (45), wife, born Ludlow, Shropshire:

Birmingham Daily Post 19/6/1862 - Advert

“The REIN DEER, King Street, Cradley Heath.

To be Disposed Of, with early possession, the above established old Licensed House, situated near to extensive Iron and other Works, and now doing a good ready money trade. Coming-in can be reduced to suit a purchaser.

Apply to Mr. Chandler, Publicans' Valuer, &c, Cradley Heath.”

Hezekiah Golding was also a furniture dealer. [1864], [1865]

Stourbridge Observer 18/2/1865

“On Monday last at the County Court, Dudley, Mr. Kettle, Judge, presiding, Mr. Brooks, now of Birmingham, but formerly of Cradley Heath, sued Mr. *Hezekiah Golding*, of the REINDEER INN, Cradley Heath, for damages as compensation for losses sustained owing to the defendant illegally distraining his goods, and also throwing out of his situation without giving the proper notice. Mr. Stokes appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Oldershaw for the defendant.

It appears that the plaintiff is a clock and watch maker, and formerly resided at Cradley Heath; and the defendant is a publican, and furniture dealer. Owing to the defendant's neighbour, a Mr. Beaven, who is a watchmaker, setting up as a furniture dealer in opposition to the defendant, he entered into an agreement with the present plaintiff to come and live at his shop, and make and mend watches in counter opposition to Beaven. In the month of September last, the plaintiff became a tenant of the house, on the conditions of paying three shillings per week for the use of two furnished rooms (a bed-room and a kitchen) and also the use of part of the shop wherein to work. He had also to attend to the selling of furniture in the absence of Mr. *Golding*.

According to the evidence of Mr. Brooks, he fulfilled all these arrangements up to within a short time since. He paid his rent regularly till the 16th of last December. On the 2nd of January last he went out from home for a day or two, on a visit to his relations at Birmingham. He locked all up safely before he went, and left the key at Mrs. *Golding*'s. He returned on the 5th and tried to get into his house but could not, as all the doors were locked. He went to Mr. *Golding*'s public house, and asked him how he was; next he asked the reason why the shop and house were locked up. *Golding* replied that he had sold all his (Brooks's) goods.

And also said that Mr. Andrews had been down enquiring after Mr. Brooks from whom he had got to know that Brooks was making arrangements to taking to his business. *Golding* then said that he thought it was best to take care of himself. He then asked *Golding* where the goods were; he was shown into the parlour where he found all his goods in a heap. His most valuable things being scattered on the floor. The door of the parlour was not locked, so that anyone might enter. He then offered to pay the rent and any reasonable expenses that might have been incurred. *Golding* wanted £2 18s. He would not pay it and was then referred to Mr. Chandler who wanted nearly £4. The sum of money owing for rent was 21s. Told Mr. Chandler that he would not pay it. The goods were sold next day. About five persons were present at the sale. He had not got back into the shop again. He had to travel to and from Birmingham in order to finish the jobs he had at Cradley Heath. There was an understanding between him and

the defendant, that he (plaintiff) would pay the rent he owed as soon as he received the money due to him for setting up a large clock at Netherend. The value of the goods in his house was £30. What he got back were worth half that sum. Had not been able to obtain a situation since. He was residing now with his friends.

Mr. Brown, a bailiff in the employ of Mr. Chandler, deposed to the taking of the goods under a distraint for rent. *Golding* was present. He obtained an entrance through the back door which was open. No representative of Brooks was there. He removed the things to Mr. *Golding's* and put them up at the sale. Brooks was present and bought some of the things.

Samuel Romsley said that he witnessed Brooks offer *Golding* the sum of £1 16s.

For the defence it was urged that the defendant thought that the plaintiff had gone and did not intend to return, as the defendant alleged that Brooks had promised to return on the evening of the 2nd, and bring the money that he owed him.

The Judge said it was one of the worst cases of the kind he had ever had before him; the defendant had acted in a most tyrannical manner towards the plaintiff. He had far exceeded the bounds of law, and his verdict would therefore be for the plaintiff, damages £10."

County Advertiser 6/1/1866 - Advert

"REIN DEER INN, King Street, Cradley Heath.

To be Let, with immediate possession, the above Old-licensed Inn, which is situate in a very populous and rapidly improving district; is surrounded by extensive works and factories, free from opposition, and is now doing a fair trade. Present proprietor is compelled to leave, owing to other engagements at a distance. Coming-in about £70. Rent low.

Apply to Mr. Chandler, Publicans' Valuer, &c, Cradley Heath."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 2/5/1866

"At the sitting of the County Court, on Tuesday, before Rupert Kettle, Esq, the following bankrupts came up for their petitions..... *Hezekiah Golding*, beerhouse keeper, Cradley Heath. Last examination passed, and an order of discharge granted, on the application of Mr. Addison."

1871 Census

King Street – REINDEER, public house

[1] *Edward Dagger* (31), licensed victualler, born Dudley;

[2] *Mary Dagger* (29), wife, born Dudley;

[3] *Alice Dagger* (6), daughter, scholar, born Dudley;

[4] *Jane Dagger* (4), daughter, born Dudley;

[5] *Harvey Dagger* (3), son, born Dudley;

[6] *Lenora Dagger* (1), daughter, born Dudley:

County Advertiser 22/7/1871

"The inquiry touching the death of William Jelf, who was killed at the station on Saturday, was held at the REINDEER INN, on Monday evening, before Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, when a verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

Birmingham Daily Post 13/6/1872 - Advert

"Cradley Heath.

Notice is Hereby Given that a Meeting of House Painters will take place at the REINDEER INN, King Street, Cradley Heath, This (Thursday) Evening, at Eight o'clock to 'Consider an Advance of Wages and Short time on Saturday.'"

Birmingham Daily Post 15/6/1872

"A meeting of operative painters was held at the REINDEER INN, Cradley Heath, on Thursday night, when it was resolved to cease work on the 23rd of June unless the demand for increased wages and reduced hours was conceded."

Birmingham Daily Post 13/10/1873 - Advert

"Wanted, by experienced Workman, Situation, Turner or Fitter, to keep in repair all kinds of steam engines or machinery. Satisfactory references, if required.

J. R. G., REINDEER INN, King Street, Cradley Heath, near Dudley, Staffordshire."

County Advertiser 12/6/1875

"Frank Jones was charged with being drunk and refusing to quit a licensed house, kept by *Samuel Jones*, his brother, on the 5th inst. Mr. Saunders prosecuted, and Mr. Holberton defended.

Complainant said that he kept the REINDEER INN, and was the lessee under his brother. The defendant came to his house on the night of the 5th inst, about ten minutes to eleven o'clock, and said he had come to catch the b—. He then said that he would summon complainant before the magistrates. He ordered defendant out, but he refused to go. Complainant then put him out, but was knocked down by defendant, his wife, and another woman, and was also kicked.

Cross-examined: All the other houses in the neighbourhood were not closed. It was not twenty minutes past eleven o'clock when the defendant came to the house. Defendant was drunk.

Ann Harper, barmaid, gave evidence as to defendant refusing to quit the house.

The landlady and another witness gave evidence in support of the charge.

Defendant was sworn, and stated that on passing the complainant's house on the night in question he heard someone tell com-

plainant to fill a bottle. He pulled out his watch and found that it was over twenty minutes past eleven o'clock. On going into the house he found the landlady filling a bottle with some ale, and there were also three persons present and glasses on the table. He then left the house, but complainant followed him, and, striking him, knocked him down. A struggle then took place between them, and complainant fell against the wall.

The Bench inflicted a fine of 20s and costs.

Several summonses which had been taken out arising out of the above case were withdrawn."

County Advertiser 21/8/1875 - Advert

"For Sale, a Brown Horse, 5 years old, 15 hands 2 inches. Quiet to ride and drive. A good worker. Suitable for a van or maltster. Apply, REINDEER INN, King Street, Cradley Heath."

County Express 26/5/1877

"Edward Strong and Reuben Southall were charged with having been disorderly and refused to quit a licensed house kept by *Samuel Jones*, on the 14th inst. Strong was further charged with having at the same time and place played a certain game of chance or pretended game of chance.

Mr. Hayes, who prosecuted, said Strong had made an attempt to get his client convicted of permitting gambling, and he asked to be allowed to withdraw the charge against Southall, whom he wished to call as a witness.

Fanny *Jones*, wife of the prosecutor, who keeps the REINDEER INN, Cradley Heath, said that the defendants were at their house on the 14th during the absence of her husband, and going into the kitchen, she observed some money upon the table, and shortly afterwards saw the kitchen door closed. She then entered, and suspecting the defendants were gambling, she said it could not be allowed, and pointed to a placard which stated that gambling was prohibited. She ordered Strong to leave the house, but they refused. Strong, however, subsequently left, and returned with a policeman.

Southall, against whom the charge of refusing to quit was withdrawn, said that Strong came into the REINDEER and having called for a pint of ale, said he would play any person in the company. Witness told him repeatedly that he did not want to gamble, because it was not allowed in the house. They, however, played for a quart of ale, and Strong subsequently said that if he (witness) would accompany him to Brierley Hill and Brockmoor for the purpose of detecting gambling in licensed houses, he would remunerate him and also pay what expenses were incurred in riding.

George Clark said he informed the landlady that gambling was going on in the kitchen, and she then ordered Strong to leave.

Police-constable Cooper said that on the 14th, the defendant, Strong, who had been previously convicted of gambling, came to him and made a communication to him to the effect that he had been gambling at the REINDEER with three men, and if he would accompany him to the house he would point them out. Witness accompanied him to *Jones's* public-house and the men were pointed out by the defendant.

The charge of refusing to quit was dismissed, but for gambling defendant was fined 40s and costs, or one month's imprisonment." [We have seen several cases where 'informers' were paid by the police for a conviction; publicans were an easy target.]

County Express 29/12/1877

"The workmen employed at the New Hawne Colliery of the New British Iron Company, sat down to their annual Christmas supper at the REINDEER INN, King Street, on Monday evening last. The spread was served up in capital style by the host and hostess and was done ample justice to. After the removal of the cloth, Mr. Bangham was voted to the chair, and Mr. Barnes to the vice-chair. After the usual loyal toasts had been duly honoured, the chairman proposed the health of Mr. J. P. Hunt and family, which was enthusiastically received, and drunk with musical honours. The health of Mr. W. B. Keen was also warmly received. The rest of the evening was spent in a convivial manner, and at the usual hour the company separated highly pleased with the entertainment provided."

County Express 5/1/1878

"A meeting of the members of the Conservative Association took place last Monday evening, at the REINDEER INN, King Street, Cradley Heath. There was a small attendance, Mr. C. Lander presiding. After the minutes of the last meeting had been read, the Chairman introduced the business of the evening, which was successfully carried out. The next meeting will be held at the house of Mrs. Perks, BEEHIVE INN, when all Conservatives are respectfully invited to attend."

County Express 18/5/1878

"A meeting of the members of the Conservative Association was held at Mr. *Samuel Jones's*, REINDEER INN, King Street, Cradley Heath, on Monday evening last. There was a large attendance and Mr. C. Lander presided. After the transaction of some formal business, several gentlemen were elected to attend a Conference about to be held shortly at Dudley. Several members then spoke upon the Eastern Question, and other important political matters. The next meeting will be held at Mrs. Perks's, the BEEHIVE INN, on the 18th proximo."

County Express 19/10/1878 - Advert

"REINDEER INN, King Street, Cradley Heath.

Samuel Jones Begg to announce that his Billiard Saloon is now opened. The Saloon contains a Table made by a First-class London Firm, with Newest Appliances.

S. J. hopes by supplying Refreshments of the best quality, and strict attention to business, to obtain a large share of public patronage."

County Express 26/4/1879 - Advert

“For Sale, a Round Canvass Cricket Tent, with Pole and Ropes complete. Also a Lawn Mowing Machine, made by Ransomes and Sims, Ipswich.

Apply, *S. Jones*, REINDEER INN, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 17/5/1879 - Advert

“For Sale, cheap, a Billiard Table, 9 feet long by 4 feet 6 inches wide, with Balls, Cues, and Marking Board, complete.

Apply, *Samuel Jones*, REINDEER INN, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 24/5/1879

“Elan Carr was charged by *Samuel Jones*, landlord of the REINDEER INN, King Street, Cradley Heath, with having been drunk on his premises, and with refusing to quit when ordered. Mr. Hayes appeared for complainant. On the 12th inst, complainant on going home found defendant intoxicated. Defendant was secretary to a Woman’s Club held at the house, but was in such a condition that he was totally unfit to audit the books. Complainant ordered him to leave several times, and on his refusing to do so, ejected him. Fined 2s 6d and costs.”

County Express 4/10/1879

“*Samuel Jones*, licensed victualler, Cradley Heath, was charged with wilfully damaging a hat, the property of Joseph Woodhouse. Mr. Hayes defended.

On the day in question the complainant visited the defendant’s house and offered some nuts for sale. Defendant bought a quantity, and complainant then called for a pint of ale. After the ale was supplied to him the defendant took the complainant’s hat, value 12s, and cut it up. In cross-examination the complainant admitted that the defendant had since given him another hat but it was not large enough for him.

Mr. Hayes said the defendant acquiesced in having his hat cut up; in fact the whole affair was done in a joke.

The case was dismissed.”

Dudley Herald 31/1/1880

“*Samuel Jones*, landlord of the REINDEER INN, Cradley Heath, was charged with stealing two ladders, the property of John Theaker, on the 21st ult. Mr. Hayes defended.

Complainant stated he had two ladders locked up on his own premises, and that the defendant took them away next morning and locked them up.

Mr. Hayes said there could not be a more preposterous charge than that imputed to his client. Defendant had a right to the ladders which he was charged with stealing. The fact of the matter was that defendant had previously lent the complainant money, and upon the last sum being lent, the complainant signed a promissory note, which stated that the ladders were to be given his client as security. Defendant took the ladders according to the written agreement which had been signed by the complainant. Here Mr. Hayes produced two documents which were in complainant’s handwriting, showing that defendant had lent him money at various times. One of these explicitly stated that the ladders were to be held by the defendant as security for the last sum lent.

The Bench were unanimously of opinion that there was no felonious intent whatever, and dismissed the case.”

County Express 13/3/1880 - Advert

“Full-Size Billiard Table for Sale, as good as new, with Balls, Cues, Rests, Marking Board, Mats, and Gas Fittings, complete; also, Small Billiard Table, 8 feet 6 inches long by 4 feet 6 inches wide.

Apply to *S. Jones*, REINDEER INN, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 12/6/1880 - Advert

“Rare Opportunity.

To Let, Capital Old-Licensed Public House, the REINDEER INN, King Street, Cradley Heath. In-coming low. Immediate possession may be had.

Apply, T. Pateshall, Auctioneer, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 26/6/1880 - Advert

“Notice. It may be of advantage to anyone desirous of Purchasing the Business of the REINDEER INN, of King Street, Cradley Heath, to consult Mr. F. Jones, Raglan Road, Cape, near Birmingham, owner of the above premises.”

County Advertiser 7/8/1880 - Advert

“Clearing-Out Sale at REINDEER INN, King Street, Cradley Heath.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. T. Pateshall, on the Premises as above, on Monday August 9th, 1880, a quantity of Household Furniture &c, comprising three Sets Iron Bedsteads, Mahogany Eight-day Clock, Mahogany Centre Table, Oak Corner Cupboard, large Painted Screen, excellent small Billiard Table, 8ft 6in by 4ft 6in, with Cues, Balls, &c, complete; four-pull Beer Machine, Capital four-wheel Phaeton, with Lamps and Cushions; Wringing Machine, Malt Crusher, lot of Chainmaker’s Anvils and Tools, Lawn Mower, and other Effects belonging to Mr. *S. Jones*, who is leaving the Premises.

Sale at Twelve o’clock at noon.

County Advertiser 28/8/1880 - Advert

“The REINDEER INN, Cradley Heath.

Harrison and Humphries have the above old established House to Let, with immediate possession, where for many years an important and lucrative trade has been carried on. The incoming, including Goodwill, Lease, Licenses, Fixtures, and Possession, about £350. This is well worthy the attention of small capitalists seeking a genuine and paying concern.”

A full alehouse license was granted in 1880.

County Express 12/3/1881 - Advert

To Let, Capital Old-Licensed Public House, REINDEER INN, Cradley Heath. In-coming low. Immediate possession may be had. Apply, T. Pateshall, Auctioneer, Cradley Heath.”

1881 Census

27, King Street – REINDEER INN

[1] *Samuel Jones* (38), licensed victualler, born Cradley;

[2] *Fanny Jones* (36), wife, born Cradley;

[3] *William Jones* (10), son, scholar, born Cradley;

[4] *Ann Whitefield* (17), general servant:

County Advertiser 23/7/1881 - Advert

“Cradley Heath, at the REINDEER INN, King Street.

By Order of Mr. *S. Jones*, who had disposed of his Business.

Important and Unreserved Clear-Out Sale, at Short Notice.

Mr. Herbert Humphries has received instructions to Sell by Auction, upon the Premises as above, on Tuesday, July 26th, 1881, the undermentioned Effects which are not required by the ingoing tenant, comprising.

Mahogany Dining Table, 12 Smoke Room Chairs, Sofa, Fenders and Fire Irons, Gas Fittings, capital Bagatelle Table, slate bed, balls and cues; First-class Slate Bed Billiard Table, full size, by Cooper and Hault, of London, complete with 31 Balls, Cues, Cue Rests, Gas Chandelier, Gas Shades, Matting, &c, in massive mahogany frame; 30 boxes of choice Cigars, 4 cases of Champagne, useful cream coloured Cob, 15 hands, quiet to ride and drive; Spring Trap, set of silver-mounted Harness, splendid and very large outside Lamp and Fittings, nearly new; Three large Drinking Tables, Stage and Scenery, with Footlights, &c, complete; a variety of other useful Household Effects, the whole to be Sold without the slightest reserve.

Sale to commence at Twelve o'clock.

Auctioneer's Offices: Standhills, Brierley Hill.”

Evening Express 27/8/1881

“A petition in liquidation was on Friday filed in the Dudley County Court on behalf of *Samuel Jones*, formerly of the FISH HOTEL, Cradley, Worcestershire, licensed victualler, but now a commission agent, in lodgings at King Street. The liabilities are estimated at £450; assets unknown. Mr. W. O. C. Addison is the debtor's solicitor.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Post 7/9/1881

“Liquidations by Arrangement.

Samuel Jones, formerly of the FISH HOTEL, Cradley, Worcestershire, licensed victualler, prior thereto of the REINDEER INN, King Street, Cradley Heath, in Rowley Regis, licensed victualler and furniture broker, now of King Street, Cradley Heath aforesaid, commission agent.”

Dudley and District News 10/12/1881

“Rosannah Wiggins (35), Spring Meadow, Old Hill, was charged with stealing half a crown, the money of *Thomas Malin*, landlord of the REINDEER INN.

On the night of the 30th ult prisoner was in the bar at prosecutor's house, and, after she left, half a crown, which Mrs. *Malin* had put in the bar till, was missed. Prisoner was suspected, and on being confronted with a police-officer she admitted the theft, and produced the stolen coin. She had been ordered out of the bar once, but had returned.

Having been twice previously convicted for felony, the Bench committed her to hard labour for two months.”

Evening Star 14/2/1882

“At the Dudley County Court this morning, before Sir Rupert Kettle, judge, Mr. Homer, of Cradley Heath, stated that he wished to make an application in bankruptcy in re *Samuel Jones*, late licensed victualler of Cradley Heath. Mr. Stokes, of Dudley, applied for an adjournment, on the ground that some of the affidavits in the case were not filed until Saturday night, and his client had had no opportunity of examining them.

Mr. Homer asked, before this adjournment was granted, that he might be allowed to make a short statement. He said this was an application in the proceedings of a person named *Samuel Jones*, publican, of Cradley Heath, who filed his petition on the 23rd August last year. In the ordinary way the petition was filed by Mr. Addison, of Brierley Hill, on behalf the defendant, and upon the motion of one of the creditors, a Mr. Humphries, auctioneer, of Brierley Hill, was appointed receiver of the estate. At the first meeting of creditors, held in due course, it was resolved to accept a composition of 2s in the pound. At that meeting a statement of accounts was prepared, signed by the debtor, and presented to the creditors. The first item therein was two houses, valued by

the debtor at £330, which were mortgaged to a person at Liverpool for £200. Also an item of £40 for debts, which the creditor said were due to him, and a few pounds the value of some household furniture. The debtors on these grounds agreed to accept a composition of 2s in the £. But it was not so much what was put in the statement, but what was suppressed, that was complained of. It had appeared that the debtor was a man of property and value, not only capable of paying 20s in the £, but 40s if necessary. On the 26th July the debtor, doubtless with a view of defrauding his creditors, entered into an arrangement with his brother, *Frank Jones*, for him to purchase the goodwill and stock of his public house, the REINDEER. Mr. Humphries, who was formerly travelling for a brewery, made a valuation himself, and it was agreed that the debtor should be paid by his brother for the goodwill and the effects at the REINDEER, on Mr. Humphries' valuation, the sum of £108 4s 4d which was to be paid in these bills. These bills were drawn by Humphries, signed by *Samuel Jones*, accepted by *Frank Jones*, and handed over to Humphries, who in his turn handed over the bills to *Samuel Jones*. This was done on the 26th July, the petition being filed in August following. At the meeting of creditors these bills were produced previous to the meeting by the debtor to his brother, *Frank Jones*, in the presence of Humphries, the receiver, and his charge was that it was arranged not to produce those bills at the meeting, or to say one word about them, for if they were it would do the debtor very serious injury, and there would be a great noise amongst the creditors. His Honour said he did not think he ought to hear any more.

Mr. Homer said there was a great deal more to be said. He only wished the Court would take his statement for what it was worth. He had investigated the statements, and he was convinced it was the most heinous case with which he was ever connected.

Mr. Stokes thought it very unfair that statement should have been made that morning, reflecting on the character of a respectable auctioneer without his having any notice of them. His name was brought in on a charge of fraud in his absence, and without any notice having been served upon him.

His Honour said he had stopped the charge of fraud from being made. He consented to the case being adjourned till nine o'clock on the morning of Tuesday, the 28th inst, when there would be a clear day for hearing it."

Dudley and District News 3/11/1883

"Samuel Stokes, chainmaker, of Cradley Heath, was charged with being drunk and disorderly.

PS Shaw stated that the defendant, who had been ejected from the REINDEER INN, King Street, Cradley Heath, was drunk and creating a disturbance in the streets.

A fine of 2s 6d and costs was imposed."

Birmingham Daily Post 17/1/1885 - Advert

"Billiard Table for Sale, with appointments, by Thurston and Co.

Apply, REINDEER, King Street, Cradley Heath."

1891 Census

27, King Street – REIN DEER INN

[1] *Edward Phelps* (46), licensed victualler, born Chalford, Gloucestershire;

[2] *Martha Phelps* (45), wife, born Edgton, Shropshire;

[3] *Jane Phelps* (19), daughter, sewing machinist, born Birmingham;

[4] *Mary Ellen Phelps* (17), daughter, born Birmingham;

[5] *Alfred Phelps* (10), son, scholar, born Birmingham:

County Advertiser 28/7/1894

"The members of the Court Pride of the Heath, No.6643, AOF, held their annual business meeting this week, and celebrated the occasion by a supper at the REINDEER INN, King Street. A goodly number of members sat down to the supper, which the host, Mr. *Yarnall*, served up in excellent style. At the business meeting held afterwards, Bro. B. Fowkes, CR, took the chair and Bro. T. Fowkes occupied the vice-chair. The balance sheet, which showed a saving of over £20 this year, was then read and passed. Dr. W. Thompson gave 'Success to Court Pride of the Heath' and referred incidentally to the number of young members connected with it. Bro. J. H. King proposed the health of the doctor. Bro. B. Fowkes gave 'Success to the Foresters' New Convalescent Home' and the health of Bro. J. Thomas with a hope that he might be long spared to superintend the Home, and these were enthusiastically drunk. The remainder of the evening was enjoyably spent in conviviality and music; songs being given by Bros. James Cole, J. W. Harbach, H. Harris, and recitations by Bro. W. Gower. The health of Mrs. *Yarnall*, the hostess, brought a pleasant evening to a close."

County Advertiser 1/1/1898

"Christmas in the District Cradley Heath.....

Mrs. *Lane*, of the REINDEER INN, invited some forty gentleman to dinner on Wednesday, and served a capital repast, which was much enjoyed. Mr. Jas. Smith was voted to the chair, and Mr. L. Morgan to the vice-chair.

Mr. H. Humphries proposed 'The Queen,' which was drunk with musical honours.

A vote of thanks was passed to the hostess for her kindness and also for the admirable manner in which the dinner was served.

The remainder of the evening was given up to recreation. Songs and recitations were rendered by Messrs. M. Tromans, E. Stringer, J. Stringer, W. Tromans, J. Raybould, G. Clarke, F. Tipton, G. Jones, Silas Price. The great treat of the evening was the performance on the English concertina by Mr. T. Edwards, of Birmingham, of selections from the operas 'Il Trovatore,' 'Maritana,' and 'The Bohemian Girl.' The evening passed very enjoyably."

E. Lane issued tokens from here.

County Advertiser 3/6/1899

“On Saturday last the members of Court Pride of the Heath, No.6653 of the Ancient Order of Foresters held at the REINDEER INN, King Street, presented Bro. Jno. H. King an emblem of the Order as a token of esteem upon his reigning the office of secretary, in which he had done good service to the lodge during his tenure of office.”

County Express 14/7/1900

“An inquest was held on Saturday by Mr. A. H. Pearson (coroner), at the REINDEER INN, King Street, on Mary Ann Weaver (14), of Tibbetts Gardens, who had died from injuries received through being run over in the High Street. Elizabeth Ann Weaver, the mother, stated that on the 4th inst she sent deceased to get some fish for supper, and afterwards she was brought home in an unconscious state, and died the next morning. Ada Lane stated that when walking down High Street she saw deceased crossing the street, when a horse and trap was being driven up the road. She heard the driver (Mr. Charles Davies) shout out, and at the same time deceased was knocked down, the wheel of the vehicle passing over her head. Police-sergeant Picher said he also witnessed the accident. Mr. Davies was driving at a modest pace, and was quite sober. Charles Davies, landlord of the WAGON AND HORSES, Reddal Hill, said when driving through the High Street he saw the deceased about fifteen yards in front of him. Deceased afterwards became confused, and, the woman shouting her, she stopped right in front of the horse. She was knocked down by the horse, and a wheel passed over her head. He assisted in removing the unfortunate girl to her home. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, being of the opinion that Mr. Davies was in no way to blame.”

County Advertiser 21/7/1900

“On Monday last the members of Court Pride of the Heath, No.6653, AOF, Dudley and Cradley Heath District, held their annual dinner at the REINDEER INN, King Street. The hostess, Mrs. Lane, provided an excellent dinner. Bro. B. Fowkes was chairman, and in felicitous terms proposed the health of Dr. Sturgis White, surgeon to the Court, which was duly acknowledged by the doctor. The Chairman next gave the ‘Pride of the Heath,’ and ‘The Hostess.’ The remainder of the evening was spent convivially, songs being given by Bros. James Cloe, Joseph Woodhouse, J. Silvers, and Richard Dodd. Mr. F. Webb sent a letter of apology. The singing of the National Anthem brought a very enjoyable evening to a close.”

1901 Census

King Street – REINDEER INN

- [1] *Esther Lane* (39), widow, publican, born Cradley;
- [2] James W. Lane (17), son, anchor maker, iron worker, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Albert Lane (15), son, carpenter, apprenticed to joiner, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Alice B. Lane (13), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] George A. Lane (12), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Sydney Lane (10), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Gertie Lawrence (22), domestic servant, born Quarry Bank:

County Advertiser 1/6/1901

“A football match, humourously called ‘Bulls v Deers’ was the prelude on Wednesday, to a dinner, at the headquarters of the winners, the REINDEER INN. Mrs. Lane, the hostess, put an excellent dinner upon the tables for the hundred players and friends who sat down. The remainder of the evening was spent convivially.....”

County Advertiser 17/10/1903

“Air-Gun Shooting. Rowley Regis and District League.
REINDEER INN, Cradley Heath v QUEENS HEAD, Old Hill. Shot at Cradley Heath.....”
[QUEENS HEAD won 253 to 250.]

County Advertiser 30/1/1904

“Air-Gun Shooting. Friendly. REINDEER, Cradley Heath, 309. BLUE BALL, Old Hill, 281.”

County Advertiser 30/7/1904

“Last year, for the first time, the friendly societies of Cradley Heath united in an effort to raise funds for the Dudley and Birmingham hospitals, and a well-attended service was held in St, Luke’s Church. So satisfactory were the results of the movement that the societies were stimulated to repeat the effort this year, and on this occasion the service was held in a large field at the bottom of King Street, kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. Joseph Foley.....
Last Sunday was the appointed day, and, as every one knows, was gloriously fine, making the parade a rather arduous matter to those engaged in it, but a very attractive one from the view of the spectators. Three bands had been secured to take part in the proceedings – the Cradley Heath Town Prize Band, the Cradley Heath Salvation Army Band, and the Quarry Bank (Primitive Methodist) Brass Band. The first named left the REINDEER INN, King Street, the second started from the VICTORIA INN, Dudley Wood, and the third marched from the NEW INNS, Quarry Bank, shortly after one o’clock, and went by separate routes to the field in King Street. There a grand procession was formed, and took the road again When set going this procession extended for fully half a mile.....

A collection at the stalls in the market on Saturday evening realised £5 8s 7d. Sunday's collection en route realised £3 19s 3½d, and that on the field £5 3s 11d, and the chairman and Mr. A. Shaw gave donations of 10s each. These items amount to £15 11s 9½d, and as there are boxes and donations yet to be brought in, the committee hope that the result will equal or surpass that of last year."

County Advertiser 16/6/1906

"Friendly Societies' Parade Committee. A meeting was held on Wednesday evening at the RED LION INN, when Mr. Parrish presided over a full attendance of delegates. It was decided that a deputation wait upon the Rev. A. E. J. Cosson and arrange with him as to the order of service to be held in Christ Church in connection with the parade. The committee unanimously decided to invite the Rev. E. A. Cooke, the Rev. F. R. Brunskill, and the Rev. J. Walker, together with the local Councillors and the local fire brigade to take part in the service. The next meeting will be held at the REINDEER INN."

County Advertiser 30/6/1906

"The Friendly Societies' Parade Committee met on Wednesday evening at the REINDEER INN. Mr Parish presided over a full attendance of delegates. The Rev. F. R. Brunskill and J. W. Walker replied accepting the invitation of the committee to take part in the proceedings. The Rev. E. A. Cooke, who was away in America, was expected back next week, and would then write the committee. Several of the delegates of sick and draw clubs were present. A committee was appointed to wait on a number of local gentlemen to solicit their patronage. The next meeting will be held at the CROWN INN, Five Ways."

County Advertiser 11/5/1907

"On Monday evening last Mr. E. O. Nightingale sold by auction, at the REINDEER INN, Cradley Heath, the butcher's shop and premises, No.163 High Street, Cradley Heath. The bidding started at £800, and the property was eventually knocked down at £1,400 to Mr. Hickman. There was a very large and influential company of buyers present, and the price realised gave great satisfaction. Mr. Geo. Green, solicitor, of Cradley Heath, acted for the vendor."

County Express 2/10/1909

"On Monday a meeting of the cricket club was held at the REINDEER INN to consider the question of the deficit of £15 in the club's finances....."

County Express 19/3/1910 - Advert

"Surfeit Hill, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath. Sale of Highly Valuable Freehold Property.

E. O. Nightingale has received instructions from Mr. S. Stringer to Sell by Auction at the House of Mrs. Lane, the REINDEER INN, King Street, Cradley Heath, on Monday, the 21st Day of March, 1910, at 7 o'clock in the Evening....."

County Express 7/5/1910

"A quiet but pretty marriage was solemnised at St. Luke's Church, Cradley Heath, on Wednesday morning, when the Rev. R. E. Walker (vicar) joined together in wedlock Mr. George Garratt, of Cradley Heath, and Miss Alice Beatrice Lane, only daughter of Mrs. Lane, the REINDEER, Cradley Heath. The bridegroom is a well-known professional footballer. Commencing with Cradley Heath St. Luke's, he successively migrated to Brierley Hill Alliance, Crewe Alexandra, Aston Villa, Plymouth Argyle, West Bromwich Albion, and Crystal Palace. The bride's brother, Albert Lane is a well-known cricket professional, and figures with the Selkirk Club, Scotland.

A large number of friends were present in the church. The bride was prettily gowned in an embroidered white robe trimmed with orange blossoms, and her hat was to match. She was attended by two bridesmaids, Miss Adelaide Lottie Chatham of Smethwick (cousin) and Miss Winnie Moody of Stourbridge (cousin). Miss Chatham wore a dress of old rose silk with hat to match, and the younger bridesmaid was attired in cream silk. Both wore gold brooches set with pearls, the gifts of the bridegroom. Mr. James Lane gave his sister away, and Mr. Sydney Lane was best man. Mr. A. B. Hayes was at the organ, and played Mendelssohn's Wedding March.

A large number of presents were received. Later in the day the bride and bridegroom left for Blackpool, where they are spending their honeymoon."

County Express 17/9/1910

"On Wednesday evening there were offered for sale by auction, at the REINDEER INN, Cradley Heath, two houses situate in Beehive Street. The bidding started at £100, and after good competition the property was sold for £200. Mr. George Williams was the solicitor acting for the vendors; auctioneer, Mr. E. O. Nightingale."

A soup kitchen was organised from here during the Chainmakers' Strike of 1910.

1911 Census

King Street – REINDEER INN

- [1] *Esther Lane* (49), widow, license holder, born Cradley;
- [2] *Alice Garratt* (23), daughter, married, born Cradley Heath;
- [3] *Albert Frederick Lane* (25), son, carpenter, born Cradley Heath;
- [4] *Sydney Lane* (20), son, clerk, goods, born Cradley Heath;
- [5] *Emily Darby* (16), general servant, born Quarry Bank;

Mrs. *Esther Lane* was also a brewer. [1916], [1921]

Frank M. Tibbetts was treasurer of Cradley Heath and District Licensed Victuallers' Association. [1935]
He was also a brewer. [1940]

1939 Register

39, King Street

[1] *Frank M. Tibbetts*, date of birth 15/5/1885, licensed victualler, married;

[2] Myra Tibbetts, dob 6/9/1885, domestic duties and bus help, married;

[3] Thomas W. Tibbetts, dob 9/1/1909, foodstuffs, chemists shop, single:

Birmingham Mail 7/12/1940 - Advert

“Bar-General wanted or one to learn live in good wages.
Tibbetts, REINDEER INN, King Street, Cradley Heath.”

Ted Darby was married to Blanche.

Renee Rogers (nee *Darby*) was the daughter of *Ted* and Blanche *Darby*.
She married Ted Rogers.

Its name was changed to the ROOST. [2008]

[2019]

RIDDINS TAVERN

33, Mossvale Close, (21, Riddins Street), (1, Riddings Street), (New Street), OLD HILL

OWNERS

Benjamin Priest [1894]

North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd.

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1909)

LICENSEES

Benjamin Priest [1868] – [1873]

Thomas Priest [1881] – [1894]

John E French [1899] – [1901]

James Henry Stafford [1905] – **1930**);

Jesse Johnson (**1930 – 1932**);

Joseph Thomas Burrows (**1932 – 1938**);

James Henry Bull (**1938 – 1939**);

Handel Holloway (**1939 – 1955**);

Leslie Rock (**1955** – [1965]

Elaine Gordon [2014]

NOTES

It had an ante '69 beerhouse license.

Benjamin Priest = Benjamin Preece

Stourbridge Observer 9/5/1868

“James Batty was charged by Charles Harris with assaulting him on the 27th ult.

Complainant said he lived at Old Hill, and was a horse-nail maker. On the above date he went to *Priest's* public house, and was talking to his brother, when his hat was taken off his head. He afterwards saw defendant ripping his hat all to pieces. Defendant then rubbed his fists in his face, and threatened him. John Priest proved that he saw the defendant take complainant's hat off his

head, and pull it to pieces. Fined 6d and costs.”

AND

County Express 9/5/1868

“James Batty was charged with having assaulted Charles Harris, on the 27th of April.

Plaintiff said he was a nail-maker, residing at Old Hill. He went, on the 27th ult, to *Preece's* public house, New Street.....”

Stourbridge Observer 26/11/1870

“At the Police Court, on Wednesday, before Messrs. F. W. G. Barrs and N. Hingley, Noah Allport was charged with assaulting Elizabeth Allport on the 28th inst.

Complainant said she went after her husband at *Priest's* public house. He beat her there. She went home, and he followed her there. He said he would cut her heart out with a knife he had in his hand.

Defendant said he gave his wife the money, and she went to her mother's, and spent it. He did hit her once or twice.

Defendant was ordered to find one surety of £10 to keep the peace for six months.”

County Advertiser 21/1/1871 - Advert

“Wanted, a good, strong General Servant. One from the country preferred.

Apply to Mrs. *B. Priest*, RIDDINGS TAVERN, Old Hill, near Dudley.”

1871 Census

Riddings Street – RIDDING TAVERN

- [1] *Benjamin Priest* (33), beerhouse keeper, born Worcestershire;
- [2] Sarah Ann Priest (34), wife, born Worcestershire;
- [3] Thomas Priest (13), son, saddler's apprentice, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] John Priest (10), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Sarah Ann Priest (6), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Benjamin Priest (5), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Harry Priest (4), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] Leah Priest (1), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [9] John D. Dalow (69), father-in-law, widower, born Rowley Regis;
- [10] Elizabeth Thomas (20), visitor, nail maker, born Rowley Regis;
- [11] Elizabeth Evans (12), nurse, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 8/4/1871 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant. Character required.

Apply, Mrs. *Priest*, RIDDINGS TAVERN, Old Hill.”

County Advertiser 31/5/1873 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant Girl, for a Public House, with a good character.

Apply, Mrs. *B. Priest*, RIDDINGS TAVERN, Old Hill.”

1881 Census

1, Riddings Street

- [1] *Thomas Priest* (46), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Elizabeth Priest (47), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] Joseph Milward (27), step-son, nail maker, born Dudley;
- [4] Hannah M. Priest (22), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Leah Priest (20), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] David Priest (16), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Thomas Priest (9), son, born Rowley Regis:

Dudley and District News 2/2/1884

“Eli Priest, an ironworker, of Halesowen Road, Old Hill, was fined 2s 6d and costs for being disorderly and refusing to quit the licensed premises of *Thomas Priest*, known as RIDDINGS TAVERN, Riddings Street, Old Hill, on the 22nd January. The case was proved by the landlord.”

County Express 25/12/1886

“On Saturday evening when a boy named David Neale (13) was walking by the RIDDING INN, New Street, Old Hill, he slipped on some ice and fell, broke his thigh, and sustained other injuries.”

County Advertiser 8/10/1887

“Yesterday Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the SPORTSMAN INN, Old Hill, respecting the death of John Crump (23), rivet maker, of Long Lane, whose body was found in the Birmingham Canal, on the 5th inst, near to the railway station.

William Crump stated that he last saw the deceased alive on Monday evening, at the RIDDINGS INN, when he promised to assist witness in making some rivets on the following morning and afterwards left to go home. He did not hear anything further of

deceased until the following day, when the canal was dragged and his body was found in the canal between Wrights Bridge and Gorsty Hill tunnel.

Evidence was given by Thomas Brooke and John Bennett that deceased had threatened to make away with himself. He had had some beer, but was not drunk. It was stated there was insanity in the family.

The Jury returned an open verdict of Found Drowned, there being no evidence to show how the deceased got into the water. They also recommended the Coroner to write to the Birmingham Canal Company informing them of the dangerous state of the canal at Gorsty Hill tunnel.”

County Express 9/5/1891

“On Tuesday, Mr. Edwin Hooper (District Coroner) held an inquest at the RIDDING INN, New Street, touching the death of John Thomas Fletcher, aged one year and seven months, who was killed through being knocked down by a horse and cart belonging to Mr. Yates, ginger beer manufacturer.

It was stated that the child suddenly ran before the horse and cart, and before the driver could pull up he was run over and killed.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

Mr. Cooksey, who represented the owner of the horse and cart, stated that his client would pay the funeral expenses.

Whilst the inquiry was taking place a boy named Chatham was knocked down in the street by a horse and cart and injured.”

Birmingham Daily Post 30/6/1891

“Yesterday afternoon Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the RIDDINGS TAVERN, Riddings Street, Old Hill, respecting the death of Ernest Darby (11), whose parents reside in New Street, Old Hill, and who was killed on Friday by falling down a pit-shaft belonging to Messrs. Astley and Lawton, colliery proprietors. Mr. W. B. Scott, Government inspector of mines, was present at the enquiry.

Andrew Pearson, a boy, said on Friday evening, between seven and eight o'clock, deceased, witness, and three other boys were playing near a pit-shaft belonging to the Ridding Colliery at 'follow the leader.' One of the deceased's playmates ran over the mouth of the shaft, which was covered with timber, and deceased followed him. As soon as deceased jumped on the boards they gave way, and he fell through and down the shaft. The other three boys who were following witness and the deceased at some distance also narrowly escaped, but they fortunately stopped before reaching the treacherous scaffolding.

Inspector Bishop described the steps taken to recover the body from the shaft, which was 280 yards deep.

James Henry Astley, one of the owners of the colliery, deposed that the pit had been standing for for six years. When it was closed it was fenced round well, and spikes were placed on the top of the fence. He had instructed a man to look after the covering of the shaft, and acting on the report presented to him he had given instructions for a new fence to be provided, but it had not yet been erected. He had complained to the police repeatedly about the damage done to the property by trespassers. In the course of further evidence it was elicited that the covering had not been tested, and Mr. Astley, on behalf of the owners, promised that the shaft should be bricked over and made safe.

Mr. Scott asked Mr. Astley if he could not consent to fill the shaft up, but the latter could not do so, as it would probably be started again.

The Coroner, in summing up, remarked that there was no doubt the deceased was on trespass, but at the same time it was a melancholy occurrence.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

The Coroner and the jury complimented the police, the mining engineers, and the two miners, Thomas Priest and Samuel Mason, upon the prompt recovery of the body of the deceased.”

County Advertiser 28/7/1894 - Advert

“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 hereinafter mentioned is situate, and to all whom it may concern.

I, *Thomas Priest*, Beerhouse Keeper, now residing at the RIDDINS TAVERN, Old Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, Do Hereby Give Notice, that it is my intention to Apply at the General Annual Licensing Meeting for the Division of Rowley Regis to be holden at the Public Office at Old Hill, in the said County, on Wednesday, the 22nd day of August, 1894, for the grant of a License or Certificate authorising me to Apply for and Hold an Excise License for the Sale, by retail, at a House and Premises known as the RIDDINS TAVERN, and situate at Old Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, aforesaid, of all Intoxicating Liquors, to be Consumed either on or off the Premises, in pursuance of the Intoxicating Liquor Licensing Act, 1828, and Acts amending the same, of which said Premises one Benjamin Priest is the owner, and the same are of the annual value and are otherwise qualified as required by law, and are now in my own occupation.

Given under my hand this 27th day of July, 1894.

Thomas Priest.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/8/1894

“The annual licensing sessions for Old Hill were held yesterday.....

Mr. W. Waldron made an application on behalf of *Thomas Priest*, landlord of the RIDDINGS TAVERN, Old Hill, for a full liquor license. Mr. Norris Foster opposed the application on behalf of four of the licensed victuallers in the immediate neighbourhood.

The magistrates refused the request.”

T. Priest issued tokens from here.

County Advertiser 30/9/1899 - Advert

“To Let, Stabling for Four Horses, Store Room, and Cart Shed, situate Compton Road, Cradley Heath.
Apply, *E. French*, RIDDING TAVERN, Old Hill.”

1901 Census

21, Riddins Street – RIDDINS TAVERN

- [1] *John E. French* (35), publican, born Quarry Bank;
- [2] *Martha A. French* (32), wife, born Bromley;
- [3] *William French* (13), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *John French* (11), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Lorry French* (9), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Bert French* (6), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *Sydney French* (1), son, born Rowley Regis;

County Advertiser 3/8/1901 - Advert

“For Sale, One Splendid Turn-Out Chestnut Mare (5 years old). New Dog Trap and Harness.
Apply, *E. French*, RIDDINGS TAVERN, Old Hill.”

County Advertiser 4/3/1905 - Advert

“Advertisement Of Cancelling.

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies has, pursuant to S77 of the Friendly Societies Act, 1896, by Writing under his hand, dated the 1st day of March, 1905, Cancelled the Registry of the RIDDINGS TAVERN Mutual Loan and Investment Society, Register No.2320, held at the RIDDINGS TAVERN, Riddings Street, Old Hill, Dudley, in the County of Stafford, at its Request.

The Society (subject to the Right of Appeal given by the said Act) ceases to enjoy the privileges of a Registered Society, but without prejudice to any liability incurred by the Society, which may be enforced against it as if such Cancelling had not taken place.
J. D. Stuart Sim, Chief Registrar.”

County Advertiser 1/4/1905 - Advert

“To Let, a Lock-up Shop, suitable for Grocer or Butcher, in Old Hill.
Apply, *J. H. Stafford*, RIDDING TAVERN, Old Hill.”

County Advertiser 9/2/1907

“The annual licensing session for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday at the Police Court.
Permission was given for proposed alterations to be carried out at the RIDDINGS TAVERN, Old Hill, kept by *James Henry Stafford*. It was stated that the object was to increase the living accommodation, and also to enable the licensee to exercise better supervision over the house.”

1911 Census

21, Riddins Street

- [1] *James Henry Stafford* (47), publican, born Old Hill;
- [2] *Eliza Stafford* (48), wife, married 24 years, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Lily May Stafford* (18), daughter, house worker, born Blackheath;
- [4] *James Leonard Stafford* (12), son, scholar, born Blackheath;
- [5] *Nelly Ellen Sidaway* (16), domestic servant, born Chester:

James E. [sic] Stafford, beer retailer, 21, Riddins Street. [1924]

1939 Register

21, Riddins Street – Public House

- [1] *Handel Holloway*, date of birth 2/4/1908, bolt forger, hw, married;
- [2] *Lily Holloway*, dob 9/11/1909, bar attendant and household duties, married;

A publican’s license was granted on 2nd February 1949.

It was transferred into a full license on 27th April 1949.

Dudley News 18/11/2011

“An irate man who promised to wreck a Cradley Heath pub unless he was given the £60 he claimed his brother-in-law was owed for a decorating job has been jailed for 8 months.

Ryan Amphlett who was armed with a baseball bat when he walked into the RIDDENS TAVERN was angry because his relative was ‘hungry and on his uppers.’ And after forcing the barman to hand over the cash the first thing *Amphlett* did was take his brother-in-law to a fish and chip shop for a much needed meal, said *Mr. Bernard Porter* prosecuting. ‘The demand he made was perhaps warranted but the method he used was entirely wrong,’ said *Mr. Porter*. ‘He simply wanted to get the money he felt his brother-in-law was owed.’

Mr. Porter told Wolverhampton Crown Court that Amphlett first armed himself with the bat because the pub landlord had a 'certain reputation' and he was concerned for his own well being. 'He chose a completely inappropriate manner to get the money back but the first thing he did was buy fish and chips because his brother-in-law had not eaten for some time.'

Amphlett of Norton Crescent admitted blackmail and possessing an offensive weapon and he was told by Judge Michael Dudley, 'It beggars belief that you got yourself involved in this debt collecting activity.'

Mrs. Sati Ruck prosecuting said 28 year old Amphlett knocked on the pub door after and when the barman answered he saw he was carrying the baseball bat. He asked if the landlord was present and after being told he was out he demanded the barman hand over the £60 – the balance on a £100 job for which £40 had already been paid.

Mrs. Ruck said Amphlett said he would smash up the pub unless his demands were met and after being given the money he used the bat to shatter a number of bottles and glasses.

After his arrest he told police officers his brother-in-law needed the money for food and he decided to go to the pub because he 'felt sorry for him.'

The Judge described it as a 'very curious case' and said it was more akin to robbery than blackmail."

Elaine Gordon was filmed working here in 2014, by the Department of Work and Pensions, when she was claiming disability benefits. She was given a suspended prison sentence in February 2016.

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.....

RIDDINS TAVERN, Mossvale Close, Cradley Heath."

[2020]

Express & Star 28/12/2023

"A bid to convert and extend a Cradley Heath pub into flats has been given the thumbs up.

The application to turn the RIDDINS TAVERN on Mossvale Close into five apartments has been approved by Sandwell Council. There will be a two-storey rear extension added to the pub and a detached rear annexe will be built, to house one self-contained flat. Plans state the development will feature two one-bedroom and three two-bedroom flats as well as one three-bedroom flat. The bid, from Birmingham-based Richmond Hill Breweries, was approved on Friday December 22....."

RING OF BELLS

Rowley Village, ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Edward Bridgewater [1818]

Matthew Stainton [1834] – **1843**;

Mrs. Honor Stainton (**1843** – [1851])

H D Gunter [1852]

George Hadley [1854] – [1862]

George Haines [1864] – [1865]

William Foster [1865] – [1868]

Mary Nancy Alice Haines (**1868** – [1869])

William Foster [1870]

NOTES

It was originally the TEN BELLS.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/3/1834 - Married

“On the 13th inst, at Rowley Regis, Mr. *Matthew Stainton*, of the TEN BELLS INN, in that parish, to Miss Mason, of the same place.”

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

21st September 1834 - Phebe, daughter of *Matthew* and *Honor Stainton*, victualler, Town.

January 1836 - Caroline, daughter of *Matthew* and *Honor Stainton*, victualler, Town.

22nd October 1837 - Elizabeth, daughter of *Matthew* and *Honor Stainton*, victualler, Town.

25th October 1840 - Sarah, daughter of *Matthew* and *Honor Stainton*, victualler, Village.

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 19/10/1835 - Advert

“Southern Division Of The County Of Stafford.

We, John Lewis Mortimer, of the Middle Temple, Esquire, and Charles Cooper, of the Inner Temple, Esquire, Barristers appointed to Revise the Lists of Voters in the election of Knights of the Shire for the Southern Division of the County of Stafford, hereby give notice, that We Adjourn the place which by our notice dated Lichfield, September 28, 1835, was appointed by us for the Revision of the List of Voters for the Parish of Rowley Regis, and all places (if any) within the same parish, from the CROSS INN, at Townsend, Kingswinford, to the TEN BELLS Public House, in the village of Rowley Regis. And we shall accordingly hold a Court for that purpose at the TEN BELLS INN, at the village of Rowley Regis aforesaid, Tomorrow (Tuesday) the 20th day of October instant, at half-past nine o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose above-mentioned.

John Lewis Mortimer, Charles Cooper. West Bromwich, October 19, 1835.

Memorandum. The Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish of Rowley Regis are requested to bring with them to the Court above appointed, all Claims of Voters, and all Notices of Objection to Voters which they have received.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 23/5/1836 - Advert

“Freehold Property at Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Jesse Wright, on Thursday the 2nd day of June, 1836, at five o'clock in the afternoon, at the house of *Matthew Stainton*, the RING OF BELLS, in Rowley Regis, under such conditions as will be then produced.....”

Aris' Birmingham Gazette 13/5/1839 - Advert

“Desirable Newly Erected Freehold Messuages and Premises, at Black Heath and Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Newbold, on Wednesday next the 15th day of May, at the house of Mr. *Matthew Stainton*, the RING OF BELLS INN, Rowley Regis, precisely at six o'clock in the evening, and subject to such conditions as will be submitted at the time of sale.....”

1841 Census

Village

[1] *Matthew Stainton* (40), publican;

[2] *Honor Stainton* (35), born Staffordshire;

[3] Joseph Stainton (15), born Staffordshire;

[4] Samuel Stainton (10), born Staffordshire;

[5] Phoebe Stainton (6), born Staffordshire;

[6] Caroline Stainton (5), born Staffordshire;

[7] Elizabeth Stainton (4), born Staffordshire;

[8] Sarah Stainton (1), born Staffordshire:

Matthew Stainton died in 1843, aged 43.

Northern Star and Leeds General Advertiser 18/11/1843

“Progress of the Miners Association in South Staffordshire.....

On the 11th, two meetings were held, one at the BRICKLAYERS ARMS, Great Bridge, and the other at the RING OF BELLS, Rowley, with good success. At a meeting of miners held at the SAMPSON AND LION, Bilston, fourteen members were enrolled.....”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 7/4/1845 - Advert

“Eligible Freehold Estate at Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Jesse Wright, at Mrs. *Stainton*'s, the RING OF BELLS INN, in Rowley Regis, on Friday the 25th day of April, 1845, at five o'clock in the afternoon, and under such conditions as will be then produced.

An important and desirable Freehold Estate, called the Style House Farm, situate at Blackheath, near to the Village, in the parish of Rowley Regis.....”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/11/1845

“An inquest was held on Wednesday, at the RING OF BELLS INN, Rowley Regis, on view on the body of Thomas Parkes, aged twenty-nine years, who died suddenly whilst conversing with his wife, in apparently good health. Mr. Harry Adkins, surgeon, who made a post mortem examination of the body, discovered that the heart of the deceased was of a most unusual size, and that the right ventricle had burst, which was sufficient to cause instant death. The jury returned a verdict accordingly.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/1/1846

“An inquest was held at the RING OF BELLS public house, Rowley Regis, on Monday week, on the body of Thomas Portman, a fine youth, about fourteen years of age, who lost his life in a very dreadful and distressing manner. It appears that the little fellow had been sent with his father’s dinner, on the previous Tuesday to the colliery where he worked, and was attracted to the place where some men were engaged mending a boiler. The whimsey being at this time at work, one of the men named John Legg, cautioned the lad not to go near the spot, and he accordingly went away, but again returned, and got entangled between the connecting rod and the crank of the whimsey, by which he sustained dreadful injuries. On the whimsey being stopped, the poor lad, who was rendered quite senseless, fell into the engine pit below, and on being taken up, his thigh was found to have been broken, and he sustained other injuries, which terminated in his death the following Saturday. Before his death the boy said that it was his own fault, that he went too near the machinery, and that it laid hold of him before he was aware of it.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/2/1847

“The neighbourhood of Rowley Regis had been the scene of considerable excitement during the early part of the past week, occasioned by a rumour that a woman named Whitehouse had been poisoned by her husband. Information having reached, George Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, he gave directions for the body to be exhumed, and an inquest was held before him, at the RING OF BELLS, Rowley Regis. It appears that the deceased was the second wife of a man named James Whitehouse, and that they had been married about 6 months. During this time Whitehouse had greatly ill-used the deceased, and had kept her without the common necessaries of life, and though she took to her bed, he provided nothing for her comfort, but said now that she had done working she must have done eating. On Friday night, the 12th inst, just before the poor woman died, Whitehouse said he should be glad if they would bring him word she was dead. On Saturday, the 13th inst, she died, and Whitehouse got a certificate for the burial of the body, and told the registrar that the deceased had died of a stroke. On Sunday, when the funeral was at the church, the deceased’s friends endeavoured to stop the burial of the corpse, saying she had been poisoned. Mr. Mainwaring, surgeon, of Dudley, made a post mortem examination of the body, and found the left lung diseased, and four ounces of blood on the brain. He had analysed the contents of the stomach, but there was not the least appearance of poison, or anything improper. In his opinion, death was occasioned by disease of the aorta, and effusion of blood upon the brain. The jury returned a verdict accordingly.”

Birmingham Journal 14/7/1849 - Advert

“Staffordshire. Valuable Houses and Land, at Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Daniel Johnson, at the house of Mrs. *Honor Stainton*, known by the sign of the RING OF BELLS, at Rowley Regis, on Monday Next, July 16, at Six o’clock in the evening, together, or in the following lots, as may be determined at the time of sale, and subject to conditions then to be produced.....”

1851 Census

Village

- [1] *Honor Stainton* (47), widow, innkeeper, born Rowley;
- [2] Samuel Stainton (23), son, butcher, born Rowley;
- [3] Ann Stainton (21), daughter, dressmaker, born Rowley;
- [4] Phoebe Stainton (16), daughter, pawnbroker, born Rowley;
- [5] Caroline Stainton (15), daughter, born Rowley;
- [6] Elizabeth Stainton (13), daughter, scholar, born Rowley:

Birmingham Journal 7/6/1851 - Advert

“Staffordshire. Freehold Building Land, at Portway, in the Parish of Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Bateman, on Wednesday, the 18th day of June instant, at the house of Mrs. *Stainton*, the RING OF BELLS INN, at Rowley aforesaid, at Six o’clock in the evening.....”

St. Giles Marriage Register

7th February 1856 - Joseph Goslin Nicklin (19), bachelor, mine agent, Hawes Lane. Father - Joseph Nicklin, farmer.

Married - Caroline Stainton (20), spinster, Village. Father - *Matthew Stainton*, innkeeper.

12th December 1869 - William Whitehouse (33), bachelor, registrar, Hawes Lane. Father - John Whitehouse, registrar.

Married - Phoebe Stainton (33), spinster, Village. Father - *Matthew Stainton*, licensed victualler.

28th December 1872 - James Henry Price (28), bachelor, mining engineer, Chesterton. Father - Thomas Price.

Married - Sarah Stainton (32), spinster, Hawes Lane. Father - *Matthew Stainton*, licensed victualler.

Honor Stainton – see also WARD ARMS.

Birmingham Journal 10/4/1852 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Building Land, Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Jesse Wright and Son, on Wednesday Next, the 14th day of April, at Six o’clock in the evening, at the house of Mr. *H. D. Gunter*, the RING OF BELLS, Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford.....”

Birmingham Journal 12/3/1853 - Advert

“RING OF BELLS, Rowley Regis.

To be Disposed Of, the Licenses and Possession of the above well-known Inn, the oldest in the neighbourhood, and doing a good business (the present Tenant having taken an extensive Establishment in Dudley). Rent and taxes very moderate, and replete with every convenience. The Coming-in very low, as only the Fixtures are required to be taken to.
For particulars, apply to Messrs. Jesse Wright and Son, Appraisers and Auctioneers, King Street, Dudley.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 20/9/1854

“Unjust Weights and Measures. No less than 52 delinquents of this description were today fined as follows.....
Rowley Regis..... *George Hadley*, five pints, 10s.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 20/10/1858

“County of Stafford. Weights and Measures. District C, or South Staffordshire.
Notice is hereby given, that William Tullett, the Inspector of Weights and Measures for District C, or South Staffordshire, will attend at the undermentioned times and places for the purpose of comparing and examining all such Weights and Measures as shall be brought to him for that purpose, and stamping such of them as shall be found correct.....
At the RING OF BELLS INN, at Rowley Regis, on Thursdays, Oct. 28th, Nov. 25th, and Dec. 23rd, 1858, at ten o’clock am.”

County Advertiser 30/7/1859

“William Adams, rivet maker, and Benjamin Perry, carter, two young men, who on Wednesday last were charged with uttering three counterfeit two shilling pieces, and remanded in order that the authorities at the Mint might be communicated with, this morning were again brought before the Bench. A letter, received from the solicitor to the Mint, was forwarded to the Bench by Superintendent Mills, in which the authorities expressed their unwillingness to take up the prosecution upon the evidence already adduced. Mr. Mills, therefore asked for a further remand until Wednesday next, in order that the matter might be fully investigated. Mr. Burbury, who appeared on behalf of the prisoners, objected to this, urging that the prisoners were undefended at the previous hearing, and he had no doubt he could convince the Bench that his clients were innocent. Mr. Mills replied that he was in possession of additional evidence to that given on Wednesday last.
The examination of witnesses was then proceeded with, and which occupied the attention of the Bench for a considerable time. Hannah Cooksey, who resides with her mother, at the RING OF BELLS public house, Rowley, said the prisoners came to the house on Friday, the 15th inst, and called for a jug of ale, which the prisoner paid for with a good two shilling piece. She saw the men drinking in the house the same evening, between seven and eight o’clock.
Elizabeth Adderley [sic], the landlady of the RING OF BELLS public house, said the prisoners came to her house in the evening of the 15th inst, and called for a pint of ale, which Perry paid for with coppers. Adams shortly afterwards asked to be supplied with half a pound of tripe and some bread, and tendered a two-shilling piece in payment. Witness put the coin in her pocket, and gave the prisoner Adams the change. Police-sergeant Powell went to witness’s house about ten o’clock the same evening, and asked her if she had received a two-shilling piece from the prisoners. Witness replied that she had, and produced the coin from her pocket, and upon examining it she found it to be spurious. Witness did not have any other coin of the same value in her possession that day.

A boy, named William Rock, said he lived with his mother at the BEE HIVE public house, situate near Rowley Church. About three o’clock on the 15th the prisoners came to the house, and Adams called for a cup of ale. Witness took the ale to them in the kitchen, and Adams gave him a two-shilling piece. Witness took the coin to his mother, who put it in her pocket, and returned the men the change. A few minutes afterwards his mother gave him some money to make a few purchases with at Dudley, among which was the two-shilling piece received from the prisoners. The other portion of the money was shillings and sixpences. Witness tendered the two-shilling piece at a shop in Pig Street in payment for some purchases he had made there, but was told it was counterfeit. He then returned home with the coin in his possession.

Eliza Rock deposed to receiving the two-shilling piece from her son, and giving it him again to make the purchases with at Dudley. Also that a short time after he had left the house, the prisoner Perry asked her if she would let him have three pennyworth of bread and cheese. Witness replied that she would, and on supplying it received a two-shilling piece from Perry. She put the coin in her pocket, and was sure it was the only one of that description she had there. The prisoners stayed in the house about an hour afterwards. Her son returned from Dudley about nine o’clock, and told her that the two-shilling piece she had given him was counterfeit. She then took the other coin from her pocket, and found that that was a spurious one also. She went in search of the police, and gave them the two coins. On her return to the house the prisoners were there, and she told them what had occurred. Prisoners said they were not aware that the coins were counterfeit, and directly afterwards left the house. The prisoner Adams was her nephew.

Obadiah Rushton, a sinker, said that on the 15th inst he saw the prisoner Adams in Darby’s public house at Rowley, and was called in by him. Prisoner asked him to drink, and said, ‘Will you go and fetch half a pound of cheese and a 3d loaf for me.’ Witness assented, and prisoner gave him a two-shilling piece to pay for it. Witness went to a shop a few yards from the public house, and asked to be supplied with the articles, but returned without them in consequence of the shopkeeper refusing to take the coin given him by prisoner. When prisoner was told that it was a bad one, he put it in his pocket and smiled, but made no reply. Nothing more was heard of the prisoners until they gave themselves up on the following Wednesday

Prisoners were well known to the whole of the witnesses, who said they had never known them attempt to pass bad money before. Mr. Burbury addressed the Bench on behalf of his clients, and contended that as they were innocent of knowing that the coins were spurious ones. He argued that had they been aware they were counterfeit, would they have attempted to pass them in a place in which they were so well known? It was the custom for persons who were in the habit of passing counterfeit coins to repair to places where they were unknown, the risks being not half so great.

The Bench considered there was sufficient evidence to warrant another remand, and adjourned the case until Wednesday.”

[At Staffordshire October Sessions, William Adams and Benjamin Perry were charged with uttering counterfeit coin, found guilty and each sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment with hard labour.]

George Hadley was also a saddler. [1861]

1861 Census

Rowley Village – RING OF BELLS Public House

[1] *George Hadley* (52), victualler and sexton, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Elizabeth Hadley (51), wife, born Clee Hill, Shropshire;

[3] Mary Ann Hadley (13), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Elizabeth Hadley (9), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Noah Robinson (15), nephew, errand boy, born Brierley Hill:

London Gazette 27/12/1861

“*George Hadley*, of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, Dealer in Tobacco, Dealer and Chapman, having been adjudged bankrupt under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the Court of Bankruptcy for the Birmingham District, on the 3rd day of December, 1861, and referred to the County Court of Worcestershire, holden at Dudley, a public sitting for the said bankrupt to pass his Last Examination and make application for his Discharge, will be held before Rupert Kettle, Esq, the Judge of the said Court, on the 11th day of February next, at the said Court, at Dudley, at ten o'clock in the forenoon precisely, the day last aforesaid being the day limited for the said bankrupt to surrender. Thomas Walker, Esq, is the Official Assignee, and Mr. Henry Jackson, of Westbromwich, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/2/1863 - Advert

“Rowley, near Dudley.

The Useful Household Furniture, Public House Fixtures, Brewing Plant, Four-pull Ale Machine, seasoned Ale Casks, Stock of Ale and Beer, excellent Malt Crusher, and Effects, upon the Premises of Mr. *George Hadley*, the RING OF BELLS INN (opposite the Church), Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Chandler, This Day (Wednesday), February 4th, 1863, at Eleven o'clock, under an Execution from the Sheriff.”

Birmingham Journal 7/3/1863 - Advert

“To Chartermasters, Publicans, Brokers, and Others.

Sale at the RING OF BELLS, Rowley.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Hawkins, on Monday Next, March 9th.

New Blacksmith's Anvils, with Black Iron Bellows, Shovels, Baskets, Steel and Iron, Blacksmith's Vice, Four-pull Beer Machine, pair of wood Vats, Tubs, Measures, and other Effects, removed as above for convenience of Sale.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.

Auctioneer's Offices, Brierley Hill.”

Birmingham Journal 20/5/1865 - Advert

“Rowley Regis, Opposite the Church.

That Noted and Important Old-Licensed Inn, the RING OF BELLS.

By Joseph S. Parkes. To be Disposed Of by Private Treaty, by direction of the Proprietor, in consequence of entering into an important engagement, the above valuable and well-accustomed Old-licensed Inn, in the centre of the Town, and fronting the Church and the Main Road, and surrounded by important Rivet, Chain, Nail and other Works.

The House, consisting of Bar, Smoke Room, Tap Room, Cooking Kitchen, Parlour, commodious Lodge and Club Room, Four Bed Rooms, capital Brewery and Cellaring, Coach-house and Stabling, Piggery, and with or without a Warehouse at the back, is suitable for the Nail, Rivet, Iron, and other Trades. Unlimited supply of Hard and Soft Water. The Gas laid in. Rent and Coming-in low. Immediate possession may be had.

For further particulars and to treat apply to Joseph S. Parkes, Auctioneer, Surveyor, and Hotel Valuer, Wesley Street, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Journal 22/7/1865 - Advert

“At the OLD RING OF BELLS INN, Rowley Regis. To Parties Furnishing, Brokers, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, on Monday next, removed to the above for convenience of sale (under a Distress for Rent) – the following Genteel Household Furniture.”

Stourbridge Observer 22/7/1865

“At the Public Office on Wednesday last, *William Foster*, landlord of the RING OF BELLS, Rowley, was charged with, on the 10th inst, having allowed drunkenness in his house. Defendant agreed to pay the costs, no doubt the best plan, as he thereby escaped having a conviction recorded against him.”

County Advertiser 19/8/1865

“Thomas Siviter was charged with being drunk, at the RING OF BELLS public house, Rowley, and the case being proved he was fined 6d and costs, or fourteen days.”

County Advertiser 9/9/1865

“*William Foster*, landlord of the RING OF BELLS public house, Rowley was summoned for permitting drunkenness in his house. Mr. Shakespeare appeared for the defendant. The case was withdrawn on the defendant paying costs. The Bench cautioned him as to the manner in which he conducted his house. Mr. Shakespeare said he could have proved that the drunken persons had come into the defendant’s house drunk, and that he was busy getting them out when the police came in.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/5/1868 - Advert

“To be Let, with immediate possession (if required), the Old-established Public House, the RING OF BELLS, Rowley Regis. Other engagements sole cause of leaving. Apply, as above; or to Mr. Altree, Church Square, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Gazette 23/4/1869 - Advert

“By Parkes and Walker, This Day (Friday), under a Bill of Sale, at 11am, at the RING OF BELLS, Rowley Regis – Household Furniture, Fixtures and Effects.”

London Gazette 4/5/1869

“*Mary Nancy Alice Haines* (sued as *Alice Haines*), now and for seven days residing at Rounds-green, in the township of Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, out of business, and for ten months previously residing at and keeping the RING OF BELLS INN, at Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, having been adjudged bankrupt under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in the County Court of Worcestershire, holden at Dudley, on the 30th day of April, 1869, is hereby required to surrender herself to Thomas Walker, Esq, Registrar of the said Court, at the first meeting of creditors to be held before the said Registrar, on the 20th day of May instant, at twelve o’clock at noon precisely, at the said Court, at Dudley. Thomas Walker, Esq, is the Official Assignee, and Mr. G. B. Lowe, of Dudley, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 6/5/1869 - Advert

“Rowley Regis, Staffordshire.

Important Sale of Valuable Freehold Old-Licensed Public House, and Three Dwelling Houses.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Parkes and Walker, on Monday Next, May 10, at Mrs. Stainton’s, the WARD ARMS INN, Rowley Regis, at Six for Seven o’clock in the evening, and subject to conditions to be then and there read.

All that excellent Old-Licensed Public House, known and called by the name of the RING OF BELLS INN, together with Three Dwelling Houses, and Out-buildings thereto adjoining, in the respective occupations of Mrs. Bridgwater, David Tromans, and two void.

The Public House consists of two good Cellars, Brewhouse, with Malt Room over, Bar, Tap and Smoke Rooms, Larder, two large Club Rooms, and two large Bed Rooms. There is also a good lock-up Yard, Stable and Coach-house, and a good supply of Water. The whole producing, at low rentals of, £35 10s per annum.

For further particulars apply to Messrs. Brooke Robinson, and Co., Solicitors, Dudley; or Messrs Parkes and Walker, Auctioneers, &c, Oldbury and Hales Owen.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/5/1869 - Advert

“By Parkes and Walker, at the WARD ARMS INN, Rowley Regis, on Monday Next, at 6pm.

Freehold Old-Licensed House, the RING OF BELLS, and Dwelling Houses, situated at Rowley Regis.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/5/1869

“The first examination of *Mary Nancy Alice Haines*, publican, Rowley Regis, took place yesterday. Liabilities £189 18s 7d, the assets £20. Mr. Lowe supported and Mr. Shakespeare opposed on behalf of Mr. Walter Showell, who was appointed assignee. The last examination will be held on the 3rd of July.”

ROEBUCK

Five Ways, CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Richard Homer [1833] – [1835]

Nehemiah Homer [1841] – [1851]

NOTES

1841 Census

Five Ways

[1] *Nehemiah Homer* (35), publican, born Staffordshire;

[2] Jane Homer (30);

[3] Caroline Farmer (20), fs, born Staffordshire:

Nehemiah Homer – see also HOLLY BUSH, High Street.

ROSE AND CROWN

411, (181), (160), (110), Halesowen Road, Haden Hill, (Haden Cross), OLD HILL

OWNERS

G. A. Haden-Best, Old Hill

Daniel, Harry and Ernest Hackett, Old Hill

Harry and Ernest Hackett

G. F. Cole (acquired in 1932)

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd. (acquired on 22nd February 1935 for £7,000)

Bass Inns and Taverns

Punch Taverns [2006]

New River Retail [2017]

LICENSEES

Ezekiel Troman [] – **1833**)

William Finney [*1834*] – [1838]

Tobias Hingley [1841] – **1858**);

Mrs. Eleanor Hingley (**1858** – [1871]

Joseph Edge [1871] – [1901]

Thomas Edge [1903] – **1915**);

Mrs. Mary Ann Edge (**1915** – **1920**);

Frank Davies (**1920** – **1922**);

Harry Hackett (**1922** – **1933**);

George Frederick Cole (**1933** – **1935**);

William George Deakin (**1935** – **1916**);

Lawson Cooke (**1936** – **1939**);

Albert Hemming (**1939** – **1942**);

Richard Leslie Edwards (**1942** – **1958**);

Arthur Thomas Ryder (**1958** – **1959**);

Arthur Payton (**1959** – **1962**);

Peter Harvey (**1962** – **1963**);

Philip Charles Edwin Guest (**1963** – **1965**);

William James Jones (**1965** – []

Bill Harris [1984]

Keith Geeson [1990]

Wendy Sutcliffe [1993]

Brian Sutcliffe [1994]

Emma Siviter Smith [2007]

NOTES

110, Halesowen Road [1891]

160, Halesowen Road [*1896*], [1901], [*1904*], [*1908*]

181, Halesowen Road [*1912*], [*1916*], [*1924*], [*1932*], [*1940*]

411, Halesowen Road [1990], [1996], [1998], [2006]

CROWN [1854], [1861]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/6/1833 - Died

“On the 24th ult, after a severe and lingering illness of many years, *Ezekiel Troman*, of Rowley, in his 58th year, much respected by all who knew him.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 19/8/1833 - Notice

“All Persons having claims upon the estate of the late Mr. *Ezekiel Troman*, of the ROSE AND CROWN, Haden Cross, in the parish of Rowley Regis, and county of Stafford, are requested to send particulars thereof; and all persons who stand indebted to the said estate are requested to pay the same to Mr. Aaron Rose, Executor, PLUME OF FEATHERS, Hales Owen, Salop. August 15, 1833.”

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

7th September 1835 - Dan, son of *William* and *Hannah Finney*, victualler, Haden Cross.

10th June 1838 - Arthur William, son of *William* and *Hannah Finney*, victualler, Haden Cross.

Tobias Hingley, nail packer, of Pensnett, married *Eleanor Finney* on 15th April 1838.

Eleanor Finney was the daughter of *William Finney*.

1841 Census

Haden Cross

[1] *Tobias Hingley* (20), publican, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Eleanor Hingley* (20), wife, born Staffordshire;

[3] *William Hingley* (2), son, born Staffordshire:

Tobias Hingley, beer retailer, Haden Cross. [1850]

1851 Census

Haden Hill

[1] *Tobias Hingley* (33), victualler and nail weigher, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Eleanor Hingley* (33), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *William J. Hingley* (12), son, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Henry F. Hingley* (9), son, born Rowley Regis;

[5] *Sarah M. Hingley* (6), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[6] *Edwin Hingley* (5), son, born Rowley Regis;

[7] *Mary Hingley* (2), daughter, born Rowley Regis:

Tobias Hingley died in the 2nd quarter of 1858 and was buried on 4th May 1858.

County Advertiser 24/7/1858

“This being transfer day the following applications were granted.....

ROSE AND CROWN INN, Rowley Regis, from *Tobias Hingley* to his widow, *Eleanor Hingley*.”

County Advertiser 28/5/1859

“On Saturday morning an old man named *James Carter*, 72 years of age, who has been for the last forty years in the employ of *F. H. G. Barrs, Esq.* at Rowley, was in the act of uncovering a well which had been unused for many years, when the woodwork upon which he was standing gave way, and the poor old man was precipitated a depth of 26 feet to the bottom of the well. When taken out immediately afterwards life was quite extinct. He sustained a severe cut on the back of the head by the fall. *Dr. Goddon*, of the Five Ways, Cradley, was soon in attendance, but his services were unavailing. An inquest was held on Tuesday at the ROSE AND CROWN, Haden Hill, before *Mr. Hinchliffe*, coroner, when a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

1861 Census

Haden Hill

[1] *Eleanor Hingley* (42), widow, licensed victualler, born Quarry Bank;

[2] *William James Hingley* (22), son, chain manufacturer, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *Henry Finney Hingley* (19), son, brickmaker, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Sarah M. Hingley* (16), daughter, barmaid, born Rowley Regis;

[5] *Edwin Hingley* (15), son, apprentice to nail trade, born Rowley Regis;

[6] *Arthur Hingley* (8), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[7] *Elijah William Hingley* (6), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

Eleanor Hingley, retailer of beer, Haden Hill. [1862]

County Advertiser 28/7/1866

“On Thursday an inquest was held by Mr. Hooper, Coroner, at the ROSE AND CROWN, Haden Hill, on the body of Jane Hickton, aged sixty-five. The deceased died on the 24th inst. She had been ailing for a few days before; but her illness was not considered serious. On the above morning, however, she suddenly expired. The jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes.”

Western Daily Press 5/1/1870

“On Monday morning a large meeting of the horse-nail makers was held at the ROSE AND CROWN, Old Hill, Birmingham, for the purpose of discussing the question in reference to the late demand for an advance of 3d per thousand. There were about 200 present, including delegates from seven or eight districts. It was proposed by Mr. E. Whitehouse, and seconded by Mr. T. Cresswell, that they hold out till the 3s 6d per thousand was obtained. The resolution was carried. It was also agreed that the iron be kept in hand and not worked up until the strike was ended.”

1871 Census

Haden Hill

- [1] *Eleanor Hingley* (53), widow, licensed victualler, born Quarry Bank;
- [2] Edwin Hingley (25), son, clerk, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Arthur Hingley (19), son, brewer, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Elijah Hingley (16), son, slaughter, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 26/8/1871 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant, about 16; one use to a public-house preferred. Apply, Mrs. *Joseph Edge*, ROSE AND CROWN, Haden Hill, near Dudley.”

County Advertiser 2/11/1872 - Advert

“Freehold Property, at Haysitch, in the Parish of Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. S. Leonard, on Wednesday, the 13th of November, 1872, at the house of Mr. *Joseph Edge*, the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Haden Hill, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to Conditions then to be read.....”

County Advertiser 7/3/1874 - Advert

“Wanted, a strong Servant Girl.

Apply to Mrs. *J. Edge*, ROSE AND CROWN, Haden Cross.”

County Express 30/5/1874

“On Tuesday last about forty gentlemen sat down to an excellent dinner, at the house of Mr. *Edge*, the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Haden Hill, near Old Hill. Mr. Josiah Hughes was chairman, and Mr. John Griffiths, of Old Hill, vice-chairman. After the cloth had been removed, and after the usual loyal toasts had been heartily drunk, the chairman proposed the health of a gentleman who, he said, was known by all present. That gentleman was Mr. Noah Hingley – (applause) – who was a good and charitable man, and respected both by the poor and the rich. The kindness he had shown towards a wide circle of poor creatures in that and other vicinities would never be forgotten. (Hear, hear.) He concluded by asking them to drink the health of Mr. Noah Hingley, and said he ought to represent them in Parliament. (Cheers.) Other toasts followed amongst which was the health of the host and hostess.”

County Advertiser 5/6/1880

“On Wednesday a mass meeting of horse-nail makers from the various districts in South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire was held at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Old Hill, for the purpose of discussing the wages question. In the course of the proceedings it was stated that within a certain period the reduction in the wages list had amounted to 1s 9d per 1,000, namely, from 4s 3d to 2s 6d, the latter price being the lowest to which the nailmakers have ever been reduced. The operatives assembled resolved that unless the masters agreed to pay 3s per 1,000 on horse nails the men should cease work on Saturday (today), and a strike be then declared. Earlier in the day similar meetings were held at Lye Waste and Halesowen, at each of which the same resolution was adopted.”

1881 Census

Haden Hill

- [1] *Joseph Edge* (39), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Sarah Meriah Edge (36), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Joseph Edge (18), son, carpenter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Thomas Edge* (17), son, mason's labourer, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Arthur Edge (13), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] William Edge (12), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Flora Edge (9), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Elijah Edge (7), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] Teddy Edge (5), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [9] Kate Edge (3), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [10] Emily Edge (2), daughter, born Rowley Regis:

Dudley And District News 10/12/1881

“A meeting of horse-nail makers was held on Monday, at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Old Hill, with reference which has been going on lately in the Sedgley, Gornal, Lye Waste, and surrounding districts for an increase of wages. It was stated that the action of the employers in refusing to grant the advance of 3d per 1,000 was causing a great deal of dissatisfaction. One of the delegates pointed out that the operatives now received 3s per 1,000, as compared with 4s 3d a few years ago. It was resolved to demand an advance of 3d per 1,000.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/9/1886

“Yesterday Mr. Edwin Hooper (district coroner) held an inquest at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Haden Hill, touching the death of Laura Eliza Green, aged five years, who had died at the residence of her parents, at Beauty Bank, from the effects on injuries received on the 14th ult. It was shown that the deceased fell off a pillar adjoining the Great Western Railway, and sustained some internal injuries, from the effects of which she died on the 1st inst. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/3/1889

“A meeting of nailers’ delegates was held at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Haden Hill, on Monday night; Mr. H. Lee presiding. A deputation was appointed to wait upon certain employers with a view to induce one of them to convene a meeting of the employers to consider the claim of the operatives that wages should be paid according to the 1879 list.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/5/1890

“Last night a meeting of nailers’ delegates was held at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Haden Hill, for the purpose of considering what action should be taken to prevent a general reduction being enforced in the wrought-nail trade. Mr. H. Lee, who presided, remarked that the reduction was likely to become general on Saturday next. At a previous meeting it was decided that if a reduction was declared they should at once cease work and turn out on strike, and demand an advance of 10 per cent on the 1890 list. He considered it would not be wise on their part to submit to a reduction – (A Voice: ‘No, no.’) – and that they should ask for what they would likely obtain. They were not desirous of imposing difficulties upon the employers; but, at the same time, they thought they ought to live by their labour, and this they could not do at the present time. As a class of workmen they were in a deplorable condition. At Hales Owen many of the operatives had not had any work for three months. The employers had purchased large stocks up to the 7th ult, and they had since been restricting the output. At that time trade was considered fairly good, but it was not so good as they anticipated, or else the employers could not have continued their restriction for so long a period. The reduction had not been brought about by legitimate means, but by those employers who would not adhere to the decision of the majority of masters. The men throughout the trade did not average 14s per week, and out of that deductions ranging from 3s to 5s, according to the class of nails made, had to be reckoned. He challenged the masters to prove that they could earn more by their books. He suggested that when the reduction was made the whole of the operatives should cease work. The Bromsgrove district ruled the trade hobs, but he wished Old Hill and up-country districts ruled it. It was unreasonable to expect them to submit to reductions because Bromsgrove did. If Bromsgrove did not join in with them, then they should take action independently. It was decided to give the employers seven days’ notice to restore the 1890 list; failing this a general strike to be declared on the 7th of June.”

County Advertiser 31/1/1891

“Last Monday, Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Haden Hill, respecting the death of a single woman named Sarah Ann Shaw (35).

Mary Ann Shaw, of Haysech, mother of the deceased, said that her daughter had been in ill health for some time, and on the 19th inst complained of violent pains at her heart. Witness sent for Dr. Thompson, her club doctor, who resided at Cradley; but he unable to come. She didn’t have any other doctor because she didn’t think that her daughter was dying. The deceased only had a glass of beer to drink on the Monday.

A neighbour, named Baker, said that she didn’t think that deceased was neglected in any way. She complained, however, of the cold weather.

Police-constable Wickstead said that Dr. Thompson saw the body of the deceased on the 20th, and said that there was no doubt that deceased died from spasms of the heart. There was some delay in reporting the case to the police, and this it appeared was caused by the mother of the deceased expecting the doctor to perform that duty.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

1891 Census

110, Halesowen Road

- [1] *Joseph Edge* (49), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Sarah M. Edge* (47), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Arthur Edge* (23), son, boot and shoe manufacturer, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Elijah Edge* (17), son, pupil teacher, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Teddy Edge* (15), son, professor of music, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Rose Edge* (13), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *Emily Edge* (12), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] *Roland B. Edge* (10), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [9] *Lizzie Edge* (8), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [10] *Fanny Rudge* (22), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis;

Birmingham Daily Post 12/10/1891

“On Saturday night a meeting of delegates representing the operatives engaged in the wrought-nail trade in the Hales Owen, Old Hill, Rowley, Lye, and surrounding districts, was held at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Haden Hill, for the purpose of considering what action should be taken with reference to the notice given by some of the employers for a reduction of wages.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/3/1892 - Died

“On the 13th inst, in the 48th year of her age, Sarah Maria, the beloved wife of *Joseph Edge*, of Haden Cross, near Old Hill; deeply lamented.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/2/1893

“Yesterday afternoon a meeting of delegates of the Wrought-nail Makers’ Association was held at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Haden Hill. Mr. H. Lee, who presided, said trade was in a very depressed state, and scarcely one-half of the operatives were employed.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/9/1894

“Yesterday, at the Old Hill Police Court, Police-constable Wickstead, was charged with assaulting a youth named William James, of Heath Street, Winson Green, Birmingham, on 26th August. Mr. W. Waldron defended. Complainant stated that the officer met him coming out of the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Haden Hill, Old Hill, and charged him with assaulting some girls in Haden Hill Park. Defendant pushed him into the public house, took him into the smoke room, knocked him upon a seat, and pushed his knuckles into his throat. He also alleged that when the officer was taking him into the cells at the police station he struck him twice on the back. For the defence it was contended that no unnecessary violence was used by the defendant, and this was borne out by Inspector Given. The Bench dismissed the case.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/11/1895

“On Saturday evening a meeting of nailmakers’ delegates was held at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Haden Hill, for the purpose of considering the wages question. Mr. H. Lea presided; and there were delegates present from Hales Owen, Blackheath, Rowley, Old Hill, and surrounding places. The chairman reported that he had written to over twenty of the employers requesting them to concede an advance, and so settle the matter in an amicable manner. He had received replies from ten or twelve of the masters, but they appeared to be divided in opinion as to the advisability of the general advance being granted at the present time. The delegates urged that immediate steps should be taken to secure an increase in the wages of the operatives, who, it was stated, were in a deplorable condition. The chairman was instructed to have an interview with one of the leading employers to request him to convene a meeting of the masters at an early date to consider the claims of the operatives. It was ultimately decided to give the whole of the employers fourteen days’ notice claiming an increase of 10 per cent.”

County Express 10/4/1897

“The usual half-yearly social dinner and musical evening was held at the ROSE AND CROWN, Haden Cross, on Thursday. After dinner the chairman (Mr. G. H. Collier), Handsworth, proposed the toast of ‘The Queen,’ and remarked on her long and prosperous reign. A concert followed the dinner, of which the items were: Song, ‘Ora Pro Nobis,’ Mr. T. Poole; song, ‘Anchored,’ Mr. W. Spencer; piccolo solo, ‘Pollaca de Concert,’ Mr. L. Downing; recitation, ‘Collins and his Cow,’ Mr. W. Billingham; song, ‘Whisper, and I shall hear,’ Mr. R. Cole; violin solo, ‘Rhapsodie Honggeoise,’ Mr. G. Edge; recitation, ‘Out of the Old House, Nancy,’ Mr. T. Collins; song, ‘Cricket on the Hearth,’ Mr. R. Cole; piccolo solo, ‘The Merry Linnet,’ Mr. L. Downing. Mr. L. Fletcher kept the audience alive with his humorous songs. Messrs. G. Pearson and R. Edge were accompanists.”

Joseph Edge married Rebecca Willetts in the 4th quarter of 1897.

County Advertiser 3/3/1900

“On Saturday night, a meeting of delegates, representing the wrought nail makers in the Halesowen, Rowley, Old Hill, Blackheath, and surrounding districts, was held at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Haden Hill, to receive a report from a deputation appointed at a previous meeting to wait upon the employers for the purpose of asking them to sign an agreement to pay an advance of 10 per cent upon the present prices.

Mr. H. Lea, who presided, said he regretted to say that the visit to the employers had turned out a failure, and he was personally much surprised at the action of the masters. From the glowing accounts he had received he had been led to believe that they had only to make their application and it would be immediately granted. In fact, he was told there would be very little difficulty in obtaining an increase of 20 per cent. Employers had intimated to their workmen that there was nothing to prevent them from gaining a substantial advance. To his surprise, the first master the deputation visited said he thought they were taking a step in the wrong direction, and added that it was a suicidal for the operatives to ask for an advance. He pointed to the fact that machine-made nails were produced much cheaper, and were preferred to the hand-made nails. Four of the leading firms in the trade who were visited used the same argument against their application for an increase. He (Mr. Lea) admitted that the enormous increase in the price of iron had made the cost of nails very heavy, but the small amount of 15 per cent which they were claiming would barely cover the extra cost of fuel, &c. He must say their position was very low as compared with other trades. It was their own fault if they did not climb higher in the social scale. Every year the numbers of the nail makers decreased, and the demand could scarcely be supplied. He advised the operatives if the trade would not keep them respectably not to remain in it.

After some discussion, a resolution was passed expressing regret that the masters were not favourable to their claim, and, with the view to avoid resorting to a strike, recommending the employers should be appealed to to convene a conference of masters and workmen to consider the question, and in the event of this being refused, that notice should be given of their intention to cease

work until an advance of 20 per cent was conceded.”

1901 Census

160, Halesowen Road – ROSE AND CROWN INN

- [1] *Joseph Edge* (59), licensed victualler, born Cradley Heath;
- [2] Rebecca Edge (27), wife, born Old Hill;
- [3] Kate Edge (23), daughter, born Old Hill;
- [4] Rowland B. Edge (19), son, manager of brewery, born Old Hill;
- [5] George J. Edge (4), grandson, born Old Hill;
- [6] Polly Edge (11 months), daughter, born Old Hill;
- [7] Kate Finch (13), general servant, born Old Hill:

Joseph Edge died on 16th August 1901.

County Advertiser 21/2/1903

“*Thomas Edge*, landlord of the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Haden Cross, Old Hill, was charged with being drunk in charge of a horse and trap on the 2nd inst.

Police-constable Gratage stated that about 11-30pm on the night in question, witness was on duty at the Cross, Old Hill, in company with Police-constable Smith, when he saw defendant drive past. He was in a drunken condition, and Police-constable Smith called on him to stop, but he refused, and only urged the horse to go faster. Witness, together with Police-constable Smith, visited defendant’s house, and when charged with the offence and told that he might be summoned, he said, ‘I am very sorry. I hope you won’t.’

Police-constable Smith gave corroborative evidence.

Mr. W. Waldron, who defended, submitted that the officers had made a mistake. He urged that there was not the slightest evidence to prove that defendant was drunk. On the night in question he had been doing a little business at Pensnett, and called upon Mr. Marsh, a large colliery proprietor and a member of the Kingswinford District Council. He transacted some business with Mr. Marsh, and when he left was perfectly sober. Defendant bore an excellent character, having held a position as inspector under the Mines Drainage Commissioners for twelve years, and previous to that he served in the Dragoon Guards for a number of years. Evidence was given in support of Mr. Waldron’s statement by defendant, Mr. and Mrs. William Parish, and Rowland *Edge*. The Bench considered the police officers had made a mistake, and dismissed the case.”

Tipton Herald 26/9/1903

“On Saturday night, by invitation of Mr. *T. Edge*, of the ROSE AND CROWN, a company of about thirty sat down to supper, which was capably served by Mr. and Mrs. *Edge*. After the withdrawal of the cloth Mr. F. Tate was voted to the chair.....”

County Advertiser 22/7/1905

“The annual outing of the employés of the Rowley Urban District Council took place on Monday. The party consisted of the roadmen, their wives and children, numbering about 70, who were conveyed by brakes supplied by Mr. Harry Darby, of Blackheath, to Bromsgrove, via Rubery. After luncheon at the Cock Hotel, Rubery, the party were photographed in the brakes, and then proceeded to the Coach and Horses, at Bromsgrove. There the foreman (Mr. T. Adams) had arranged for an excellent dinner, which having been disposed of, thanks were voted to the chairman and members of the Council, the surveyor (Mr. W. H. Brettell), and the subscribers to the fund for the excursion. After a musical hour in the concert room, to which Messrs. John and George Ashman and Mr. C. Moore contributed, the fine old parish church was visited. In the cemetery a short open-air service was conducted by the Brothers Smith and Master Cole. At five o’clock all again met for tea, and at 6-15 the brakes were loaded for starting. Calls were made on the way, and a finish was made at the ROSE AND CROWN, Haden Hill. All spent a most enjoyable day.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/2/1907

“*Thomas Edge*, landlord of the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Haden Hill, was fined by the Rowley Regis Bench 10s for being drunk while in charge of a spirited horse in the Halesowen Road, Old Hill.”

County Advertiser 6/7/1907

“On Thursday afternoon a meeting of the Dudley and District Licensed Victuallers’ Association was held at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Haden Hill, Old Hill, under the presidency of Mr. A. Pattison. A letter was read from Mr. J. Davies, chairman of the Dudley Horse Show Committee, asking the Association for a contribution to the prize fund of the forthcoming horse show. A discussion ensued, and ultimately it was decided, on the motion of Mr. W. George, seconded by Mr. Boilstone, to offer a prize, to be known as the Licensed Victuallers prize, for competition at the show. The secretary (Mr. U. Evans) presented a number of accounts, which were passed for payment.”

County Express 26/12/1908

“Dividend Clubs..... ROSE AND CROWN (Old Hill).

On Saturday Mr. *T. Edge* entertained the members to dinner at his house at Haden Hill. About 40 members assembled. Afterwards Mr. E. Edge presided. The accounts presented by Mr. W. Somerton showed a dividend of 10s per member, and 5s per half member. The following officers were elected: President, Mr. *T. Edge*; treasurer, Mr. *T. Edge*; secretary, Mr. W. Somerton; committee, Messrs. E. Rudge, J. Griffiths, J. Rudge, R. Finch, A. Bridgwater, and J. Hughes. Votes of thanks were accorded to the

host and hostess and the chairman. Phonographic selections were provided by Mr. F. Griffiths.”

Sheffield Weekly Telegraph 29/1/1910

“In the Days of our Grandfathers.

It was in the days when the hours of license owners were not restricted, and when George Eliot’s ‘clowns’ – heavy drinkers – could sit regaling themselves until the early hours of the morn, and sometimes, too, till the birds were on the wing and the sun commenced to rise. Those were the times of the ‘sworn in’ constables, and who were few and very far between. To ‘run a shot’ and then clear out without paying was peculiar to the ‘tyke’ of that period. A couple such – pedestrians – on their way from Dudley to Hales Owen, sixty years ago turned into an ancient roadside inn to wit, the ROSE AND CROWN, Haden Cross, a house more famous for good living than the rendezvous of the cock-fighting fraternity and certain ‘Bill Sikes’s,’ called ‘doggers,’ who trained whippet dogs for hare-coursing for certain sporting gentlemen of the Midlands. It was not until these two worthies had run a big shot that they not only refused to pay, they also refused to go; and there was nothing left to the landlady (a widow) but to send, in the early hours of the morning, a stragglng customer for old ‘Crabby’ (professionally known as Mr. Siviter), the ‘sworn in’ constable for that part of the large parish of Rowley Regis. Enter constable.

Constable: ‘Weare bin um, Missis?’ – Landlady: ‘They are asleep now in the tap room. Go in.’

Constable goes in and slightly taps the sleepers with his formidable truncheon on the sides of their heads by way of rousing them. ‘Tykes’ awake, and breathe out threatenings.

Constable (professionally): ‘Bin yer gooin’ to pey?’ – ‘No we bain’t.’

‘Bin yer gooin’ to pay?’ again queries the representative of the law and order, and as he does so, administers his staff with such vehemence that he ‘fells’ them, to the great horror of the landlady, who, thinking they had had enough, is willing to let them go without paying. The constable, however, feeling that he had a duty to discharge to the widow, then rifles their pockets, and afterwards respectively carried them to the door, and then, ‘bucks’ neck’ throws them into the middle of the yard, where, when they ‘come round,’ they found themselves to be wiser, though sadder men.

Constable (to landlady): ‘What’s thair shot, missis?’ – ‘Seven and ninepence a’penny, Mr. Siviter,’ quoth the landlady. As the constable pays over the shot, he exhorts the landlady to ‘Allis send for me, Missis; they who war pey, I’ll gie um one up the side o’ the yed, and ’nock it out on um. Now yow con bring me a glass o’ brandy. Good ’ealth, mum, and my best respex.’

Looker-On.”

County Express 31/12/1910

“At the annual dinner in connection with the ROSE AND CROWN Dividend Society, Haden Hill, a dividend of 10s was declared to the members.”

1911 Census

Haden Hill – ROSE AND CROWN

[1] *Thomas Edge* (47), licensed victualler and brewer, born Old Hill;

[2] *Mary Ann Edge* (42), wife, married 21 years, born Swindon, Staffordshire;

[3] *Thomas Wilfred Edge* (18), son, weighing machine manufacturer’s cashier’s assistant, born Pensnett;

[4] *Joseph Winston Edge* (9), son, born Pensnett;

[5] *Sarah Finch* (18), general servant, born Old Hill:

County Express 21/12/1912

“The annual dinner of the ROSE AND CROWN dividend club, Haden Hill, was held on Saturday. A good dinner was served, after which Mr. *T. Edge* presided. The report and balance sheet showed that a successful year had been experienced, and a dividend of 10s 9d per member was declared. The Chairman pointed out that the club had been in existence for eight years, and that year’s dividend was a record. Mr. *T. Edge* was re-elected treasurer and Mr. *W. Somerton* secretary. Messrs. *E. Rudge*, *J. Hughes*, *R. Finch*, *J. Griffiths*, *G. Rudge*, and *M. Willetts* were appointed to serve on the committee. Excellent music was contributed by Messrs. *E. Hughes*, *Higgins*, and *Partridge*. Mr. *D. Adams Priest*, who was the accompanist, also sang.”

Thomas Edge was also a brewer. [1914]

Evening Despatch 21/3/1914

“Regret has been expressed in Old Hill at the unlucky mishap which befell Mr. *T. Edge*, of the CROWN INN, Haden Hill, who this week had the misfortune to fall and break his arm. Mr. *Edge*, who takes a big interest in friendly society work, being a past chairman of the Parade Committee, will have the good wishes of the whole district for his quick recovery.”

Thomas Edge died on 27th November 1915.

Birmingham Daily Post 29/11/1915

“The death occurred on Saturday of Mr. *Thomas Edge*, licensee of the ROSE AND CROWN HOTEL, Haden Hill, Old Hill, one of the oldest licensed victuallers in the district.”

County Express 12/3/1921

“The adjourned licensing sessions for Old Hill Petty Sessional Division.....

The Bench granted an application by *Frank Davies*, of the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Haden Hill, Old Hill, for permission to

carry out alterations.”

George Frederick Cole – see also OLD DUN COW.

1939 Register

Halesowen Road – ROSE AND CROWN INN

[1] *Albert Hemming*, date of birth 10/9/1902, licensed victualler, married;

[2] Lily Hemming, dob 15/5/1904, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] Jean (Hemming) Ross, dob 14/10/1931, at school, single;

Demolished

Rebuilt

Sports Argus 30/11/1946

“Old Hill Darts League.....

Open darts competition for the Dudley Guest Hospital. Will teams interested attend at ROSE AND CROWN, Haden Hill (opposite Haden Hill Park, Old Hill) Friday, 13 December at 8pm. Entrance fee 3s per team of nine players. Proceeds for the Dudley Guest Hospital.”

Richard Leslie Edwards – see also WAGGON AND HORSES, Tipton.

Sandwell Evening Mail 28/11/1990

“Three men and a woman have appeared before Warley Magistrates charged with assaults on the police at an Old Hill pub. They were all remanded on bail until December 20.

Michele Mancini, 26, a warehouseman, Tracey Darby, 25, housewife, Gary Mills, 31, carpenter, and Carl Mills, 18, joiner, all of Grange Road, Cradley Heath, were each charged with causing grievous bodily harm to Det. Sgt. Roger Cotty on November 25 and with using or threatening unlawful violence at the ROSE AND CROWN pub, Halesowen Road. Mancini and Darby were also charged with occasioning actual bodily harm to Det. Con. Colin Roden and with causing disorderly behaviour.”

Wendy Sutcliffe was born in Yardley.

Sandwell Evening Mail 18/7/1994

“Packs of chocolate-flavoured condoms are causing confusion because they look like Cadbury’s Dairy Milk bars. The Chocdom is wrapped in a purple packet with gold lettering, like the Bournville sweet, although the condom has nothing to do with Birmingham-based Cadbury’s.

Licensee *Brian Sutcliffe*, who runs the ROSE AND CROWN pub at Old Hill, said several people had mistaken the condoms for chocolate bars when bought from vending machines. ‘They have been causing quite a stir. We have machines in both the ladies and the gents,’ he said. ‘I’ve had lots of people saying how much they look like a mini chocolate bar.’

A spokesman for Cadbury’s said, ‘Unfortunately, we don’t have a monopoly on purple packaging or gold lettering, but we don’t think people will get too confused.’”

[2010]

Closed [2012]

It was converted and extended for housing. [2015]

ROSE AND CROWN

15, (23), Reddal Hill Road, Old Hill Cross, OLD HILL

OWNERS

James Hadley (acquired in February 1879 for £970)

Exors. of James Hadley

Joseph Horton, Colmore Row, Birmingham (acquired on 6th February 1919)

John Danks, Barrs Road, Old Hill

Frederick Smith Ltd.

William Butler and Co. Ltd. (acquired 12th June 1959)

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd

LICENSEES

James Appleby [1841] – [1842]
Joseph Mason [1845] – [1862]
Mrs. Fanny Mason [1864] – [1872]
Joseph Whittaker [1872] – [1879]
James Hadley [1879] – [1908]
Albert Ernest Hadley [1908] – **1925**;
John Leonard King (**1925** – **1927**);
Arthur Owen Hickman (**1927** – **1929**);
Joseph Albert Danks (**1929** – **1933**);
John Woodall (**1933** – **1938**);
William Reginald Bloomer (**1938** – **1944**);
James Frost (**1944** – **1946**);
Harry Taylor (**1946** – **1951**);
Norman Harper (**1951**);
Albert Evans (**1951** – **1957**);
Benjamin Harper (**1957** – [1965])

NOTES

Old Hill Cross [1849]
23, Reddal Hill Road [1890], [1891], [1896], [1900], [1901], [1904], [1908]
15, Reddal Hill Road [1911], [1912], [1924], [1932], [1940]

CROWN [1860]

It had a brewery attached.

1841 Census

Redhal Hill

- [1] *James Appleby* (25), publican;
- [2] Sarah Appleby (20), born Staffordshire;
- [3] James Darby (45), nailor, born Staffordshire:

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

14th November 1841 - Sophia, daughter of *James* and Sarah *Appleby*, victualler, Reddal Hill.

Birmingham Journal 31/1/1846 - Advert

“Desirable Dwelling House and Land, at Reddall Hill, in the parish of Rowley Regis, county of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, without any reserve, by Abiathar Bunch, on Monday Next, the 2nd day of February, at Six o’clock in the evening, at the house of Mr. *Joseph Mason*, the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddall Hill, subject to conditions then to be produced.

All that Dwelling House and Land, situate at Reddall Hill, adjoining the ROSE AND CROWN aforesaid, and now in the occupation of Mr. Moses Nock.

For other particulars, apply to the Auctioneer; or at the Offices of Messrs. Robinson and Fletcher, Solicitors, Dudley.”

It was extended c.1850.

1851 Census

Redhal Hill

- [1] *Joseph Mason* (45), victualler and nailor, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Fanny Mason* (41), wife, at home, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Hannah Mason (21), daughter, at home, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Henry Mason (17), son, nail ironmonger’s apprentice, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Ann Rebecca Mason (5), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Edmond Mason (4), son, at home, born Rowley Regis:

Worcestershire Chronicle 20/9/1854

“Unjust Weights and Measures. No less than 52 delinquents of this description were today fined as follows.....
Rowley Regis..... *Joseph Mason*, two quarts, 5s.”

Birmingham Journal 9/8/1856 - Advert

“Four Freehold Dwelling Houses and Premises, Situate near the Cross, Old Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis. To Be Sold by Auction, on Monday, the 18th day of August, at Six o’clock in the evening, at the house of Mr. *J. Mason*, the ROSE AND CROWN, at Reddal Hill, Old Hill, aforesaid, and subject to conditions then to be produced.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/6/1858 - Advert

“Freehold Premises, Rowley.
By John G. Wright, on Monday Next, June 7th, at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill, at Six o’clock in the evening. Two Freehold Dwelling Houses, situated near the School, Reddal Hill, in the parish of Rowley Regis; particulars of which may be had of the Auctioneer, Dudley.”

1861 Census

Reddal Hill – ROSE AND CROWN

- [1] *Joseph Mason* (54), victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Fanny Mason* (51), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Hannah Mason* (30), daughter, assistant, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Henry Mason* (27), son, nail manufacturer’s clerk, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Phebe Mason* (24), daughter, barmaid, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Ann R. Mason* (15), daughter, assistant, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *William Mason* (9), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] *John Mason* (8), grandson, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 30/1/1869 - Advert

“Freehold Building Land, at Reddal Hill, near the proposed Four Ways Goods Station.
A Society will be commenced on Monday, the 8th day of February, 1869, at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill, at Seven o’clock in the Evening, for the Purchase of Fifty Lots of Building Land, belonging to Mr. Richard Green, situated at Plant’s Green, Reddal Hill. The Land is dry, has a good fall for drainage, and is bounded by the Rowley and Stourbridge Road on one side, and the Newtown Brook on the other side, and stands on a mining fault. The Vendor will construct proper streets.
For further particulars, and to see a plan of the land, apply to Mr. Richard Green, or Mr. Henry Mason, Reddal Hill; or to Messrs. Homfray and Holberton, Solicitors, Brierley Hill and Colman Hill.”

Stourbridge Observer 31/7/1869

“On Thursday afternoon, a large meeting of horse-nail makers was held at the ROSE AND CROWN, Reddal Hill, to reconsider the steps resolved upon at Monday’s meeting.
Mr. J. Willetts presided. He said that before any business was gone into, he would read a letter from a leading man in the trade, at Belper, in Derbyshire. The writer stated that the men in that district were willing to be guided by the resolutions come to in the Old Hill and Netherton districts, whatever those resolutions might be. An influential master in Derbyshire, a day or two ago, had expressed sorrow for the men, and said he thought there was a good prospect for them at the present time to obtain an advance of 6d.
A lengthy discussion followed after which Mr. John Bloomer moved, and Mr. Josiah Hackett seconded, ‘That Mr. Walker’s men work up the iron on the conditions it was taken out on Saturday last.’ This was carried unanimously.
Mr. E. Whitehouse moved, and Mr. William Bellfield, seconded, ‘That no more iron be worked up after Saturday next, whether the men have worked up the iron taken out or otherwise.’
It was moved by Mr. Josiah Hackett, and seconded by Mr. James Smart, ‘That no more iron should be drawn out after Saturday till a general meeting of the trade had been held.’
Mr. Henry Rudge moved, and Mr. Samuel Grainger seconded, ‘That a deputation wait on the masters at the earliest possible moment to hear their views on the subject.’
The proceedings shortly after terminated.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/8/1869

“The Dispute in The Horse-Nail Trade.
There is every probability that this dispute will shortly close, quite three parts of the men having received the advance of 3d in the Netherton, Reddal Hill, and Lye Waste districts. A meeting was held on Monday afternoon, at the ROSE AND CROWN, Reddal Hill, when 136 of the men on strike received a small sum, the result of a collection made on Saturday amongst those at work. It was fully expected on Monday last that an extensive firm at Reddal Hill would give out iron at 3s 3d. These expectations, however, were not realised; but we hear that a promise was made to the men yesterday (Wednesday) that on Monday next the firm would be in a position to pay the advanced price.”

County Advertiser 18/9/1869

“On Monday afternoon a meeting of horse-nail makers was held at the ROSE AND CROWN, Reddal Hill, for the purpose of appointing a deputation to wait upon Mr. Lewis, of Withymoor, to ascertain, whether, as it had been reported, he was willing to give the same advance as the rest of the trade, and also for the transaction of other business. Mr. T. Johnson presided, and the attendance was large. It was proposed and seconded that Mr. Joseph Rock and Mr. T. Homer, accompanied by a representative of the Press, at once wait upon Mr. Lewis, before any other business was gone into. This was accordingly carried out. The deputation

was very courteously received by Mr. S. Lewis, junior, in the absence of his father. After a deliberation of about an hour, during which several technical points relating to the trade were gone into, Mr. Lewis, junior, said he was willing to give the advance; and the reason the firm had held out so long was in consequence of a shortness of orders, combined with the unprincipled conduct of several other petty masters. Mr. Lewis further said that he would give out iron on Wednesday, though his warehouse was fully stocked with every description of nails. In proof of this, he showed our correspondent over the warehouses, and the abundant stock fully corroborated his statement. In conclusion, he said that he believed the time was not far distant when another reduction would have to take place. The deputation then returned to the ROSE AND CROWN, and on Mr. Lewis's decision being made known to the meeting, round upon round of vociferous cheering were given. This dispute, which has extended over several weeks is, therefore, now brought to a conclusion. Iron was given out on Wednesday by Mr. Lewis in accordance with promise."

County Express 25/9/1869

"An inquest was held on Monday last at the PRIMROSE [sic] AND CROWN, Reddall Hill, by Edwin Hooper, Esq, Coroner, on the death of Sarah Ann Jones, aged 5 years, daughter of Martha Jones. It appears that the child was burnt about eight o'clock on the 31st of August, having been left alone in the house for a few minutes. Her mother returned and found her enveloped in flames. Mr. Hodgson, surgeon, was called in and rendered everything to relieve the little sufferer. After a lingering illness she died on the evening of the 17th inst. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

1871 Census

Reddall Hill – ROSE AND CROWN

- [1] *Fanny Mason* (61), widow, victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] William Mason (20), son, clerk at nail warehouse, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] John Mason (19), nephew, clerk at nail warehouse, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Mary Ann Jennings (16), niece, born Rowley Regis:

Birmingham Daily Post 22/3/1873 - Died

"On the 17th inst, after a short illness, aged 63 years, *Fanny Mason*, of Reddall Hill, Rowley Regis; deeply lamented."

County Advertiser 15/6/1872 - Advert

"ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddall Hill.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. S. Leonard, on the Premises aforesaid, on Tuesday Next, June 18th, 1872, a quantity of Household Furniture, &c, consisting of Round Mahogany Table, Two Round Deal Tables, Two long Benches, capital Malt Crusher, Mahogany Corner Cupboard, Set of Mahogany Chest of Drawers, Painted Beaufet, Lot of Crown-back and Cane-seated Chairs, Thirty-hour Clock, Eight-day Clock, Mahogany Half-tester, and other Bedsteads; Straw Mattresses, Mahogany Dressing Table, Mahogany Wash-hand Stand, Swing Glass, and numerous other Effects, belonging to Mr. *Joseph Whittaker*, who has no further use for the same.

Sale to commence at Twelve o'clock at Noon."

Sheffield Independent 9/5/1873

"The Horse-Nail Makers' Strike.

This strike has now lasted nearly ten weeks in South Staffordshire and at Belper. On Wednesday a meeting of the men was held at the ROSE AND CROWN, Reddall Hill, Rowley Regis, and it was unanimously agreed to remain out on strike until the 4s 3d per thousand was given by the masters. During the meeting it was announced that Mr. Webb, nailmaster, Quarry Bank, had given out iron at the men's prices."

County Express 22/4/1876

"On Tuesday last, the members and friends of the Old Hill Cricket Club held their annual meeting at the house of Mr. *Joseph Whittaker*, ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddall Hill, when upwards of twenty-five sat down to a splendid repast, provided by the host and hostess. After the withdrawal of the cloth, song, toast, and sentiment prevailed till the close of the evening."

Dudley Herald 3/6/1876 - Advert

"Freehold Houses and Old Turf Land, Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, Rowley Regis.

Messrs. Oates, Perrens, & Wooldridge, will Offer for Sale by Auction, at the house of Mr. *Joseph Whittaker*, the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Old Hill, on Wednesday, the 7th day of June, 1876, at Six 'clock in the Evening."

County Express 11/11/1876

"Extraordinary Case of Stripping Children. Mary Fisher, a woman poorly clad, and said to belong to Old Hill, was brought up in custody on several charges of stealing wearing apparel. In the first case she was charged with having stolen wearing apparel from a boy named Edward Bennett.

Mary Whittingslow, of Moor Street, Brierley Hill, said she was the guardian of the boy, and on the morning of Saturday he was with a play-fellow, the child of a neighbour. He had on jacket, trousers, shirt, waistcoat. The boys disappeared, and were not seen again until they were discovered at Old Hill, at two o'clock on the following morning.

Emma Rolinson, a married woman, residing at Old Hill, said the prisoner had recently been lodging with her. Last Saturday she saw the prisoner at the corner of Wrights Lane, and she was carrying a satchel in her hand. Prisoner came to her and gave her 2s saying that she would return shortly and give her a further sum. Prisoner was then alone, but witness went to the corner of the

lane and saw two children. She had since ascertained that their names were Bennett and Hall. The boy Bennett had neither shirt, waistcoat or jacket, but had an apron (produced) which she could swear was prisoner's, thrown around him. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon, and she took the children to her home and communicated with the police. At about half past five o'clock the prisoner returned home, but immediately she saw the children, 'made her escape.'

Mary Ann Dunn, residing at Mill Street, Brierley Hill, said that about half-past twelve o'clock on Saturday morning, she saw the two children going down Mill Street, in the direction of Old Hill, and the prisoner was with them. One of the boys was carrying a satchel, and the other a basket.

Mr. Lovell, pawnbroker, said prisoner pawned the wearing apparel (produced) at his shop on Saturday, and he advanced her the sum of two shillings.

Inspector Price deposed that he received several articles of wearing apparel from the last witness and charged the prisoner with stealing them. In reply she pleaded guilty.

Mr. Bluck, pawnbroker, Cradley Heath, said on Saturday, prisoner pledged at his shop, a shirt, waistcoat, and other articles, upon which he advanced her one shilling and threepence.

Prisoner was then charged with having stolen articles of wearing apparel from Walter Hall.

Frederick Hall, mail contractor, Moor Street, Brierley Hill, said the boy was his son, and left home on Saturday morning. He was then wearing a petticoat, frock, and jacket. He did not see him again until Sunday morning.

Mr. Lovell said the prisoner pledged the frock (produced) at his shop.

Mr. Bluck deposed that she pledged at his shop the jacket.

Inspector Price said he charged prisoner with the offence, and she pleaded guilty.

There was another charge of having stolen a shawl from a girl named Fanny *Whittaker*, daughter of *Joseph Whittaker*, publican, Reddal Hill.

The girl's evidence went to show that the prisoner met her in the street and asked her which was the way to Cradley station. After she had proceeded some distance, the prisoner took from her a shawl, and did not return.

Mr. Lovell said the prisoner pledged the shawl (produced) with him.

There was another charge of a similar nature against the prisoner, but as the property had not been recovered, the case was not proceeded with.

On being formally charged prisoner pleaded guilty, and was committed for trial on the three charges of theft."

Staffordshire Sentinel 3/1/1877

"Staffordshire Epiphany Sessions The following sentences were given, the prisoners having pleaded guilty.....

Mary Fisher, 44, no occupation, six months' imprisonment, for having, on three indictments, stolen wearing apparel from children in the streets of Brierley Hill and Rowley Regis."

County Advertiser 25/1/1879

"Business Failures. On Monday, at the County Court, a petition was filed on behalf of *Joseph Whittaker*, ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill, Rowley. The liabilities are £1,500, and the assets not yet known. Messrs. G. B. Lowe and Son are the solicitors to the debtor."

London Gazette 28/1/1879

"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 *Joseph Whittaker*, of the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler.

Notice is hereby given, that a First General Meeting of the creditors of the above-named person has been summoned to be held at the offices of Messrs. George Burn Lowe and Son, Solicitors, No.23, Wolverhampton-street, Dudley, on the 10th day of February, 1879, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon precisely.

Dated this 25th day of January, 1879.

Geo. Burn Lowe and Son, 23, Wolverhampton-street, Dudley, Solicitors for the said *Joseph Whittaker*."

County Express 8/2/1879 - Advert

"Sale of Valuable Freehold Old-Licensed Public House, Dwelling House, and Premises, Reddal Hill, Old Hill.

Messrs. Rollinson and Beckley are instructed by the Mortgagee to Offer by Auction, on Monday, the 17th day of February, 1879, at the house of Mr. Burgess, GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill, at Six for Seven o'clock in the Evening, and subject to conditions to be then read.

All that Valuable Freehold Old-Licensed Public House and Premises, called the ROSE AND CROWN INN, situate at the junction of the two Roads leading from Dudley and Cradley Heath to Old Hill, and containing Liquor Vaults, Parlour, Smoke Room, 27ft by 15ft; Tap Room, Three Bed Rooms, Club Room, 27ft by 15ft; Malt Room, Cooking Kitchen, Large Brewhouse, Cellar, 30ft by 15ft; Stable, Piggeries, Large Yard (with side entrance), and necessary Outbuildings, now in the occupation of Mr. *Joseph Whittaker*; together with the Dwelling House adjoining thereto, in the occupation of Luke Johnson, at the annual rental of £6 10s 0d.

For further particulars apply to Messrs. Gould and Elcock, Solicitors, Stourbridge; or the Auctioneers, High Street, Brierley Hill."

County Express 22/2/1879

"Messrs. Rollinson and Beckley, auctioneers, Brierley Hill, offered for sale by auction on Monday last, at the GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill, an Old Licensed Public House, called the ROSE AND CROWN INN situate at Reddal Hill, there was a large attendance of bidders, and after a spirited competition, the lot was sold to Mr. *James Hadley* for £970. Messrs. Gould and Elcock were solic-

itors for the vendor.”

County Advertiser 14/6/1879 - Advert

“Sale of Valuable Freehold and Leasehold Old-Licensed Public House, Dwelling House, and Premises, Reddal Hill, Old Hill. Messrs. Rollinson and Beckley are instructed by the Mortgagee to Offer by Auction, on Monday, the 7th day of July, 1879, at the house of Mr. Burgess, GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill, at Six for Seven o’clock in the Evening, and subject to conditions to be then read.

All that Valuable Old-Licensed Public House and Premises, called the ROSE AND CROWN INN, situate at the Junction of the two roads leading from Dudley and Cradley Heath to Old Hill, and containing Liquor Vaults, Parlour, Smoke Room, 27ft by 15ft; Tap Room, Three Bed Rooms, Club Room, 27ft by 15ft; Malt Room, Cooking Kitchen, large Brewhouse, Cellar, 30ft by 15ft; Stable, Piggeries, large Yard (with side entrance), and necessary Out-buildings, now in the occupation of Mr. *James Hadley*; together with the Dwelling House adjoining thereto, in the occupation of Duke Johnson.

For further particulars apply to Messrs. Gould and Elcock, Solicitors, Stourbridge and Kidderminster; or the Auctioneers, High Street, Brierley Hill.”

County Advertiser 21/6/1879 - Advert

“Sale of Valuable Freehold and Leasehold Old-Licensed Public House, Dwelling House, and Premises, Reddal Hill, Old Hill. Notice Is Hereby Given that the Sale by Auction of the above (advertised to take place on Monday, the 7th day of July next, at the house of Mr. Burgess, GEORGE HOTEL, Old Hill, by Messrs. Rollinson and Beckley, Auctioneers, Brierley Hill), Will Not Now Take Place.

Dated this 20th day of June, 1879.

Gould and Elcock, Solicitors, Stourbridge.”

Dudley Herald 13/9/1879

“Eli Johnson was charged with assaulting Priscilla Johnson, on the 6th inst. From the evidence of the complainant and another witness it appeared that complainant went to the defendant and asked him for some money. He called her foul names, and assaulted her. Defendant called two witnesses who swore that complainant set upon her husband first, and threw a spittoon at him. Eli [sic] *Hadley*, landlord of the ROSE AND CROWN, Old Hill, said that the complainant came to his house and used very bad language, and set about the defendant. He ordered her out but she would not go, and he sent for the police. The Bench said the defendant was a bad man, he had neglected his wife, and they would not give him the option of a fine, but sentence him to 14 days’ hard labour. Sentenced accordingly.”

County Express 31/7/1880 - Advert

“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 *Joseph Whittaker*, of the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, Licensed Victualler.

The Creditors of the above-named *Joseph Whittaker* who have not already proved their debts are required on or before the 11th day of August, 1880, to send their names and addresses and the particulars of their debts or claims to me Charles Lloyd Lester, of Market Place, Dudley, in the County of Worcester, one of the undersigned Trustees under the liquidation, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of the dividend proposed to be declared.

Dated the 27th day of July, 1880.

Chas. Lloyd Lester, Henry Mason, Joseph Tilley, Trustees.

Geo. Burn Lowe & Son, 23, Wolverhampton Street, Dudley, and Thomas Homer, Brierley Hill, Solicitors for the Trustees.”

1881 Census

23, Reddall Hill Road

[1] *James Hadley* (31), publican, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Ruth Hadley (27), wife, born Dudley:

County Advertiser 14/1/1882

“On Tuesday evening a representative meeting of horse nailmakers was held at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill, Cradley Heath, to take into consideration the advisability of forming an association of horse nailmakers for South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire. Mr. C. Williams presided, and there was a good attendance of delegates from the various districts. The Chairman and several other speakers spoke upon the importance of combination amongst the men, and urged the necessity of a trades union being formed amongst them. It was unanimously decided to form a union for South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire, each member to contribute 3d weekly. It was further decided to send a requisition to the employers to be presented at Birmingham, on Thursday, asking for 3d advance per thousand.”

Dudley and District News 22/12/1883

“The Old Hill Glee Union held their annual meeting on Friday, the 14th inst, at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill. The members and several friends sat down to an excellent spread, served in the host’s usual style, to which ample justice was done. After the cloth was drawn, Mr. H. Green was voted to the chair, and the usual loyal and other toasts having been duly honoured, the following programme was gone through, Mr. Johnson, junior, of Darby End, presiding at the piano: ‘Hail! Star of Brunswick,’ Glee Union; ‘Flow gently, sweet Afton,’ Glee Union; ‘You’ll remember me,’ the Chairman; ‘The happiest land,’

Glee Union; 'Ehren on the Rhine,' Mr. Horton; 'The tar's song,' Glee Union; 'Taken by storm,' Mr. John Fry; 'The lifeboat,' Glee Union; 'Welcome, ever welcome, friends,' Mr. S. Wright; 'When evening's twilight,' Glee Union; 'The beautiful Dee,' Mr. Wright; 'The silver Rhine,' Mr. Horton; 'Bear goodwill to all men,' Mr. Howells; 'I heard a spirit sing,' Mr. Hadley; 'I fear no foe,' Mr. Brown; 'The letter,' Glee Union; 'Dream faces,' Mr. Horton; 'Strike the iron while it's hot,' Mr. John Fry. Votes of thanks to the chairman, vice-chairman, pianist, host, &c. &c., having been proposed, and cordially carried, a very enjoyable evening was brought to a close by the whole company singing the National Anthem."

County Express 7/6/1884

"Mr. Edwin Hooper (Worcestershire Coroner) held an inquest on Saturday afternoon at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddall Hill, respecting the death of Mary Ann Perry (4), who had died from the effects of burns. On the 28th of March the deceased fell on a fire which had been made in the garden, and sustained terrible injuries all over her body. She was attended by Dr. De Denne and died on the 29th ult from the effects of the injuries received. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

County Advertiser 17/1/1885 - Advert

"Wanted, a good General Servant.
Apply, Mrs. *Hadley*, ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill, Old Hill."

County Express 15/8/1885

"William Nock and Silas Nock, Old Hill, charged with being disorderly and refusing to quit the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill, kept by *James Hadley*, on the 3rd inst, were each fined 2s 6d and costs each."

County Advertiser 22/8/1885 - Advert

"Wanted, a General Servant; good character indispensable.
Apply, Mrs. *Hadley*, ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill, Old Hill."

County Advertiser 30/10/1886

"Henry Green, Old Hill, and *James Hadley*, landlord of the ROSE AND CROWN, Reddal Hill, were summoned by William Green for refusing to pay £2 8s, being six weeks' sick pay from the Snowdrop Lodge of Free Gardeners, *Hadley* being trustee and Green secretary of the lodge. Mr. Ward, who appeared for the defence, objected that the complainant should have first submitted his claim to arbitration, and then if it could not be settled taken out a summons.

The Bench decided to examine the complainant upon the objection set up.

Complainant said he was a member of the club held at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill, and had been a member six or seven years. He had been ill for three or four months, and Mr. Green, one of the defendants, stopped his pay about three months ago. He wished his claim to be settled by arbitration, but the defendants would not allow the case to be settled in that way. His claim was for six weeks' sick pay at 8s per week.

In cross-examination prosecutor said that he wished to have his claim settled at a meeting of the club instead of by arbitration.

Mr. Bassano said they considered the objection raised by Mr. Ward was a good one, and that they would have to dismiss the case. If it was not settled by reference to arbitration, as provided by the rules, the proper course would then be to take out a summons."

County Advertiser 26/11/1887 - Advert

"Wanted, a good General Servant.
Apply, Mrs. *Hadley*, ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill, Old Hill."

Birmingham Daily Post 24/5/1889

"A meeting of miners was held last evening at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill, Rowley Regis. A miner presided and stated that the meeting had been called for the purpose of taking into consideration the proposal of the Yorkshire coal-owners, that 5 per cent advance in wages be given on July 1, and another 5 per cent on October 1, the wages to be settled until July next year. Such terms he considered anything but satisfactory. In the Old Hill district the wages were very low and an increase was very necessary. Similar views were expressed by Mr. Winwood (miners' agent). Several delegates urged that the miners were entitled to an advance of 10 per cent at once. A resolution was unanimously passed in favour of notice being given for an advance of 10 per cent being conceded at the whole of the collieries. It was decided that Mr. Winwood represent the Old Hill miners at the forthcoming conference."

Dudley Mercury 27/7/1889

"On Wednesday a meeting of miners was held at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill, Old Hill, a miner presiding. Mr. B. Winwood remarked that the meeting was convened for the purpose of discussing the miners' strike in the Somerset district. Wages in the district where the strike had occurred were very low. It had been decided to reduce the levies for their support from 6d to 3d per man, and he sincerely hoped all who could see their way clear to contribute would do so without delay.....

Resolutions were passed in favour of each man at the various collieries in the district contributing 3d towards the support of the Somersetshire miners on strike; also to take part in the National Conference to advance wages and reduce the number of working hours."

County Advertiser 31/8/1889 - Advert

"Wanted, a good strong General Servant.

Apply, Mrs. *Hadley*, ROSE AND CROWN, Reddal Hill.”

Dudley Mercury 16/11/1889

“On Tuesday night, at the ROSE AND CROWN, Old Hill, a meeting of miners was presided over by Mr. B. Winwood, to consider wages and hours of labour questions. Resolutions were passed in favour of a National Federation, a ten per cent advance, and the eight hours’ system.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/12/1890

“Yesterday afternoon Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill, respecting the death of Mary Elizabeth Johnson (6), Brook Lane. It appeared that deceased, with other children, was playing on Saturday near a furnace at which her grandfather was at work, when her clothes caught fire, and she was burnt very severely. The foreman said it was a very dangerous place, and thought it should be properly fenced. Mr. Johnson promised to do this; and the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1891 Census

23, Reddal Hill Road

[1] *James Hadley* (41), brewer and innkeeper, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Ruth Hadley (37), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *Albert Ernest Hadley* (6), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Alice Hadley (3), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Elizabeth Grove (21), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

Birmingham Daily Post 23/7/1891

“Last night a special meeting of the council of the Midland Counties Trades Federation was held at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill, Old Hill. Mr. J. Taylor (the president) presided. Mr. Juggins presented a report of the conference in the Heath Town and Walsall lock trade, and explained that at the conference the federation made terms with the masters, but the men refused to accept them, and turned out on strike. Mr. Millership said that the report given to the meeting by Mr. Juggins would convey a wrong impression to men who knew nothing about the lock trade. He contended that the men were doing right in turning out on strike under the circumstances. Mr. Smith moved that another conference be called between the employers and workmen with a view to settling the dispute. This was seconded. Mr. Oakey moved an amendment that the men do not return to work until the employers grant them 10 per cent advance on the old list of prices. Mr. Millership seconded this amendment. The resolution was carried by sixteen votes to fifteen.”

County Advertiser 17/3/1894

“Samuel Higgs Hayseech, was fined 20s for being drunk in the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill, Old Hill, on the 5th inst. Police-constable Paling found defendant very drunk in the kitchen.”

County Advertiser 5/5/1894 - Advert

Wanted, a strong active Girl used to Public Business.

Apply, Mrs. *Hadley*, ROSE AND CROWN, Reddal Hill.”

County Advertiser 26/7/1894 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant.

Apply, ROSE AND CROWN, Reddal Hill, Old Hill.”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/10/1894

“Yesterday afternoon a numerously attended meeting of wrought-nail makers was held at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill, Old Hill, for the purpose of considering the wages question.

Mr. R. Juggins (secretary of the Midland Counties Trades Federation) presided, and stated that they had met together to consider what appeared to be a very important crisis in connection with the nail trade. For a long time an agitation had been going on amongst the operatives with a view to improving their position, but he was sorry to say that instead of doing that they had been gradually getting worse, and their wages had been considerably reduced. They had severed their connection with the trade union, with the result that they had greatly weakened themselves and allowed the employers to take advantage of them. The prices had not been reduced systematically as was arranged under the Wages Board, but the employers had reduced special work, and the operatives who made hob-nails had submitted to more reductions than the others. (Shame.) He considered the nailmakers were placed in a very awkward position as regarded the advance to be claimed. He supposed they would demand the 1890 list of prices, but he had discovered that there were nailmakers in the East Worcestershire district who were receiving more than the 1890 list. If they asked for that list the masters who were paying more money would certainly pull their workers down to it. The present condition of the trade was due, to a great extent, to the large number of domestic workshops in existence. (Hear, hear.) If there were factories instead of so many workshops it would be much better for the trade generally. (Applause.) Operatives engaged in the cast-nail trade were obtaining three times more wages than those engaged in the wrought-nail trade, and yet in the market the cast-nail was the cheaper. Out of the 2,000 or 3,000 operatives engaged in the trade, only about 500 were connected with the federation.

Mr. T. Jones (secretary of the Toolmakers’ Association) stated that the Midland Counties Trades Federation had not given their

sanction to a strike, and if the operatives left work it would be upon their own responsibility. (Hear, hear.) If there were any chance of success the federation would do all they could to assist them. They had spent over £300 in trying to keep the wages of the nailers intact in the Gornal and Sedgley districts. (Applause.)

Mr. H. Lea (secretary of the Nailmakers' Association) remarked that all the operatives in the trade were thoroughly determined to secure a better state of affairs.

A deputation was appointed to wait upon the employers with the view to ascertaining how many were prepared to pay the 1890 list of prices."

County Advertiser 10/8/1895 - Advert

"Wanted, a good General Servant.

Apply ROSE AND CROWN, Reddal Hill, Cradley Heath."

County Express 21/8/1897

"The first of what is intended to be an annual demonstration of the friendly societies in the Old Hill district, was held on Sunday, the object in view being to help the funds of the Dudley Guest Hospital, Dudley Dispensary, and Birmingham Eye Hospital the day was bright and promising, and there were large numbers of people all along the route.

At one o'clock the 1st Worcestershire Volunteer Band started from the CROSS INN, proceeded across Halesowen Road, calling at Trinity Schools and GEORGE HOTEL; then across Lawrence Lane into Reddal Hill Road, calling at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, and proceeding to the Cross, where the final procession was formed. Meanwhile the Old Hill Brass and Red Band started from the WHITE LION INN, proceeded by way of Powke Lane and Garratts Lane to Wrights Lane (as far as the PRINCE OF WALES INN), and returned to Garratts Lane, calling for lodges at the BRITISH OAK INN, FOX HUNT INN, Tabernacle, DUKE WILLIAM INN, VINE INN, to the Cross. On the arrival of this contingent a huge line was formed, and very pretty it looked. Members of the various lodges wore their regalia, and these being interspersed with the more elaborate honorary members' scarves, gave the line a very bright appearance....."

County Express 11/9/1897

"A dinner was held on Monday night by the members of the club meeting at Mr. *Hadley's*, the ROSE AND CROWN, and a very pleasant time they spent. An excellent dinner was served up by the host and hostess. After the table had been cleared Mr. Henry Mather was voted to the chair, and Mr. Broadbent to the vice-chair, and under their guidance a good round of songs, etc, was gone through. Some excellently played pianoforte solos by Mr. Heys and Master *Hadley* were very much appreciated, and songs by members of the company provided a pleasing variation. Before the company separated hearty votes of thanks were passed to Mr. and Mrs. *Hadley* for the manner in which they had catered, to Mr. Heys for his solos and accompaniments, and to Master *Hadley* and others who had contributed to the harmony of the evening."

Dudley Herald 29/1/1898

"A supper was partaken of at the house of Mr. *James Hadley*, ROSE AND CROWN INN, Old Hill, in connection with a club held at the house. About 30 sat down to an excellent repast catered by the host and hostess in a most able manner. After the withdrawal of the cloth Mr. Broadbent was elected chairman, and Mr. Lucas to the vice-chair. A capital programme of songs and recitations by Mr. S. Fletcher, Mr. S. Danks, Mr. Hachison, Mr. C. Cockin, and others was gone through in a very able manner. Master *E. Hadley* was accompanist, and the chief items of the programme were the pianoforte solos which Master *Hadley* performed with much taste and ability. The evening was enjoyable throughout."

Dudley Herald 12/3/1898

"Smoking Concert. On Thursday evening a gathering of the above description took place at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill, in aid of Court Robin Hood the Brave of the Ancient Order of Foresters. Councillor S. Farmer presided, and Mr. G. H. Dowie was in the vice-chair. An interesting programme of songs and recitations was gone through. Master *Ernest Hadley* was the accompanist."

Dudley Herald 18/6/1898

"On Monday the members of a club held at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill, together with a few friends, partook of an excellent repast provided by the landlord (Mr. *James Hadley*). Supper was served at seven o'clock, after which the party settled down to an evening's enjoyment. Mr. Broadbent was elected to the chair, and Mr. Broome to the vice-chair. There was a capital programme of songs and recitations by the following gentleman: Messrs. S. and L. Fletcher, S. Danks, D. Grainger, and F. Woodall; and pianoforte solos and duets by Mr. B. Heys and Master E. Hadley. Mr. L. Fletcher's comic songs created a great deal of amusement, and Mr. S. Danks gave a thoroughly good rendering of 'Ora pro nobis.' Master E. Hadley very ably accompanied. Votes of thanks were passed to the host and hostess for the excellent catering, and to the performers for the able manner in which they contributed to the evening's enjoyment.

Mr. *Hadley* suitably responded, and said how pleased he was to see them all enjoying themselves, and his aim would always be to try and efficiently provide for them on any occasion.

Votes of thanks were then passed to the chairman and vice-chairman, after which the singing of the National Anthem brought a most enjoyable evening to a close."

County Advertiser 27/8/1898

"On Sunday afternoon the annual hospital parade and open-air service, arranged by the various friendly societies in Old Hill and

the surrounding district took place. Processions were formed at different points of members of the Foresters, the Free Gardeners, and provident societies, numbering altogether about 1,000, and these, accompanied by the Blackheath, Halesowen Temperance, and Old Hill Bands, paraded the principal streets of the locality, after which they marched to a field in Garratts Lane, lent for the occasion by Mr. A. Sidaway, where a special service was held. Addresses were delivered by the Revs. E. Brewer, MA (vicar of Old Hill), and W. B. Cheshire (Primitive Methodist). A collection was made along the route and at the service in aid of the Guest Hospital, Dudley Dispensary, and Birmingham Eye Hospital, this realising £25 14s 5¼d.

The following was the order of procession issued by the committee. The Blackheath Village Band will start from the WHITE LION INN, Powke Lane, at 1-45 prompt, proceed down Garratts Lane, calling for societies at the BRITISH OAK INN, Tabernacle, DUKE WILLIAM INN, and VINE INN, turning across Queen Street on to the old football ground (by kind permission of Mr. W. H. Jarvis). The Halesowen Temperance Band will start from the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Wrights Lane, at 1-45 prompt, proceed round Cherry Orchard Street, into Wrights Lane, turning down Wagon Street, calling at the OLD ENGINE INN, proceeding down Elbow Street and King Street, across Halesowen Road, to the old football ground. The Old Hill Band will start from the CROSS INN at 1-45 prompt, calling for societies at Trinity Schools and GEORGE HOTEL, proceed across Lawrence Lane, turning up New Street, Ridding Street, Pear Tree Street, Pear Tree Lane, thence into Reddal Hill Road, calling at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, and proceeding to the old football ground. A grand procession will be formed as follows.....”

County Advertiser 7/10/1899

“Mr. Herbert Humphries, the auctioneer, Brierley Hill and Stourbridge, held a very successful sale of properties, on Tuesday last, at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill. The large assembly room was packed, a number of well-known property buyers being present. Each lot was competed for in a very spirited manner, the four lots being sold at satisfactory prices. Messrs. Johnsons and Co., solicitors, of Waterloo Street, Birmingham, acted for the vendors, who were the trustees of the late Mr. James Holcroft.”

County Express 16/2/1901 - Deaths

“On February 13th, 1901, Ruth, beloved wife of *James Hadley*, ROSE AND CROWN HOTEL, Old Hill, in her 47th year.”

1901 Census

23, Reddal Hill Road

- [1] *James Hadley* (51), widower, publican and brewer, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Albert E. Hadley* (16), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Alice V. Hadley (13), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Mirah Cockin (45), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 25/10/1902

“A similar dinner to that held at Brierley Hill, and reported on page 8 [in celebration of the coronation of King Edward VII], was held at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Old Hill, on Thursday evening, when the officers of the Old Hill Sub-division sat down to an excellent repast. Inspector Hodgkinson was in the chair and Sergt. Pitcher in the vice-chair. The chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Col. Wilkinson for his kindness in giving the dinner.

Sergt. Pitcher proposed ‘The health of the Chief Constable, Captain the Hon. George A. Anson.’

Sergt. Berkley proposed ‘The Press.’

Inspector Hodgkinson proposed a vote of thanks to the host and hostess on the able manner in which they had provided the repast. Mr. *Hadley* responded.

The evening was interspersed with harmony, the following contributing: Inspector Hodgkinson, Sergt. Bentley, M. Massey, PCs Richardson, Folkes, and others. Mr. Massey was the accompanist.”

County Advertiser 22/8/1903

“*James Hadley*, landlord of the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill, Old Hill, made an application for the magistrates’ sanction to make alterations to his premises. Evidence was given by Mr. William Bloomer, architect, Old Hill. In reply to Superintendent Pilliner, witness said it was proposed to make three rooms into two, and the landlord then would be able to have a better supervision of the house.

Superintendent Pilliner stated that he had inspected the premises, and did not object to the application, which was granted.”

Tipton Herald 17/10/1903

“At a meeting of frost nail makers held on Tuesday at the ROSE AND CROWN HOTEL, Reddal Hill, Cradley Heath, at which there were delegates present from Old Hill, Netherton, Dudley, Halesowen, and The Lye, it was decided to declare a strike in consequence of the employers have refused to continue to pay the sixpence advance in wages which was conceded last winter, and which was taken off the revised list in March last.”

Tipton Herald 24/10/1903

“The strike for an advance in wages, which lasted a week, has terminated in a satisfactory manner to all parties concerned. A meeting of the workmen was held on Saturday at the ROSE AND CROWN HOTEL, Reddal Road, Cradley Heath. Mr. Rudge, who presided stated that since the last meeting the leading employers had been interviewed by the workmen’s delegates, and they had agreed to concede an advance of 3d per thousand in wages forthwith, and an additional 3d in the first week in December. An agreement has been signed by the employers, and he recommended the workmen to agree to the terms offered. Several delegates

supported the suggestions made by the Chairman, and it was unanimously decided to return to work on the terms offered by the employers.

The Chairman announced that a trade society had been formed, and arrangements had been completed for an application to be made for the whole of the frost nail makers to join the Midland Counties Trades Federation.”

County Advertiser 27/8/1904

“On Sunday afternoon the eighth annual parade and service arranged by the various friendly societies in the Old Hill district took place under favourable circumstances. The proceedings commenced with a large procession.....

The Cradley Heath Salvation Army Band started from the ROSE AND CROWN INN, proceeded down Reddal Hill Road as far as the BRIDGE INN, turning across Plant Street, Lawrence Lane, Trinity Street, picking up another society. Afterwards they marched by way of Elbow Street and Wagon Street to the field, calling at the KINGS HEAD INN and ENGINE INN for societies.....

Upon arrival at the field a grand procession was formed This paraded the principal streets of the locality for some time, after which they proceeded to a field in High Street, kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. A. E. Sidaway. Here a service was held, the chair being occupied by Dr. T. E. Mitchell. Notwithstanding the threatening state of the weather there was a large attendance..... A collection was made upon the route, and at the service, on behalf of the Dudley Guest Hospital, Dudley Dispensary, Birmingham Eye Hospital, Birmingham General Hospital, Birmingham Ear and Throat Hospital, and the Old Hill Nurses Fund.”

County Advertiser 27/5/1905

“On Monday morning Mr. A. R. Betham (deputy coroner) held an inquest at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill, Old Hill, respecting the death of Alexander William Johnson (53), an anchormith, formerly residing at Trinity Street, Old Hill, who died suddenly on the 19th inst. The son, Joseph Johnson, stated that his father had had fairly good health. About eighteen months ago he received a heat stroke, and this had affected him since. On the night of the 18th inst deceased retired to bed in his usual health, and early the following morning witness was called into his father’s room when he found him in a dying condition. A doctor was sent for, but deceased expired before he arrived. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

County Advertiser 5/8/1905

“On Wednesday morning, Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill, Old Hill, respecting the death of Wesley Humphries, aged eighteen months, the son of Joseph Humphries, chainmaker, of Reddal Hill, who was killed on the tramway belonging to the Dudley and Stourbridge Traction Company, on the 31st ult. Mr. W. Waldron appeared on behalf of the Tramway Company.

Evidence of identification was given by the father, who stated that at about seven o’clock on the night in question he was playing with deceased in the house. Subsequently the deceased left the house and went into the street, and the mother ran after him in consequence of hearing a tramcar running. Several persons screamed and he ran to the door, and his wife came into the house and shouted that the child was under the tramcar. Witness saw the tramcar, and he was sure the front of the car did not strike the child. In his opinion the driver lost control of himself. The car was eventually brought to a standstill, and he saw the child’s body, the left side of the head being completely shattered. The electric car travelled at a big rate, and he thought the motor man pulled up as quickly as possible. He did not blame the motor man, because he believed he lost control of himself.

Amelia Groves said on the night in question she saw the deceased on the tramway, and immediately afterwards a car knocked him down and carried him several yards. She screamed and ran after the car. She certainly thought the deceased tried to get out of the way, and she could not blame anyone for the occurrence. In her opinion the child was killed instantly.

Myra Cocken, housekeeper at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, stated that on Monday evening she witnessed the accident. The mother tried to get at the child and save it, but her efforts were in vain. The deceased stood and looked round, and the tram knocked him down and carried him a considerable distance. She did not think the driver was in any way to blame as he pulled up as soon as he possibly could.

Herbert Ernest Hadley, who witnessed the accident, said he saw the child’s body between the front wheel and the catcher, and assisted to get him out. There was no difficulty in getting the child out.

Charles Baker, the motorman in charge of the tramcar, said he had been in the employ of the Tramway Company about three and a half years. He was in charge of the car which left Cradley Heath for Dudley at seven o’clock on the night in question, and was travelling down Reddal Hill Road at about five miles an hour when he was eight yards away he saw the deceased child near to the tramway. He then applied the hand brake, but deceased darted in front of the car. Witness promptly applied the emergency brake, but the child was knocked down and came into contact with the lifeguard. The child, in his opinion, rolled over the catcher on to the pilot board. In reply to the jury, witness said the emergency brake did not act instantly because the sand ran over the deceased’s clothing instead of on to the rail. Replying to Mr. Waldron, witness said he had never had an accident before and no complaint had been made about his driving.

Inspector Gibbs said immediately after the accident he examined the lifeguard and catcher, and found both in good working order. Baker was, in his opinion, a careful driver.

Tom Satterthwaite, electrical engineer, stated that the lifeguard and catcher used on the car were the best that could be obtained, and were in perfect working order. In his opinion, the catcher did its work well, but the child being so small, rolled off it.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death and exonerated the driver from any blame.”

County Advertiser 18/8/1906

“The tenth annual parade of the Old Hill Friendly Societies, on behalf of the local medical charities, will be held tomorrow afternoon in a field lent by Mr. A. E. Sidaway The order of procession will be.....

The Old Hill Ironworks Band will start from the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill.....”

James Hadley issued tokens from here.
He was married firstly to Ruth.
He was married secondly to Phoebe.
He died on 18th July 1918, aged 69.
See also BIRD IN HAND.

County Express 23/5/1908 - Advert

“Old Hill. Important Sale of Property.

E. O. Nightingale has received instructions from the Trustees of the late Mr. Billingham, to Sell By Auction, at the house of Mr. *A. E. Hadley*, the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill Road, Old Hill, on Monday, the first day of June, 1908, at Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to Conditions of sale then to be produced, all those Four Valuable Dwelling Houses situate and being Nos.61, 62, 63, and 64, Elbow Street, and Corner of Wagon Street, Old Hill.....”

County Express 8/8/1908

“On Sunday afternoon there was held the twelfth annual service promoted by the united friendly societies in the Old Hill district. The occasion was favoured with brilliant weather, and there was a large attendance at the services. The proceedings opened with a large procession, which aroused considerable interest in the district. The Old Hill Ironworks Band started from the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Wrights Lane, at one o'clock, and proceeded to the OLD HOUSE AT HOME INN for sick and draw club, through Cherry Orchard, calling for Court Robin Hood's Cave and BRITISH OAK sick and draw club; by way of Wagon Street, calling for Success-to-the-FOX-HUNT Lodge; Elbow Street for Court Benjamin and KINGS HEAD sick and draw club; Halesowen Road, calling for Provident Institution, and on to the field. The Cradley Heath Salvation Army Band started from COOKSEY'S HOTEL at one o'clock with Snowdrop Lodge, by way of Halesowen Road, calling for Court Loyal Marlborough; Bank Street, Queens Street, High Street, and on to the field. The Cradley Heath Town Prize Band started from the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill, with Court Robin Hood the Brave; by way of Reddal Hill Road, calling for the WHY NOT sick and draw club, and on to the BRIDGE INN for Welcome to the Bridge Inn Lodge, across Plant Street, Lawrence Lane, Clyde Street, Petford Street calling for Druids Society; Pear Tree Street, Riddings Street, New Street, Halesowen Road, calling for Court Royal Sherwood and Rechabites Society and ROYAL EXCHANGE sick and draw club; High Street to the field. A grand procession was then formed.....”

County Express 26/2/1910

“The annual dinner in connection with the Old Hill Cricket Club was held on Monday evening at the ROSE AND CROWN, Reddal Hill, Old Hill. An excellent dinner was served by the host and hostess (Mr. and Mrs. *A. E. Hadley*), after which the chair was occupied by the president (Mr. James Billingham).....”

1911 Census

15, Reddal Hill Road

- [1] *Albert Ernest Hadley* (26), brewer's manager, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Lucy Hadley* (27), wife, married 6 years, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Alice Hadley* (23), sister, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Marjery Alice Hadley* (5), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Myra Cockin* (54), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Annie Grove* (21), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 5/10/1912 - Advert

“Girl (respectable) Wanted, about 18.

Apply Mrs. *A. E. Hadley*, ROSE AND CROWN, Old Hill.”

Albert Ernest Hadley was also a brewer. [1914]

Birmingham Mail 2/10/1914 - Advert

“Barmaid at once; good references essential.

Hadley, ROSE AND CROWN, Reddal Hill, Old Hill.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/9/1929 - Advert

“By Order of Messrs. Atkinsons Brewery Limited and Messrs. Peter Walker & Co. Limited.

In The Black Country Industrial Area, and Embracing Properties in Staffordshire and Worcestershire.

Important Sale In Separate Lots, of 45 Freehold Licensed Houses, some with adjoining properties, and including 36 Fully-licensed Houses, 8 On-Beer Houses and 1 Off-License, situate in.....

Old Hill and Cradley.....

ROSE AND CROWN and Cottage, Redall Hill.....

Boswell & Tomlins, FAI, in conjunction with William Fowler, Bewlay & Co., Will submit the above for Sale by Public Auction, in 45 Lots (subject to Conditions of Sale), at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, on Monday, October 14, 1929, Commencing at 3.30 pm

Promptly.

Printed particulars may be obtained from the Solicitors, Messrs. Redfern and Co., 25, Colmore Row, Birmingham; or from the Auctioneers, Messrs. Boswell and Tomlins, FIA, 88 and 89, Darlington Street, Wolverhampton (Tel. No.1116 (two lines), Telegrams 'Auctions'), and Messrs. William Fowler, Bewlay and Co., 59, Temple Row, Birmingham (Tel. Midland 6120)."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/10/1929

"An important sale of freehold licensed premises in the Black Country was held at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, yesterday, when Messrs. Boswell and Tomlins, Wolverhampton, and Messrs. William Fowler, Bewlay and Co., Birmingham, offered 45 lots, the vendors of which were Messrs. Atkinsons Brewery Ltd, and Messrs. Peter Walker and Co. Ltd.

Of the 45 lots which were situate at West Bromwich, Tipton, Dudley, Brierley Hill, Old Hill, and Stourbridge, 32 were sold at the sale, and these realised over £80,000.....

ROSE AND CROWN, Reddall Hill, Old Hill, was sold for £2,700."

It had a bowling club, and its own green at the rear, in the 1930s.

1939 Register

Reddall Hill Road – ROSE AND CROWN

[1] *William R. Bloomer*, date of birth 20/12/1912, licensee and jig tool maker, married;

[2] Florence May (Bloomer) Hodson, dob 10/7/1914, unpaid domestic duties, married:

Closed

ROUND OF BEEF

8, Northgate, (46, Tibbetts Gardens), Five Ways, CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

Earl of Dudley [1906]

Thomas Plant and Co. Steam Brewery, Netherton

Ansells Ltd. (acquired on 2nd June 1937)

LICENSEES

Joseph Burley [1861] – 1877);

James Burley (1877 – []

Joseph Burley [1881] – 1882);

William Henry Foley (1882 – 1904);

William Edwin Jenks (1904 – 1906);

William Henry Foley (1906 – [1910]

Joseph Turner [1911] – [1912]

Francis Keach [1916]

William Titus Smith [1919] – 1923);

John Hill (1923 – 1924);

James Jackson (1924 – 1930);

Charles Fradgley (1930 – 1932);

William Thomas Hickman (1932 – 1936);

Bert Botfield (1936 – 1946);

Harry Herbert Sutton (1946 – 1948);

Joseph William Brooks (1948 – 1950);

Harold Slater (1950 – 1958);

Alfred Raymond Donald Hackett (1958 – 1962);

John Anthony 'Tony' Holloway (1962);

Edward Gerard Hunter (1962 – 1964);

Thomas Brian Astley (1964);

Joseph Edward Holloway (1964 – [1965]

NOTES

46, Tibbetts Gardens [1881], [1891], [1904], [1908], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1924], [1932]
8, Northgate [1939], [1940]

It was called the CHEESE in an 1872 Directory.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 23/5/1860

“George James, servant in the employ of *Joseph Burley*, butcher, of the Five Ways, Cradley Heath, was charged with stealing about ½cwt of horse corn and meal, the property of his master. Edward Griffiths was also charged with receiving the same, knowing it to have been stolen. Prosecutor suspected for some time, from the appearance of his horses, that they were not fed properly, and that the Prisoner James, whose duty it was to feed them, robbed him of the provender they ought to have had. Accordingly a watch was set, and on Friday prosecutor’s daughter saw James leave the stable with a bag, and go to Griffiths’s house, and subsequently to the latter’s stable. Prosecutor’s wife followed, and found both prisoners in Griffiths’s stable. The police were sent for and both given into custody. Each of the prisoners was committed for trial at the ensuing Sessions.”

[At the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions, both men were found guilty, James was sentenced to six and Griffiths to four months’ imprisonment.]

Joseph Burley, beer retailer &c, Cradley Heath. [1861]

1861 Census

Tibbetts Gardens

- [1] *Joseph Burley* (50), victualler and butcher, born Cradley;
- [2] Maria Burley (50), wife, born Rowley;
- [3] Elizabeth Burley (18), daughter, born Rowley;
- [4] Nancy Burley (16), daughter, born Rowley;
- [5] Emma Burley (11), daughter, born Rowley;
- [6] David Burley (8), son, born Rowley;
- [7] Elizabeth Taylor (12), niece, born Dudley:

Joseph Burley was also a butcher. [1864], [1865], [1873]

Nancy *Burley* married *William Henry Foley* in the 1st quarter of 1866.

Birmingham Daily Post 11/10/1866 - Advert

“Burby v Woodhouse. Sale at the ROUND OF BEEF, Cradley Heath.
By Mr. John Bent, This Day (Thursday), October 11.
A quantity of Household Furniture, Chains, in lots; quantity Gledes, Fat Pig.
Sale at Eleven o’clock.”

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.

Joseph Burley, butcher, Cradley Heath, was charged with having several defective weights in his possession. Fined 3s and costs.”

1871 Census

Tibbetts Gardens – ROUND OF BEEF

- [1] *Joseph Burley* (60), publican and butcher, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Maria Burley (60), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Emma Burley (21), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] David Burley (18), son, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 29/7/1871 - Advert

“An Independent Court of Foresters will be Opened at the ROUND OF BEEF INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath, on Monday Next, the 31st inst, at Half-past Seven o’clock in the Evening.

Anyone wishing to become a Member will much oblige the Landlord, *Joseph Burley*.”

County Advertiser 13/7/1872

“On Monday the Independent Court of Foresters held their annual meeting and dinner at the house of Mr. *Joseph Burley*, ROUND OF BEEF. The members sat down to an excellent dinner. Mr. Thomas Harris was appointed chairman, and a most pleasant evening was spent.”

County Express 30/6/1877

“At a meeting of chainmakers, held at the ROUND OF BEEF, Cradley Heath, on Wednesday, a letter was read from Mr. Timothy Parrish, in which he stated his willingness to concede the men in his employ the 4s 6d list.”

1881 Census

46, Tibbetts Gardens

- [1] *Joseph Burley* (69), widower, publican, born Cradley;
- [2] David Burley (29), son, brewer, born Rowley;
- [3] Joseph Probert (17), grandson, ironworker, born Rowley;
- [4] Richard Probert (14), grandson, ironworker, born Rowley;
- [5] Amelia Probert (12), granddaughter, scholar, born Rowley;
- [6] Mary Ann Emery (28), house keeper, born Cradley;

Joseph Burley died in 1891.

William Foley brewed his own beer and made his own mineral water.

Dudley and District News 22/3/1884

“Joseph Foulkes and John Horton were charged with being drunk on licensed premises.

Sergeant White said he, in company with PC Tytherley, visited the ROUND OF BEEF INN, Cradley Heath, on the 10th inst. He saw the defendants in the taproom with ale before them. They were very drunk. He called the landlord’s attention to them, and he said he did not they were so drunk, but at once turned them out.

PC Tytherley corroborated, and the defendants were fined 1s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 6/11/1884

“At the Police Court, yesterday, Herbert Mann, carter, of Brockmoor, was charged with embezzling 15s, the property of his employer, *William Foley*, mineral-water manufacturer, of the ROUND OF BEEF INN, Cradley Heath, on the 25th ult. Mr. Waldron appeared to prosecute.

It appeared that on the day named prisoner took thirty dozen bottles of mineral waters out in the morning, and sold twenty dozen, but failed to account for the same.

Joseph Dunn, of the COLLIERS ARMS [Netherton], was called, and stated that on the day named the prisoner charged him for two dozen beers, and only left one dozen.

Prisoner was committed to gaol for one month, with hard labour.

Birmingham Daily Post 21/12/1886

“Yesterday afternoon Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an enquiry, at the ROUND OD BEEF INN, Tebbetts Gardens, respecting the death of William Whitfield, aged seven years and six months. Mrs. Whitfield said that on the 13th inst, about seven o’clock am, she heard deceased go downstairs, and shortly afterwards he screamed. She immediately went downstairs, and found him with his nightshirt in flames. Dr. De Dennis’s assistant attended him up to his death, which took place on the 17th inst. Before he died deceased said he was standing near the fire when his nightshirt ignited. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

County Express 8/9/1888

“John Tromans, Cradley Heath, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of *William Foley*, ROUND OF BEEF INN, Cradley Heath, on the 27th ult, and was fined 1s and costs.”

County Express 15/9/1888

“*William Foley*, landlord of the ROUND OF BEEF INN, Tibbetts Gardens, Cradley Heath, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises, on the 27th ult. Mr. C. H. Collis (Stourbridge) defended on behalf of the Stourbridge and District Licensed Victuallers’ Society.

Police-sergeant Hayward said that at about eight o’clock on the night in question he went to the defendant’s house and there saw a man named John Tromans drunk, and sitting down on a screen behind the door in the bar, with a jug in front of him. He called the landlady’s attention to Tromans’s drunken state, and she said, ‘Now, Tromans, see about going. I see he has had enough.’

Police-constable Cartwright corroborated.

Mr. Collis contended that there was no evidence to show the man had any beer supplied to him, and if he proved that was true he would ask the Bench to dismiss the summons.

The landlady stated that Tromans came into her house drunk and sat down, and she did not serve him with any beer.

The Bench thought there was not sufficient evidence and dismissed the case.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/10/1889 - Advert

“Monumental Marble Mason (first-class) Wanted.

D. W. Nicholls, ROUND OF BEEF INN, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 25/10/1890

“On Tuesday afternoon Mr. R. H. Lucas, deputy coroner, held an inquest at the Guest Hospital, Dudley, on the body of William Roberts (71), labourer, late of Tibbetts Gardens, Cradley Heath. On Wednesday last he was sent by *William Foley*, of the ROUND OF BEEF, Cradley, to the Lye for a cwt of clover, with a horse and cart. While returning by way of Cradley Park Road deceased was noticed to be standing on the footboard of the cart, driving at a brisk trot. Suddenly a strap broke, loosening the collar and the other harness, which caused the horse to bolt. The cart caught the kerb, knocking a wheel off and upsetting the vehicle. Deceased

was thrown out on to his head, and sustained a fracture of the skull. The accident was attributed by witnesses to carelessness in harnessing, which had been done by deceased himself. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

1891 Census

46, Tibbetts Garden – ROUND OF BEEF INN

- [1] *William Foley* (48), publican, born Cradley;
- [2] Nancy Foley (46), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Joseph Foley (20), son, labourer, born Great Bridge;
- [4] Emma Foley (22), daughter, born Cradley, Worcestershire;
- [5] Alice Foley (18), daughter, born Great Bridge;
- [6] Nancy Foley (15), daughter, born Great Bridge;
- [7] William Deeley (3), nephew, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] Emma J. Deeley (1), niece, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 11/4/1891

“Thomas Clarke, Tibbetts Gardens, Cradley Heath, was charged with being disorderly on the licensed premises of *William Foley*, landlord of the SHOULDER OF MUTTON [sic] INN, and refusing to quit on the 30th ult. It was shown that he broke a window to the amount of 1s. Defendant was fined 10s and costs in each charge and 1s damage.”

County Advertiser 30/12/1893

“The fifth annual dinner of the Judge and Jury Club was held at the ROUND OF BEEF INN, Cradley Heath, on Wednesday, when 25 members sat down to table. An excellent dinner was provided. After dinner the usual toasts were given and responded to. Mr. E. Butler accompanied with the concertina. Before the close the health of Mr. and Mrs. *Foley* was given, and the proceedings throughout were very convivial.”

County Advertiser 14/7/1894

“Disgraceful Row at Tibbetts Gardens.

Eliza Smith, of Tibbetts Gardens, was charged with assaulting Benjamin Foulkes, on the 2nd inst. Mr. J. W. Clulow defended. Complainant said that at 11-20pm on the date in question he was on his way home, when he was struck, on passing defendant’s house, by the defendant’s son. He was obliged to strike a blow to free himself from the son, when defendant fetched something out of the house, struck him on the head, and rendered him insensible.

By Mr. Clulow: He was sober, and had not previously challenged Smith to fight. He did not go into Smith’s house, nor fall against the scraper. He had been fined twice previously for assault, but that was when people put on him. He did not throw a cinder into Smith’s house.

Nancy *Foley* said she saw complainant pass her father’s house, the ROUND OF BEEF, when he wished her good night. Shortly afterwards she heard a row, and on going to ascertain the cause, saw Smith strike Foulkes, after which Mrs. Smith said she would fetch a weapon, and went into the house, returning with something with which she struck Foulkes, and the latter fell. Witness’s father then took the weapon from defendant.

William Foley, landlord of the ROUND OF BEEF, said that on the night in question he heard a disturbance in the street and ascertained that his wife and daughter were there, so he went to get fetch them back. When he got there, he saw Mrs. Smith strike someone with an iron weapon, and as she raised her hand to strike again, witness took the weapon from her. Mrs. *Foulkes* afterwards came to him and said, ‘They’ve killed our Ben.’

Lily Foulkes, sister of the complainant, said that on that night she heard Mrs. Smith say that if Ben Foulkes came that way home she would kill him.

Dr. Tibbetts, of Cradley Heath, said he was called to see Foulkes, and found him suffering from a contused wound on the scalp. It was a wound likely to be caused by the weapon produced. Foulkes was sober.

Police-constable Bennett said he went with Dr. Tibbetts to see Foulkes, and afterwards arrested Mrs. Smith, who said, ‘I can’t help it, I struck some one, but I don’t know who it was, as there were several at me.’

Benjamin Foulkes, the complainant, was charged with assaulting George Smith, husband of the defendant, at the same time and place,

Smith said that defendant and some others challenged him to fight, struck him, and when he got away followed him into his own house. They tried to drag his wife out of the house, and some one threw a large cinder into the house, which hit him on the leg. Sarah Morris, Edward Morris, and Mary Ann Hinds corroborated.

Foulkes was also charged with assaulting James Willetts at about five o’clock on the same date.

Willetts said that between one and two o’clock on the date in question, Foulkes challenged him out to fight, and squared off at him, but nothing more came of it at the time. At about five o’clock defendant came to him in his own garden, and struck complainant several times about the face and body, until defendant’s brother remonstrated.

Mary Ann Hinds corroborated.

Mr. Clulow said Foulkes was a terror to the neighbourhood, and that the wound he received in the struggle with the Smiths was caused by his falling against the scraper.

The Bench said that most cases were decided by the weight of evidence, but this would have to be decided by the weight of perjury. They were unable to discriminate between the perjury on the one side and that on the other, and would bind over all the parties concerned, except Willetts, who appeared to be a decent man, to keep the peace for six months.”

County Advertiser 28/8/1897

“Albert Parsons, youth, Cradley Heath, was charged on the 14th inst with stealing 4s 6d, the moneys of *William Foley*, a licensed victualler, of Tibbetts Gardens, Cradley Heath, and also with stealing 2s 3d, the moneys of *William Foley*, on the 17th inst. The evidence showed that prisoner entered into the prosecutor’s employ some time in March, and had been accustomed to go on errands for him. On the 14th inst prosecutor sent him to Mr. Grainger’s, Cradley Heath, for half a hundredweight of hay and half a hundredweight of chaff, giving him 4s 6d to pay for it. Prisoner brought back the hay and chaff to his employer. On the 17th prosecutor sent the prisoner to the same person for half a hundredweight of hay, and gave him 2s 3d to pay for it. The next day Mr. Henry Grainger, the son, brought prosecutor a bill for the articles and Mr. *Foley* told him he had paid it. It was then found that prisoner had not paid Mr. Grainger for the hay and chaff when he went to fetch it, and prisoner admitted to a man named Alexander Hill that some money was in a purse, which was recovered, and that he had spent some of it. Prisoner was dealt with under the First Offenders’ Act, and warned as to his future conduct. He was ordered to come up for judgement in three months hence.”

County Advertiser 14/10/1899

“Samuel Bushill, of Foxall Street, Cradley Heath, and James Chatwin, of Tibbetts Garden, Cradley Heath, were charged with being disorderly on the licensed premises of *William Foley*, landlord of the ROUND OF BEEF INN, Cradley Heath, on the 7th inst. Mr. C. H. Collis appeared to prosecute on behalf of the Licensed Victuallers Association, and said that it appeared that James Chatwin came to the house of *William Foley*, and asked if a certain person was there, whom he wanted to see. The landlord, Mr. *Foley*, saw that the man was drunk, and therefore asked him to leave, which he did. Some time later he came to the house again, in company with the other defendant, Samuel Bushill, and asked for beer. This was refused them because they were in a drunken state. They were asked to leave and refused to do so. The servant was then sent to fetch the police and the men were ejected. *William Foley* bore out the statement of Mr. Collis in evidence.

Mrs. *Foley* corroborated.

Defendant (Samuel Bushill) called two witnesses who said he was not drunk.

Defendants were further charged with being drunk and disorderly in the public highway on the 7th inst. Police-constable Butler proved the charge and Police-constable Tierman corroborated.

Bushill was fined 5s and costs for the first offence, and 10s and costs for the second.

Chatwin was fined 10s and costs for the first offence, and 15s and costs for the second.”

County Advertiser 4/11/1899

“James Edwards, of Bank Street, Cradley Heath, was charged with being disorderly in and refusing to quit the ROUND OF BEEF INN, Cradley Heath, on the 28th ult. *William Foley*, landlord of the ROUND OF BEEF INN, said that on the night of that date named defendant came into the house and commenced using bad language to his brother-in-law. Complainant told him he should not have that language there, and ordered him out. He refused to go, so witness put him out. Defendant was fined 5s and costs.”

County Advertiser 31/3/1900

“Roland Faulkner, Tibbetts Gardens, Cradley Heath, was charged with being drunk on licensed premises on the 19th inst. Police-constable Poulson stated that at 10-35 on the 19th inst he saw defendant in the tap room of the ROUND OF BEEF INN, Cradley Heath. Defendant was drunk, and dozing off to sleep by the side of the fire. Witness called the landlord’s attention to the man, and the landlord then ordered defendant out. Defendant was fined 10s and costs.”

1901 Census

Tibbetts Gardens – ROUND OF BEEF

[1] *William Foley* (58), mineral water manufacturer, born Cradley Heath;

[2] Nancy Foley (56), wife, born Cradley Heath;

[3] Joseph Foley (30), son, born Cradley Heath;

[4] Jos Foley (5), son, born Cradley Heath;

[5] Nancy Foley (3), daughter, born Cradley Heath;

[6] Frank Parks (12), adopted, born Cradley Heath:

County Express 8/6/1901

“*William Foley*, landlord of the ROUND OF BEEF INN, Tibbetts Gardens, was charged with permitting drunkenness. Mr. Clulow prosecuted, and Mr. C. H. Collis defended.

Mr. Clulow said a man named Isaac Edward Billingham went into the house first about 3pm, on May 18th, and remained till 7 o’clock. He had five or six pints of beer. From 7 o’clock till 7.30 Billingham was in an outhouse with Joseph *Foley*, the landlord’s son, gambling. Then Billingham came back into the house, and after staying a few minutes went down home for a short time. He returned about 8 o’clock to the house, and stayed there till after ten o’clock, and during that time he had six pints of beer. A dispute arose between Billingham and Joseph *Foley*, because the latter refused to pay 5s Billingham had won while they were gambling with cards in the outhouse. A struggle took place, and some jugs of beer were knocked off the tables, and the jugs were broken. Soon after that the police arrived. During the day there were in the house a number of well-known persons, and they were playing for money. The public house was so situated that there could be no means of ascertaining what was going on inside the house, except by entrance from the front way, and it was a custom to place some person at the window to watch for any danger. It was the custom to bring in a board with hooks, on which rings were thrown, and on this day it was introduced; and

he submitted that gambling was going on with the knowledge of the landlady. Mr. Collis objected to this, saying they were not charged with permitting gambling, but with permitting drunkenness. Police-constable Dale said when he visited the house shortly after ten, he found five men and two women in the house. All the men 'had had enough to drink,' but he noticed Isaac Billingham particularly, as he was drunk. Complaints were made to him by Billingham and the landlord as to a row which had evidently taken place. Police-constable Smith and Isaac Edward Billingham and Harry Billingham were called on behalf of the prosecution, and bore out Mr. Clulow's remarks.

Mr. Collis, for the defence, said when a case had to be bolstered up as this case had been by the prosecution, it was generally a very weak one. His case was that the landlady saw Billingham gambling, and told him he would have to stop it. Billingham became very abusive, and used bad language. The landlord then came downstairs on hearing the noise, and told Billingham he would have to go out, and Billingham continued to use bad language, and refused to leave the house for anyone. Eventually the landlord sent for the police, and it was at his instigation they came. Defendant had kept public-houses for 27 years without a conviction, and had kept this particular house for 19 years. It was his wife's property, and it was not likely defendant and his wife would risk losing the license by allowing gambling and other practices the prosecution had suggested. The landlord, Mr. *Foley*, and other witnesses were called for the defence. There were other cases the Bench elected to hear before giving a decision in the present case.

Isaac Edward Billingham, Tibbetts Gardens, was charged with being drunk and disorderly in the street, on May 18th, also with assaulting Police-constable Dale, and with being disorderly on the licensed premises of *William Foley*, and refusing to quit when requested, and with maliciously damaging cups value 4d.

Harry Billingham, Tibbetts Gardens, was charged with resisting and obstructing Police-constable Smith, on May 18th, while in the execution of his duty.

Evidence was given in these cases by Police-constable Dale, Police-constable Smith, and the landlord.

The Bench said although there might have been a technical offence of permitting drunkenness, they had always set their face against small cases of infraction of the law on the part of publicans. It was a difficult trade to manage, and if publicans failed in their duty, the Bench had always tried to do theirs. They thought there was not sufficient cause for a really substantial fine, and that it was better to dismiss the case of permitting drunkenness. For refusing to quit Isaac Billingham would be fined 5s and costs, for malicious damage he would have to pay the 4d and 5s and costs, for assault 2s 6d and costs, and he would have to pay the costs for being drunk and disorderly. Harry Billingham was fined 10s and costs for resisting the police."

County Express 21/12/1901

"*William Foley*, landlord of the ROUND OF BEEF INN, Tibbetts Gardens, Cradley Heath, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on December 2nd. Mr. Clulow prosecuted, and Mr. C. H. Collis defended.

In opening the case Mr. Clulow detailed the circumstances which were deposed to by Inspector Hodgkinson and PC Wright. These officers stated that they visited the ROUND OF BEEF INN, and in the smoke room saw a man named George Coley sitting with four other men at a table. Coley had opposite him a pint cup partly filled with ale, and was obviously drunk. The landlord was in the room, and Inspector Hodgkinson pointed out Coley to him, and said, 'That man is drunk.' The landlord said, 'Yes, he has had enough.' The landlady said, 'I have not served him.' The inspector then pointed out that Coley had a cup partly full of ale in front of him. Neither landlord nor the landlady denied that Coley was drunk. When the inspector asked Coley to stand up he did so, but would have fallen down had he not fallen against the wall and partly on his seat. The landlord afterwards was told to get Coley out of the house, and PC Wright assisted him out of the house. Coley was so drunk as to be incapable of taking care of himself, and so he was first taken to the Cradley Heath police station, where he was seen by PS Pitcher and PC Turner. He was taken from there on the tram to Old Hill, to the Police Station, and was there put in the cells by PCs Gratage, Plant, and Horne. Mr. Clulow called Coley, who said that there had been a pigeon flying match that day, and he went into *Foley's* house twice. He denied that he was drunk. He admitted he made a statement to Inspector Hodgkinson the next day, which was taken down in writing, but he now denied the accuracy of it. Mr. Collis argued the evidence that Coley was drunk was not conclusive, and in any case there was none to show that the landlord knew of his condition. There was no evidence to show that *Foley* neglected his business that evening; on the contrary, he was in the house looking after the business. He had been a licensed victualler for 30 years, and had kept this particular house for over 20 years. There had never been a conviction under the Licensing Acts against his client.

The defendant and other witnesses were called for the defence.

The Bench said there was no doubt there had been an offence, but not sufficiently serious to endorse the license. Defendant would be fined £5 and costs, including solicitor's fee."

County Express 1/11/1902

"A miner, named James Cartwright, residing at Cradley Heath was charged at Old Hill Police Court on Wednesday – before Messrs. W. Bassano, J. Billingham, and J. H. Smith – with being drunk and assaulting PCs Foulkes and Smith.

PC Foulkes stated that on the night of the 28th ult the prisoner went to the ROUND OF BEEF INN, Tibbetts Gardens, in a drunken state, and demanded drink. The landlady refused to supply him, and ordered him to leave. He refused to do so, and was eventually ejected. When in the street the prisoner behaved a disgraceful manner, and witness found it necessary to take him into custody. Directly he did so prisoner set his dog upon him, and also kicked him in the face and on the legs, causing him to sustain serious injuries. Fortunately, PC Smith came to his assistance, and he struck the dog with his staff and prevented him from further attacking him. Prisoner then savagely assaulted PC Smith, and great difficulty was experienced in getting prisoner to Old Hill Police Station.

PC Smith said the prisoner behaved in a ferocious manner.

Prisoner: And I have got a hole in my head, and I have lost a large quantity of blood.

Mr. Bassano: What is the prisoner? – Inspector Hodgkinson: He is a miner, but he rarely does any work.

Mr. Bassano: What is the prisoner's record? – Inspector Hodgkinson: It is the prisoner's 42nd appearance before the Court. He has been seven times convicted for assaulting the police.

The Bench sentenced the prisoner to six months' imprisonment with hard labour."

County Advertiser 14/2/1903

"On Wednesday the annual licensing session for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held at the Court House..... Superintendent Spendlove had given notice that he should oppose the following licenses.....

William Foley, ROUND OF BEEF, Cradley Heath, permitting drunkenness, and not a fit and proper person....

The licenses objected to would be renewed with the exception of the ROUND OF BEEF INN, the consideration of which would be adjourned until March 11th."

County Advertiser 14/3/1903

"On Wednesday the adjourned licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held at the Police Court, Old Hill.....

The license of the ROUND OF BEEF INN, Cradley Heath was renewed to *William Foley* on the application of Mr. G. Williams, who pointed out that the objection of the police to the last tenant had been met by a new tenant being obtained."

County Advertiser 9/1/1904 - Advert

"Wanted, a good, strong, honest Girl, for Public-house work; good wages.

Apply, Mrs. *Foley*, ROUND OF BEEF INN, Tibbetts Gardens, Cradley Heath."

County Advertiser 2/12/1905

"*William Edward [sic] Jenks*, landlord of the ROUND OF BEEF INN, Tibbetts, Gardens, Cradley Heath, was charged with permitting drunkenness upon his licensed premises, on the 15th inst.

Mr. J. W. Clulow, who prosecuted, explained that on the night in question Police-sergeant Wood and Police-constables Horton and Turner visited the house, and in one of the rooms saw a man named James Weston in a drunken condition. Weston was standing up, and had a shilling in his hand. He said, 'I will treat you all or I will fight you.' The man was turned out, but behaved so violently outside that he had to be locked up. Subsequently Inspector Gibbs and Police-sergeant Wood visited the house, and found the defendant in the back kitchen, suffering from rheumatism. Defendant, when spoken to, said he had heard a little bit of the row but as he was suffering from rheumatism he could not get out.

Mrs. *Jenks* said she had asked Weston to leave two or three times, but he had refused to do so.

Police-sergeant Wood, Police-constable Horton, Inspector Gibbs, and independent witnesses gave evidence in support of the statement.

Mr. G. Williams, who defended, urged that the man Weston was ordered to leave the premises on several occasions, but he declined to go. Seven or eight witnesses were called to prove this contention, but the Bench held that the case had been proved, and fined defendant £6, including costs.

James Weston, of Tibbetts Gardens, Cradley Heath, was fined 20s for being drunk upon licensed premises, and 10s for refusing to quit when requested to do so."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/2/1906

"The annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held yesterday.....

The Superintendent objected to the renewal of the licenses of.....

ROUND OF BEEF, Cradley Heath."

County Advertiser 10/3/1906

"The adjourned annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday.....

Mr. Bassano said the bench had under consideration the nine houses, five of which were objected to on the ground of convictions and four others on the ground of redundancy. It had raised a very large question, and the magistrates had had before them the consideration of the parish as a whole. He threw out a 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.....

The justices then proceeded to hear the objections to the renewal of the licenses, the first taken being that of the ROUND OF BEEF, Tibbetts Gardens, Cradley Heath. Mr. G. Williams appeared for the tenant, *Wm. Edwin Jenks*, Mr. J. W. Clulow for the lessee of the house, Mrs. Nancy Foley, and Mr. W. Waldron for the owner, the Earl of Dudley.

Inspector Gibbs said there had been two previous convictions against the house, one on the 18th of December, 1901, when a fine of £5 and costs was imposed for permitting drunkenness, and again on the 29th November, 1905, when a fine of £6 including costs was imposed for permitting drunkenness. There were 27 licensed houses within a distance of 500 yards. There was one license to every 219 persons in the parish. The license had been transferred twice within ten years. He considered the house was difficult for police supervision and that the wants of the locality were well supplied. In reply to Mr. Williams, witness said there was no complaint beyond the last conviction against *Jenks*. Answering Mr. Clulow, he said he should doubt that the takings amounted to £12 to £14 per week.

Mr. Williams urged the Bench not to report the license to the Quarter Sessions, and contended that the licensee held a good charac-

ter with the exception of one conviction, and the offence was committed whilst *Jenks* was suffering from rheumatism, and unable to attend to his business.

Mr. Clulow submitted that this was not the worst house in the district, though it had been selected for extinction. The house had been in the family for seventy years.

The justices retired to consider their decision, and Mr. Bassano said they were all agreed this was a proper house to refer to the Quarter Sessions on the ground of redundancy.”

County Express 22/8/1908 - Notice

“This is to Certify To All Whom It May Concern, that I, *William Henry Foley*, of the ROUND OF BEEF INN, Tibbetts Gardens, Cradley Heath, Have No Trading Connection Whatever with *William Foley*, trading as William Foley and Sons, Mineral Water Manufacturers, Tibbetts Gardens, Cradley Heath, and will Not Be Responsible for any Business Transaction relating to him. (Signed) *William Henry Foley*, ROUND OF BEEF INN, Tibbetts Gardens, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 12/9/1908

“Friendly Societies’ Parade. On Wednesday evening the committee of the above met at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Mr. W. Coley presiding over a large attendance. The following was a complete list of those boxes which contained amounts of 1s and upwards.

Mr. *W. Foley*, ROUND OF BEEF, 2s 7½d.”

County Express 20/2/1909

“At Old Hill, on Wednesday, Alfred Evans, chainmaker, of Tibbetts Gardens, Cradley Heath, was summoned for refusing to quit the licensed premises of the ROUND OF BEEF INN, Cradley Heath, and for also assaulting the landlord, *William Henry Foley*, on the 11th inst.

Mr. W. Waldron, who prosecuted said defendant was in the public house, when a discussion took place as to who was the best worker at different trades. This developed into a political discussion, and Evans becoming objectionable to the customers was ordered to leave. He refused to go, and was caught by the landlord starting a row with a man named Rose. *Foley* ejected him, but when he caught hold of him defendant struck him. He followed it up by striking him again, whilst in the brewery yard adjoining the public house. *Foley* retaliated, and dealt Evans a blow upon the nose, which injured it. A number of witnesses were called in support of this statement.

Evans denied that he was ordered off the premises, or that the disturbance commenced over gambling, which, he said, was taking place at the time.

A cross summons was issued charging *Foley* with assaulting Evans.

After a lengthy hearing the Bench fined Evans 10s and costs for refusing to quit, but dismissed the charges of assault.”

1911 Census

46, Tibbetts Gardens – ROUND OF BEEF

[1] *Joseph Turner* (25), publican, married 2 years, born Netherton;

[2] Thomas Jeff (19), boarder, labourer, born Cradley Heath:

1939 Register

8, Northgate

[1] *Bert Botfield*, date of birth 13/3/1903, transport driver, married;

[2] Lucy A. Botfield, dob 5/11/1904, unpaid domestic duties, married;

Harold Slater was a former miner.

He lost his right arm during WW1.

He was married to Ethel.

Tony Holloway was married to Jacqueline.

See also ODDFELLOWS (West Bromwich), NEW TALBOT (Smethwick), and FAIRFIELD (Halesowen).

Closed

It was demolished circa 1990.

ROWLEY BAR AND GRILL

47, Hawes Lane, ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Lee Davide Piras (2015 – [])

NOTES

It opened on 22nd May 2015.

It was formerly the Conservative Club.

www.therowleybarandgrill.co.uk

“There are few places like the Rowley Bar & Grill, combining both a traditional pub and a modern Indian restaurant in the West Midlands. With a fully stocked bar, rotating selection of guest ales, drink offers, live sports and music as well as a diverse and delicious Indian menu, you can experience the best that we have to offer.

Our menu does not neglect taste, using the best ingredients to create stunning dishes, combining fine steaks, mixed grills and gammon cuts with flavourful curries, dhals and kebabs. We aim to put an Indian twist on the typical pub grub menu.

The Rowley Bar provides both the pub and the restaurant side of the business in the same building, with separate areas for drinking and dining. Whether you're nipping in for a pint or you're looking for an upscale Indian meal, at the Rowley Bar & Grill you can have both in the same place.

We don't skimp on entertainment either, showing everything from live music and live sport to quiz nights and more, ensuring that you're never left wanting.

We're able to take bookings for private parties, with space for anywhere from 2 people to 50 people.

Happy hour is available from 1pm to 6pm, Monday to Friday and includes lagers, ciders and selected top shelf drinks.

If you're looking for the welcoming atmosphere of a British pub and the stunning food you'll find in an Indian restaurant, you're looking for the Rowley Bar & Grill.”

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.....

ROWLEY BAR AND GRILL, Hawes Lane, Rowley Regis.”

[2020]

ROWLEY RAG

Throne Road, ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

Ansells Ltd. [1989], [1990]

[Allied Domecq Inns](#) [1997]

James H Porter chain of S&N

LICENSEES

Eric Harold Williams (1961);

Stanley Clarke Withers (1961 – 1966);

Edward Gerard Hunter (1966 – [])

J Smith [1970] manager

Tom Foxall [1985] – [1989]

Janice Frost [2008]

NOTES

Provisional Grant 1st February 1961.

Final Grant 15th November 1961.

It opened in 1961.

Stanley Clarke Withers – see also BULLS HEAD, and BARLEY MOW, Tividale.

Warley News Telephone 8/10/1970

“Regulars at the ROWLEY RAG INN, Throne Road, Rowley Regis, have been collecting for five years for Father Hudson’s Homes and have donated £500.

This week the inn was presented with a plaque marking the achievement.

The money raised is being used to help feed and clothe orphan children and help with the running costs at the Coleshill home.....”

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 BARRELL 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 BARRELL 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 4/8/1986

“Two Sandwell pubs are featured in live radio shows this week when Radio WM’s The Barmaid’s Arms visits the borough. They are broadcasting from the ROWLEY RAG, Throne Road, Rowley Regis, today and the DUDLEY PORT, Tipton, tomorrow.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 15/3/1988

“Fifteen men have appeared at Warley magistrates court accused of conspiracy to cause violent disorder after being arrested by police who stopped a van in Whiteheath, Rowley Regis, on Saturday night.

They were all bailed to appear before magistrates at Smethwick on March 23 on condition that they did not visit four public houses in the Whiteheath and Blackheath areas – the MANCHESTER, the TRAVELLERS REST, the ROWLEY RAG, and the GATE INN. Thirteen of the defendants who appeared were from Rowley Regis.....”

Tom Foxall was married to Mandy.

Sandwell Evening Mail 22/3/1989

“Warley Wonder boxer Pat Cowdell tucked into a giant steak to mark the completion of alterations costing £30,000 at a Rowley Regis pub. Pat returned to the ROWLEY RAG in Throne Road, his former local, to officially relaunch the pub-restaurant with the help of the Mayor of Sandwell, Coun. Ron Whyley. The lounge and kitchen have been improved.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 23/3/1989 - Advert

“The Best Value Pub Food for Miles Around.

In recent years pub food has acquired an enviable reputation for being excellent value for money. Now the word value takes on a whole new meaning with the introduction by Ansell’s of their Big Steak menu at several pubs in the area.....

ROWLEY RAG, Throne Road, Rowley Regis.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 4/12/1990 - Advert

“The Best Eating Out Value for Miles Around this Christmas.

The Big Steak Menu is famous throughout the Midlands for its marvellous value. But for the next few weeks we’re offering even better value with our Big Steak Christmas Special Menu with a choice of 3 starters, 3 main courses and 2 sweets for only £8.25 (incl. VAT) for all 3 courses. Big Steak pubs are not restaurants – they’re pubs that serve top quality food at prices you can afford. But don’t worry if you just fancy a pint, you’ll find a choice of traditional hand-pulled ales and international quality lagers (including low-alcohol). But above all you’ll receive a really warm welcome at whichever Big Steak Pub you choose – call in and sample our Christmas hospitality.....

Ansell’s. More of Everything.....

ROWLEY RAG, Throne Road, Rowley Regis.”

[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.....

ROWLEY RAG, Throne Road, Rowley Regis, Warley.”

The pub was closed for three weeks, in order that noise-limiting work could be carried out, in October 2006. It reopened in November 2006.

Its name was changed to the WINDSOR in 2006.

[2008]

Its name was changed back to ROWLEY RAG. [2011]

[2013]

It was converted into shops. [2014]

ROYAL EXCHANGE

84, (83+84), (63), High Street, BLACKHEATH

OWNERS

Joseph Henry Barnsley [1881], [1883]
Thomas Benjamin Williams and Lizzie Bate, Rowley Regis
Ansells Ltd. (acquired on 15th June 1946)

LICENSEES

Joseph Boilstone [1861] – **1869**);
Rachel Boilstone (**1869** – [1871]
Joseph Henry Barnsley [1880] – [1881]
Frank Gadd [1883]
John Fletcher [1886] – **1904**);
Thomas Benjamin Reynolds (**1904** – [1916]);
James William Reynolds [1919] – **1920**);
Mrs. Elsie Reynolds (**1920** – **1921**);
Benjamin Bradley (**1921** – **1925**);
Thomas Dudley (**1925** – **1926**);
Joseph Thomas ‘Tom’ Webb (**1926** – **1928**);
John ‘Jack’ Taylor (**1928** – **1934**);
Edward ‘Ted’ Cole (**1934** – **1937**);
Albert Evans (**1937** – **1950**);
Samuel Siviter (**1950** – **1955**);
Ernest Eric Moore (**1955** – **1957**);
William George Newman (**1957** – **1961**);
John Corns (**1961** – **1963**);
James Horace Westwood (**1963** – **1964**);
Arthur Priest (**1964** – [1965]
V Parker [];
G Westwood [];
David Lea [];
G Pountney [];
Tony Wright []

Brian Stayzaker [] – 1984);
Mrs. Julia Ann Carnell (1984 – []

NOTES

63, High Street [1881], [1891], [1896]
84, High Street [1901], [1911], [1939], [1940]
83+84, High Street

It had an ante '69 beerhouse license.

1861 Census

Black Heath

- [1] *Joseph Boilstone* (45), boat loader and beer house, born Rowley;
- [2] *Rachel Boilstone* (45), wife, born Rowley;
- [3] John Boilstone (22), son, born Rowley;
- [4] Ann E. Boilstone (16), daughter, born Rowley;
- [5] Mary A. Boilstone (14), daughter, born Rowley:

County Advertiser 25/8/1866

“Rowley annual licensing meeting was held yesterday.....
The following are the new applications and their results.....
Joseph Boilstone, Black Heath, refused.”

County Advertiser 31/8/1867

“Rowley. The Annual Licensing Meeting.....
There were thirteen applications for spirit licenses. The applications of the following were refused.....
Joseph Boilstone, Black Heath.”

Mary Ann *Boilstone* married *Joseph Henry Barnsley* in the 3rd quarter of 1868.

Joseph Boilstone died in the 4th quarter of 1869 and was buried at St. Giles, Rowley Regis.

County Express 27/8/1870

“The annual licensing meeting for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division was held yesterday.....
The following beerhouse keepers applied for wine and spirit licenses.....
Rachel Boilstone, ROYAL EXCHANGE, Blackheath. Application refused.”

1871 Census

High Street

- [1] *Rachael Boilstone* (53), widow, licensed beerseller, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Joseph H. Barnsley* (23), boarder, tube manufacturer, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Mary A. Barnsley (24), boarder, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Mary M. Barnsley (10 months), boarder, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Jane Harrison (17), general servant, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Joseph H. Haines (6), grand-son, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 14/9/1872

“An inquest was held on Wednesday at the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Blackheath, on the body of Samuel Law, aged three years. About three weeks back the child accidentally fell into a pot of boiling hot water, and although it was instantly rescued, the injuries were so bad that it died last week. Verdict Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/11/1878 - Advert

“Boiler. A first-class 12-horse, egg-ended Boiler, with fittings, steam-gauge, fire doors, bars and bearers, complete, for Sale. Apply, ROYAL EXCHANGE, High Street, Blackheath.”

Joseph Henry Barnsley was the son of *Joseph Barnsley* (see [PACK HORSE](#)) and *Margaret Barnsley* (see [THREE CROWNS, Hill Top, West Bromwich](#)).

Dudley and District News 3/4/1880 - Advert

“Thomas Homer, Auctioneer and Valuer, Five Ways, Cradley Heath. Prompt Settlements. Charges Strictly Moderate. Valuable Freehold Property, Blackheath, Rowley Regis.
Mr. Thomas Homer is favoured with instructions to offer for Sale by Auction, at the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, High Street,

Blackheath, on Wednesday, April 22nd, 1880, at Six o'clock in the evening.

Lot 2. All that well-established and Freehold Public House and Premises, known as the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, situate in High Street, Blackheath, now occupied by Mr. *J. H. Barnesley*. The premises are advantageously situated, well and substantially erected, and arranged for carrying on a large and profitable trade, and consist of Shop, Smoke Room, Kitchen, large Club Room, Brewhouses, Malt Room, Stabling, Quoit Ground, large Garden, and other Appurtenances.

Also, (with the same lot) two Freehold Dwelling Houses adjoining, having Nailshops, and necessary outbuildings, and now in the occupation of S. Adams and S. Haynes.

For further information apply at the respective offices of Messrs. Sanders, Smith, and Parish, Solicitors, Dudley, or the Auctioneer, at Cradley Heath.”

1881 Census

63, High Street – ROYAL OAK [sic]

[1] *Joseph H. Barnesley* (34), publican, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Mary A. Barnesley (34), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Mary M. Barnesley (10), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Harry L. Barnesley (6), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Frederick J. Barnesley (3), son, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Eliza Fletcher (20), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

Dudley and District News 7/5/1881

“Dr. F. S. Page has been initiated an honorary member of the Doctor Kenealy lodge of the National United Order of Free Gardeners, Dudley and Netherton District, meeting at the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, High Street, Blackheath. Brother John Bennett, Master, occupied the chair, and Brother Edwin Payne, DM, the vice chair. After the ceremony, the Chairman proposed the health of the newly initiated honorary member, congratulating the lodge on the progress which was being made. Three members were initiated the last lodge night, and six more were proposed, while they had the prospect of having three more honorary members. (Applause.)

The toast having been drunk with usual musical honours, Dr. Page responded, and proposed ‘Success to the Dr. Kenealy Lodge’ in a few suitable remarks, speaking of the advantages and blessings of such provident societies to the individual, the community, and the country. (Applause.)

Brother Gadd (secretary) replied, after which a convivial evening was spent, the health of the host being heartily responded to.”

County Express 21/8/1881 - Notice

“To the Overseers of the Poor, and the Superintendent of Police of the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, and to all whom it may concern.

I, *Joseph Henry Barnesley*, Beerhouse Keeper, now residing at the ROYAL EXCHANGE, High Street, Blackheath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, do hereby give Notice, that it is my intention to apply, at the General Annual Licensing Meeting, for the Division of Rowley Regis, to be holden at the Public Office, at Old Hill, in the said County, on the 31st day of August instant, at the hour of Eleven o'clock in the forenoon of the same day, for a License to hold an Excise License to sell Wine by retail, to be drunk and consumed on and off the house and premises thereto belonging, situate at High Street, Blackheath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis aforesaid, in pursuance of the Act 23 Vic, cap.27, sections 7 and 8, and Acts amending the same, and which said premises are of the annual value by law required, of which house and premises I am the owner, and the same are now in my own occupation.

Given under my hand this 2nd day of August, 1881.

Joseph Henry Barnesley.

Witness to the signature of *Joseph Henry Barnesley*, John Wright, Solicitor, 181, High Street, Cradley Heath.”

Dudley and District News 1/10/1881

“This being the adjourned licensing day the deferred cases were decided as follows.

The application of *Joseph Henry Barnesley*, ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Blackheath, for a wine license, was refused.”

Joseph Henry Barnesley – see also **THREE CROWNS, Hill Top, West Bromwich.**

Dudley and District New 3/9/1883 - Notice

“To the Overseers of the Poor and the Superintendent of Police, of the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, and to all whom it may concern.

I, *Frank Gadd*, Beerhouse-keeper, now residing at the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Blackheath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, Do Hereby Give Notice, that it is my intention to apply at the Adjourned General Annual Licensing Meeting for the division of Rowley Regis, to be holden at the Public Office, at Old Hill, in the said County, on the 26th day of September next ensuing, at the hour of 11 o'clock in the forenoon of the same day, for a License to keep a public Billiard Table or Bagattelle Board, at the house and premises, situate at Blackheath, in the said Parish, and known by the sign of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, of which house and premises one *Joseph Henry Barnesley* is the owner, and the same are now in my occupation.

Given under my hand, this seventh day of August, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty-three.

Frank Gadd.”

County Advertiser 17/4/1886

“*John Fletcher*, landlord of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Blackheath, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises, on the 3rd inst.

Mr. Waldron, who prosecuted, said the case was an exemplification of the sad effects of drinking. It appeared, he said, that man named Benjamin Nock, who lodged at the house of one Sarah Siviter, No.5, Powke Lane, Blackheath, after receiving his wages on Friday evening, the 2nd inst, remained out all night, and did not come home until seven o’clock on Saturday evening, the 3rd inst. He was then drunk, and about an hour afterwards went out again, after having changed his clothes. At nine o’clock the same night Siviter saw Nock with *Fletcher*, and on Nock’s calling her in she went and drank with him. Nock was not sober, and at ten minutes before ten o’clock the same night she saw Nock still at the ROYAL EXCHANGE. About a quarter to eleven she got home, and then found Nock in flames. He was lying across the ashes, and was helpless and drunk. Subsequently the man died from the effects of his burns.

Siviter was called, and bore out Mr. Waldron’s statement.

Martha Timmins, next door neighbour to Siviter, deposed to Nock coming into her house drunk about twenty minutes past ten o’clock on the night of the 3rd inst.

Solomon Cooper, a fellow lodger of deceased, deposed to Nock’s condition on the night in question. Nock, he said, was not to say ‘beastly’ drunk. He had had a drop of beer, but talked sensibly.

In cross-examination witness admitted that he himself got a little ‘fresh’ sometimes, but did not often get the chance.

Police-sergeant Salt spoke to a conversation he had had with the defendant, to the effect that defendant told witness that deceased had been supplied with two or three pints of fourpenny at his house.

Mr. Shakespeare, for the defence, contended that the man was not drunk either at the time he went to the house or left it. He commented on the fact of deceased having washed himself, eaten a meal, changed his clothes, and talked to his landlady on business matters, as inconsistent with the conduct of a drunken man, and attributed Mrs. Siviter’s statement as to deceased’s condition as being due to mistake. He pointed out the fact that the man to gain entrance to his lodgings must have lifted the latch with a nail, and asked whether a drunken man could do that? Was it not more reasonable from the man’s mode of living to presume that the man had a fit and was not drunk?

Defendant stated that he saw deceased at 8.30 on the night in question. Deceased was sober then, and also when he left.

Defendant’s wife swore that deceased was perfectly sober when he came to the house, and when he left. While at the house he had a pint of ale and a bottle of porter.

The Bench thought the deceased was such an habitual toper that he did not show his real condition, but they did not think the evidence was sufficient to show defendant knew of the man’s condition, or to justify him in refusing to supply deceased. The case would therefore be dismissed. At the same time the case had been very properly brought before the Bench.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/10/1886 - Advert

“Found, Fox Terrier Bitch; brown-and-white head, black spot on each side. If not claimed in three days will be sold to pay expenses.

Fletcher, ROYAL EXCHANGE, Black Heath Rowley.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/3/1889

“Last night a meeting of gas-riquet makers was held at the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Black Heath, under the presidency of a workman.

The Chairman explained that various prices were being paid for carriage. He pointed out that one firm had offered to give 7s 6s per cwt, and pay for the carriage backwards and forwards; but he was of opinion that they should have 8s.

A workman remarked that the masters had said that if the Hales Owen gas-riquet makers would co-operate with the men at Black Heath they would willingly give the list price. Now they had got the Hales Owen workmen to take action with them, and why they had denied them the price he did not know. At one factory in the district the men had agreed to work at 6s and 7s per cwt. The men had decided to work at 7s 6d, and the master to pay the carriage. Were they going to work at that price? (Cries of ‘No, no.’)

A workman proposed that the list price be demanded, viz, 8s per cwt, and that no carriage be allowed. The resolution was carried.”

1891 Census

63, High Street – ROYAL EXCHANGE

- [1] *John Fletcher* (37), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] Sarah Fletcher (41), wife, born Handsworth;
- [3] Martha Fletcher (12), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [4] Sarah Fletcher (11), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] Emma Fletcher (9), daughter, scholar, born Smethwick;
- [6] Jane Fletcher (6), daughter, scholar, born Smethwick;
- [7] Isaac Fletcher (2), son, born Rowley Regis:

Midland Sun 13/5/1893

“On Tuesday night a largely attended meeting of rivet makers was held at the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, High Street, Blackheath, for the purpose of considering the wages question. Mr. H. Shinton presided and stated that they had met to consider what steps to take to better the condition of their trade as it was in a very bad state.....”

County Advertiser 3/6/1893

“On Monday, at noon, a large meeting of rivet makers, who have come out on strike against a series of reductions in wages, was held at the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Blackheath, Mr. Henry Skip presiding.

The Chairman said that owing to the numerous reductions in wages enforced by a section of the employers, it was a fortnight ago found necessary to give notice for the payment of the 4s 6d list prices, but in order to avert a strike the operatives intimated they would be willing to accept the 4s list. He, in company with Mr. Brooks, had waited upon the employers in the Old Hill district, and all except two had expressed their willingness to pay the 4s list of prices, and he was hopeful the next day these two would see their way clear to pay the list prices. (Hear, hear.) Some of the employers in the Blackheath district were willing to pay the 4s list, but the majority had not been seen yet.

Mr. Brooks (the local secretary) said he was glad a stand had been made against the miserable wages at the present time. He referred to the large amount of female labour in the district, and also to the great need there was of more frequent visits of the Government Inspectors of Factories into the district, for many irregularities were daily taking place which were not likely to be detected unless there were more frequent visits.

Mr. Juggins (general secretary to the Trades Federation) said the operatives were certain to be oppressed as long as they remained disorganised, and were permitted to work in what were known as domestic workshops. (Hear, hear.) They did not want any out-workers but all should work in factories.

In the course of further discussion Mr. Brooks said it appeared that there were about 30 employers, 11 of whom had consented to pay the 4s list of prices.

It was contended that it would be useless for a resolution to be passed to resume work until a majority had given their consent.

It was decided to adjourn the meeting until next day, to enable the leader to ascertain the views of the whole of the employers.

At a meeting on Tuesday it was reported that all the employers, except two, had consented to pay the price, and it was resolved to recommence work.”

County Advertiser 24/6/1893

“On Friday night, last week, a meeting of the stud and peg makers of Blackheath and district was held at the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Blackheath, for the purpose of considering what steps should be taken to improve the condition of the workers in these trades.

Mr. Haywood, who presided, said that as the employers had conceded an advance to the rivet makers in the district, he thought it was only just and right that the operatives in the stud and peg branch should ask for an advance, so that the remuneration in the two trades might be somewhat equalised, especially so as it was found that the employers in the district were not paying a uniform rate.

After some discussion as to which advance should be asked for, it was decided that notice should be given on Saturday claiming the May, 1889, list of prices, which is an equivalent to the one now being paid to the rivet makers, and which means an advance of from 12 per cent on the prices that are being paid at the present time.

On Saturday, in accordance with the above resolution, notice was given to the employers.

The employers in the gas-rivet trade in the Halesowen district have conceded an advance of about 12 per cent to the operatives, and the strike was brought to a termination on Tuesday.”

John Fletcher, beer retailer, 63, High Street. [1896]

County Advertiser 2/7/1898

“On Tuesday night the adjourned meeting of rivet makers was held at the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, High Street, Blackheath. A workman presided. Mr. I. Cashmore (secretary) said nearly all the operatives in the trade were willing for an application to be made to the masters for an increase in wages. A workman said their present wages amounted in some cases to 18s or 19s, whilst the most experienced men in the trade could not get over 24s or 25s a week. Ultimately, after a long discussion, Mr. Cashmore was instructed to write to all the employers, asking if they were willing to concede the advance, and the meeting was further adjourned.”

1901 Census

84, High Street – ROYAL EXCHANGE

- [1] *John Fletcher* (47), publican, born Oldbury;
- [2] Sarah Fletcher (52), wife, born Handsworth;
- [3] Isaac Fletcher (12), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Martha Fletcher (22), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] Sarah Fletcher (21), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [6] Emma Fletcher (19), daughter, born Smethwick;
- [7] Jane Fletcher (16), daughter, born Smethwick;
- [8] May Fletcher (9), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

County Advertiser 18/11/1905

“On Thursday morning Mr. A. A. Betham (acting coroner) held an inquest at the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, High Street, Blackheath, respecting the death of Charles Herbert Stephens (18), boat builder, formerly residing at Holly Road, Blackheath, who died under shocking circumstances whilst following his employment at the Tiger Works, Powke Lane, Blackheath, belonging to

Messrs. T. P. Jones and Company. Mr. J. Skidmore Jones represented the firm, and Mr. S. Hird (Inspector of Factories and Workshops) was also present.

William Stephens, boat builder, stated that on the evening in question, he was engaged with his son in raising a boat from the canal on to the wharf, in order that it could be repaired. The boat, which was about 70 feet in length, had been raised about three feet, and deceased was standing close to it. Witness turned away to fetch something and when he looked round again he found that the packing, which consisted of blocks of wood, had commenced rocking. Witness called out to his son, but he received no answer. The boat kept getting lower, and witness looked under the boat and saw his son moving. Deceased put out his right hand towards witness, and he had almost got hold of it to pull him out when the boat suddenly fell upon him. Witness called for assistance, but when they got him from underneath the boat he was dead. Witness had been a boat builder for forty years, and had never had an accident. He considered that the jack must have slipped and caused the boat to slip.

In reply to Mr. Hird, witness said the deceased was working with the jack, which must have skidded and caused the packing to give way. He thought the upper part of the jack skidded on account of the wet and greasy condition of the bottom. The handle of the jack must have struck the deceased at the back of the leg and pushed him under the packing.

Thomas Henry Whateley, a clerk employed at the works, stated that he was called to the spot, and found the deceased under the boat.

Mr. Hird thought that in future a stronger basis should be provided, and a juryman suggested that additional packing should be used in order to prevent accidents.

The Coroner said it was a sad case.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and expressed sympathy with the father of the deceased.”

County Advertiser 28/7/1906

“On Saturday afternoon Mr. G. C. Lewis (coroner) held an inquest at the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, High Street, Blackheath, concerning the death of Frederick Slim, aged six years, formerly residing with his parents at Darby Street, Blackheath, and who met with his death under shocking circumstances on the 19th inst. The evidence showed that on the afternoon in question deceased was leaving the Powke Lane Council Schools, and in running out of the playground fell under a cart laden with coal, belonging to Mr. H. Darby, of Blackheath, which was driven by a man named Parkes. The wheel of the vehicle passed over the lad’s head, and he sustained shocking injuries, being killed instantly. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and attached no blame to the driver of the vehicle.”

1911 Census

84, High Street

- [1] *Thomas Benjamin Reynolds* (54), publican, born Ogle Hay, Staffordshire;
- [2] *Mary Ann Reynolds* (50), wife, married 30 years, born Sedgley;
- [3] *John Charles Reynolds* (12), son, school boy, born Rowley;
- [4] *Julia Ann Reynolds* (8), daughter, school girl, born Rowley;
- [5] *Rosetty Jones* (28), domestic servant, born Audnam;
- [6] *Annie Thursia While* (18), domestic servant, born Yew Tree Lane, Blackheath:

County Express 9/3/1912

“The adjourned licensing sessions for Old Hill Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday, at the police court.....

Mr. H. Bate applied for permission to carry out alterations at the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, High Street, Blackheath, kept by *Thomas Benjamin Reynolds*. The Bench suggested other alterations which the owner, Mr. T. B. Williams, agree to, and the application was granted on condition that they were carried out.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/6/1915

“At Dudley County Court, yesterday, before Judge Ingham, *Thomas Benjamin Williams* and *Lizzie Bate*, joint owners of the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Blackheath, and *Thomas Benjamin Reynolds*, licensee of the public house, sued *Edwin Harry Hickman*, Station Road, Old Hill, for damages, amounting to £4 12s 6d, in respect of injuries to the licensed premises. It was stated that a gable of a house belonging to the defendant and adjoining the public house fell on the roof of the latter premises, making a hole and doing other damage.

Defendant contended that it was the duty of the tenant, and not of the landlord, to see to repairs of property, and stated that he was not aware that the gable was dangerous. On the night the accident occurred there was a big storm in the locality, and several other accidents were due to the gale.

Judgement was given for defendant, with costs.”

Benjamin Bradley, beer retailer, 84, High Street. [1924]

Thomas Dudley, beer retailer, 83-84, High Street. [1924]

[These were in the same directory.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/3/1938

“The Justices reversed the decision made at the annual meeting a month ago, by granting a wine license to the ROYAL EXCHANGE, High Street, Blackheath.”

A wine license was granted on 26th April 1938, but the Confirmation Authority refused to confirm it.

Staffordshire Advertiser 30/4/1938

“The County Licensing Confirmation Committee sat at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Tuesday, to consider the confirmation of provisional licenses and removal orders granted in the petty sessional courts.....

The committee refused an application for a license to sell wine at the ROYAL EXCHANGE, High Street, Blackheath, and a similar application in respect of the BRITANNIA INN, Rowley Village, Blackheath, was adjourned, the Chairman intimating that the committee did not consider the sanitary arrangements satisfactory.”

1939 Register

84, High Street

[1] *Albert Evans*, date of birth 19/8/1905, publican, married;

[2] Edith Evans, dob 18/10/1905, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] Robert J. Evans, dob 9/6/1939, under school age, single:

Albert Evans – see also COCK, Rowley Regis, and ROSE AND CROWN, Old Hill.

A Publican’s license was granted on 7th March 1951.

It was transferred to a full license on 25th April 1951.

William Newman was married to Maud.

Birmingham Daily Post 21/12/1959

“Rowley Regis was a wonderful borough in the way it cared for its old people, the Mayor, Ald. Mrs. P. Pritchard, said on Saturday when she addressed 450 pensioners at the annual Christmas party given by Blackheath Benevolent Society at the Civic Hall, Old Hill.

The society’s president, Mr. Cecil G. Potts, presented the Tom Taylor Memorial Trophy to the ROYAL EXCHANGE HOTEL, Blackheath, the first winners in a ‘league’ formed among licensed premises in the district to raise money for the society. Since October 1 when the league started this house has collected £25 8s 6d and before that it contributed over £54.

The oldest guest at the party, Mr. George Rowney, a retired postman, is in his 90th year.”

Brian Stayzaker – see also BRUNSWICK, Wednesbury.

Closed

Demolished

ROYAL EXCHANGE

315, (283), (228), Halesowen Road / High Street, (6, The Cross), OLD HILL

OWNERS

James Holcroft [1878]

William Foley, Old Hill

Albert E. Sidaway

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Benjamin Pugh [1851] – [1861]

Mrs. Mary Pugh [1868] – [1871]

Joseph W B Howard [1875]

James Pearson [1878] – [1886]

Henry ‘Harry’ Cooksey [1887] – **1920**;

Mrs. Ann Elizabeth ‘Annie’ Cooksey (**1920 – 1927**);

Sidney Tromans (**1927 – 1928**);

Isaac William Lunn (**1928 – 1929**);

Joseph Welding (**1929 – 1931**);

John Henry ‘Jack’ Billingham (**1931 – 1941**);

Harold Noah Thomas (**1941 – 1948**);

William Reginald Powell (**1948 – 1954**);

William Rayner Whiteley (1954 – 1955);
Ronald Davies (1955 – 1956);
Robert Watson (1956 – 1957);
Clarence Arthur Fleetwood (1957 – 1959);
John Thomas Round (1959 – [1965])

NOTES

228, Halesowen Road [1881], [1891]
283, Halesowen Road [1896], [1901], [1904]
315, Halesowen Road [1911], [1912], [1916], [1924], [1939], [1940]

It was known locally as “The Glass ‘Us” or “Glass House”.

It had an ante ‘69 beerhouse license.

1851 Census

Old Hill

[1] *Benjamin Pugh* (59), coal miner employing 20 men, born Oldswinford;
[2] *Mary Pugh* (47), wife, born Rowley Regis;
[3] Joseph Howell (10), visitor, born Rowley Regis;
[4] Mary Stinton (7), visitor, born Rowley Regis;
[5] Jane Hill (19), general servant, born Tettenhall.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 22/2/1854 - Notice

“In the County Court of Worcestershire, holden at Dudley.

Whereas a Petition of *Benjamin Pugh*, at present and for about four years and five months now last past residing at Old Hill, in the parish of Rowley, in the county of Stafford, and during that time carrying on the trade or business of a beer retailer, at a certain house known by the sign of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, and for about three years and eight months of that time also carrying on the business of a butty collier, and for about eighteen months previously thereto residing at a place called Gosty Hill, in the parish of Rowley aforesaid, carrying on the trades or businesses of a butty collier and licensed victualler, 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 Pugh*, under the provisions of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *Benjamin Pugh* is hereby required to appear in such aforesaid Court on the 24th day of February, 1854, 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 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 Pugh*, 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.

Richard Adams, Attorney, Wolverhampton.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 1/3/1854

“County Court. Insolvents *Benjamin Pugh*, butty collier, of Old Hill, passed his first examination, supported by Mr. Kenealy, for Mr. Adams, of Wolverhampton, and opposed by Mr. John Whitehouse, on behalf of Mr. George England, maltster, of Dudley; the 24th of March was appointed for the granting of the final order; Mr. England was the only opposing creditor, and was chosen trade assignee.”

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.....

Benjamin Pugh, beerseller, four deficient pint measures, 2s 6d and costs, and a similar fine for impeding the officers.”

1861 Census

Old Hill

[1] *Benjamin Pugh* (70), publican, born Oldswinford;
[2] *Mary Pugh* (55), wife, born Rowley Regis;
[3] Thomas Bullock (54), visitor, shoe maker, born West Bromwich:

County Advertiser 11/1/1868

“At the Police Court, Old Hill, on Wednesday, before Messrs. Moore and Barrs, John Harrington and Daniel Rogers were charged with Assaulting Mr. Thomas Llewellyn. Mr. Stokes appeared for the complainant, and Mr. Addison defended Harrington. The case was before the Court a considerable time, six witnesses being examined on the part of the prosecution. From their evidence it seemed that on Christmas Eve, the complainant, in accordance with his usual custom, gave the men in his employ a

supper. The supper took place at a schoolroom, and after it was over some of the men went to the ROYAL EXCHANGE public house, close by. At closing time, the complainant told the men in the house that they had better retire peaceably to their several homes. Whilst the men were leaving, Rogers, without the least provocation, suddenly caught hold of complainant and dragged him to the door, and before complainant had time to defend himself the defendant Harrington struck him a violent blow on the cheek bone with a thick stick, causing it to bleed profusely for some time. Complainant had not noticed the defendants in the house previous to the assault, and he was at a loss to account for a motive for the assault. In cross-examination, however, by Mr. Addison, he said defendant Harrington had been in his employ some years since, and that he had discharged him. He could attribute the assault to no other motive than this. After complainant had been struck several of his men caught hold of Harrington, and had it not been for complainant and a person named Bullock, would have nearly, if not quite murdered him. As it was he received blows which badly blackened his eyes and injured his nose, and his clothes were torn.

Mr. Addison was about to call witnesses for the defence, when the Bench suggested a compromise. After some little parley, complainant said he should be satisfied if defendants would apologise and pay the expenses. This course was agreed to.

A counter charge of assault brought by Harrington against Llewellyn was not gone into."

AND

Stourbridge Observer 11/1/1868

"....Complainant said: I am a charter master at Mr. Dawe's Colliery. On Christmas Eve I had a feast for the men in the Primitive Methodist School Room, and afterwards went to Mrs. Pugh's the ROYAL EXCHANGE....."

1871 Census

Cross, Old Hill

[1] *Mary Pugh* (65), widow, innkeeper, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Joseph W. B. Howard* (29), son, gun lock filer, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *Thomas Bullock* (64), brother, brewer, born West Bromwich:

Mary Pugh died in the 1st quarter of 1875.

County Express 28/8/1875

"Joseph Baker was charged with being found on licensed premises during prohibited hours, on the 8th inst. Police-constable Giles said that on the day in question he found defendant at the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Old Hill at half-past nine in the morning. Defendant was fined 1s and costs."

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.....

Joseph Howard, ROYAL EXCHANGE, Old Hill."

Birmingham Daily Post 12/6/1878

"The Wrought-Nail Trade. A meeting of members was held at Mr. *Pearson's* the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Old Hill, on Monday, which was attended by delegates from Lye Waste, Hales Owen, Old Hill, Gornal, Sedgley, Old Swinford, Rowley, Blackheath, Gorsty Hill, and other places, to consider the present position of the wrought-nail trade. Mr. John Price was chairman. After a lengthy discussion it was resolved to adjourn the meeting till 1st July to see if the masters would meet the requirements of the men as regards an advance in wages. Unless they do so it is stated that there will be a general strike early in July for the 1875 list. It is urged on behalf of the men that they cannot live and pay their way with wages at their present level."

Worcestershire Chronicle 6/7/1878

"Intended Strike in the Nail Trade.

A largely attended meeting of delegates, representing the workers in the Halesowen, Old Hill, Bromsgrove, Rowley, Blackheath, Lye Waste, and other districts, was held on Monday afternoon, at the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Old Hill. Mr. John Price presided. All the delegates reported that the nailmakers in their respective districts were quite willing to strike for an increase of wages. After considerable discussion, it was resolved unanimously: That, unless the masters made a concession to the men by issuing a revised list, framed at the rate of 10 per cent reduction from the Dudley list of 1875, upon all classes of work, from the smallest 'tack' to the largest 'spike,' within fourteen days, a general strike should take place throughout the whole district on the 15th inst, demanding the full list of 1875."

Birmingham Daily Post 10/9/1878

"The Strike in the Nail Trade.

A meeting of delegates from the whole of the districts concerned in the present strike was held yesterday afternoon, at the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Old Hill, when it was unanimously decided to adhere to the original resolution. A meeting held at Hales Owen, a similar resolution was also adopted.

Our Sedgley correspondent writes: Some of the merchants, unable to wait for the nails which at some warehouses have become scarce in consequence of the long continuance of the strike, are now countermanding their orders for those goods which cannot be supplied, and it is stated they are sending them to Belgium, where they can readily procure the execution, at a rate even cheaper. It is alleged that in this district several large orders have been withdrawn, and it is feared that others will follow. The masters still affirm that the demands of the operatives are greatly in excess of anything it is in their power to grant."

County Express 7/9/1878 - Notice

“To the Overseers of the Poor, and the Superintendent of Police, of the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, and to all whom it may concern.

I, *James Pearson*, Beerhouse Keeper, now residing at Halesowen Road, Old Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, Do Hereby Give Notice that it is my intention to Apply, at the General Annual Adjourned Licensing Meeting, for the Division of Rowley Regis, to be holden at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, at Old Hill, in the said County, on the 25th day of September next ensuing, at the hour of Eleven o’clock in the forenoon of the same day, for a License to hold any Excise License or Licenses to Sell by Retail under The Intoxicating Liquors Licensing Act, 1828, and the Acts amending the same, all Intoxicating Liquors to be consumed either on or off the premises, situate at Halesowen Road, Old Hill, in the said Parish, and known by the Sign of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, which said premises are duly rated for the relief of the poor, as by law is required, of which house and premises one James Holcroft is the owner, and the same are now in my occupation.

Given under my hand this 30th day of August, 1878.

James Pearson.”

County Express 28/9/1878

“*James Pearson*, landlord of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, applied through Mr. Hayes for a license to sell spirits.

Mr. Hayes said this application for a spirit license was made with the consent of the landlord of the house, Mr. Holcroft. *Pearson* at present held a seven days’ beer license, but intended, if the Bench complied with his present application, to reduce it to a six days’.

The Bench, after a short consultation, decided to refuse to grant the application.”

AND

County Advertiser 28/9/1878

“Mr. W. S. Hayes made an application on behalf of *James Pearson*, beerhouse keeper, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, to apply for permission to hold an excise spirit license, and to sell liquor either on or off the premises. He said his client at present kept the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, having a seven days’ license, and now asked for an in door spirit license for six days, with the consent of the owner of the premises, Mr. James Holcroft. The applicant stated his house was worth £30 yearly, and evidence of the posting of the notices was given. The license was refused.”

Dudley Herald 12/7/1879

“On Monday afternoon a meeting of nailers’ delegates, to consider the best way of raising wages, was held at the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Old Hill. Mr. J. Hackett presided, and there were present representatives from the following districts: Rowley, Black Heath, Old Hill, Long Lane, Oldswinford, Haysech, Bromsgrove, and Perrys Lake; Halesowen, The Lye, Gornal, and the Dudley district being unrepresented.

The Chairman said wages in the trade had got so low that he could see no course open to the nailers but a general strike. It was true that one or two districts were being paid ‘something like,’ but that would not long continue. He should be glad if the masters could see their way to giving them the August list, which would mean something like 20 per cent increase on the present wages. Mr. John Price said the people at Rowley were ready to come out on strike at any time, but he pointed out that the strike must be universal if it was to succeed, and as there were some important districts unrepresented at that meeting – Halesowen in particular – it would be useless to send out a resolution from that meeting deciding on a strike.

The delegates from Bromsgrove and Long Lane said the nailers at those places were not ready to strike at present.

Ultimately it was decided that the deputation should wait on the masters to ask for the January, 1879, list, which is about 10 per cent below the August list of 1878.”

County Advertiser 25/10/1879

“On Monday a conference of delegates of the operatives employed in the local nail trade was held at the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Old Hill. Mr. Price presided. All parts of the Black Country were represented.

The President said the object of the conference was to take into consideration the advisability of entering upon a general strike on Monday, the 27th inst. He pointed out the need of a better rate of wages for the operatives, and went on to state that the Bromsgrove nailers would meet today, when it would be decided as to whether or no the operatives of that district would join the Black Country nailmakers in the strike. The resolution of that conference should be that the whole of the districts were prepared to strike for a net revised list. The January list met the requirements of a section of the operatives, but it did not embody the interests of the whole of them. The list for which they intended to strike should have reference to all the operatives. (Applause.) They had to consider whether it would be wise to strike independently of the Bromsgrove men, in case the whole of the latter did not see fit to join in the movement. The most respectable of the masters impressed upon him the necessity for the action of the nailmakers being united. The masters were at the back of them, so that instead of striking for the purpose of hostility, it would, in a measure, be a conciliatory movement, because there was so much underselling going on that some masters desired to have it ended. An improvement upon the present state of things could not be brought about without a strike of the whole of the men. It would not do for the men of the Black Country districts to turn out, and 4,000 or 5,000 men remain at work at Bromsgrove. He did not think that the strike would last more than a month.

The Halesowen delegate reported that the general nailmakers in the district he represented were willing to join in the strike provided the ‘jump’ nailmakers would join in the movement. The latter had stated that they would join in the strike, but there was a doubt as to whether one of the men would do so.

The President: Do I understand that the Halesowen men will not come out unless the 'jump' makers come with them? – The Delegate: No; they will not.

The President said these were, to him, new conditions, of which he had previously heard nothing.

The Old Hill delegate said the Halesowen men wanted to strike. He thought the time had come when the Bromsgrove men would act in concert with the operatives of the 'up-district.' He was confident they would be ready to strike at the same hour as the Old Hill and other districts. He ridiculed the idea of Halesowen holding aloof owing to the doubt as to the probable action of one man. The strike would be general, and they would not have to continue it long. If they did not decide the question at that Conference it would be too late.

The President suggested that an interview should take place between a deputation from the Conference and the jump nailmakers at Halesowen.

A delegate representing Lye Waste said the operatives of that district were willing to take part in the proposed strike.

The Sedgley delegate said that the operatives of that district, as well as those of Gornal, were prepared unconditionally to enter upon a strike with the operatives of the other Black Country districts on the day named. They believed in a general strike throughout the district.

The delegate from Blackheath said that men of the district he represented were prepared to enter into the strike provided the Bromsgrove men would join.

There was a similar report from Gorsty Hill

The Old Hill delegate hoped iron would be taken up by any of the operatives with the view of making nails, excepting at an advanced rate, after Monday next. (Hear, hear.)

It was then resolved, on the motion of the delegate from Halesowen, seconded by the Blackheath delegate, that the strike should be entered upon on Monday next, the 27th inst, provided the Bromsgrove men and the jump nail operatives would act in concert with the Black Country men.

The President said there was every reason to believe that this would be done, and it was agreed to hold a meeting at Halesowen on Monday to declare the strike commenced. The Sedgley and Lye Waste delegates were appointed a deputation to confer with the 'jump' nailers at Halesowen as to their intended action in the strike, and the proceedings terminated.

An interview has since taken place between the deputation appointed at the delegates' conference on Monday, and the jump nailmakers of the Halesowen sub-districts as to their intention in reference to the proposed general strike. They express their willingness to act in concert with the remainder of the operatives."

Dudley and District News 16/10/1880

"Henry Pearson (22), collier, residing at the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Old Hill, whilst at work at Obadiah Pearson's Lye Cross Pit, on Wednesday morning, about eight o'clock, met with a serious accident. He was engaged in knocking a 'tree' out, when a quantity of coal fell on him. He was extricated from his perilous position by a fellow-workman, and was afterwards attended by Mr. Alfred Smith Jones, surgeon, of Dudley, who states that no bones are broken, but that the man himself is bruised severely."

1881 Census

228, Halesowen Road

- [1] James Pearson (41), coal miner, born Old Hill;
- [2] Sarah Pearson (41), wife, born Old Hill;
- [3] Harry J. Pearson (22), son, coal miner, born Old Hill;
- [4] Frank Pearson (20), son, coal miner, born Old Hill;
- [5] Hannah Pearson (18), daughter, tailoress, born Old Hill;
- [6] Pollie Pearson (15), daughter, dressmaker, born Old Hill;
- [7] Jane Pearson (13), daughter, scholar, born Old Hill;
- [8] George Pearson (9), son, scholar, born Old Hill;
- [9] Sarah Pearson (7), daughter, scholar, born Old Hill;
- [10] Nelly Pearson (2), daughter, scholar, born Old Hill;
- [11] Annie A. Pearson (5 months), daughter, born Old Hill;
- [12] Hannah Jones (64), grandmother, widow, no occupation, born Old Hill:

Dudley and District News 27/5/1882

"James Pearson, ROYAL EXCHANGE, Old Hill, was charged with unlawfully permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises, on the 20th inst. Mr. Cooksey, solicitor, appeared for the defence.

PC Rowlands said about 8.40 on Saturday night he visited the defendant's premises, and saw a man named John Hopwoodine drunk, and drinking out of a cup of ale. He told defendant that he should not have filled any beer for the man. Defendant said he had come to join a club, and he had only supplied him with a cup of beer. Defendant's wife took the cup from the man, and defendant led him out of the house.

Mr. Cooksey said defendant pleaded guilty that his wife supplied the man with ale. He was drunk, but the man had worked for defendant some time, and she filled him a cup of small beer. Defendant was away at the time, but when he came in he heard something about the man, and was in the act of ordering him out when the police came in. He asked that the Bench would deal leniently with the defendant.

He was fined 20s and costs.

John Hopwoodine, Netherton, was charged with being unlawfully drunk on the licensed premises of James Pearson, ROYAL EXCHANGE, Old Hill, on the 20th inst. The charge was proved, and defendant was fined 10s and costs, or in default 14 days."

County Express 10/6/1882

“Joseph Jones, horsenail maker, was charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the licensed premises of *Jas. Pearson*, the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Old Hill. The defendant entered the house on the 29th ult, and became obstreperous because the landlord would not fill him anything to drink. He had to be turned out afterwards, and then he wanted to fight the landlord. Defendant was fined 5s 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 Beer-house Keepers.....

James Pearson, ROYAL EXCHANGE, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, 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 18/12/1884

“John Charles and John Evans, both miners, of Old Hill, were charged with assaulting *James Pearson*, landlord of the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Old Hill. Prosecutor stated that on the 1st ult John Charles came to his house and commenced a quarrel. He interfered, whereupon Charles bit his fingers, and he had considerable difficulty in ejecting defendant from the premises. Evans then came up, and the two beat prosecutor so badly that he was rendered unconscious, and had to be carried into the house. Dr. Standish stated that he had been attending prosecutor since the assault was committed. For the defence, it was contended that prosecutor’s injuries were received in a free fight which took place outside his house. Charles was sentenced to two months’ imprisonment with hard labour, and fourteen days in default of paying the costs, and Evans was fined 20s and costs, or one month.”

County Advertiser 19/6/1886 - Advert

“ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, The Cross, Old Hill.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. T. Pateshall, on the Premises, as above, on Monday, June 21st, 1886, the Capital Brewing Plant, Public House Fittings and Effects, comprising excellent English Oak Hogshead and Half-hogshead Casks, Two well-made Fermenting Vats (nearly new), 16-bushel Mash Tub, Pair of Vats, Capital 200-gallon Boiler with setting, 120-gallon ditto, Refrigerator, Sieve with copper bottom, Oblong and Cross-leg Ale Tables, Rail-back Forms and Benches, Lot of Dinner Ware, Eight-day and Thirty-hour Clocks, Corner Cupboards, and other Articles belonging to Mr. *James Pearson*, who is leaving the Premises. Sale at Twelve o’clock.”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/9/1887

“The annual Licensing Sessions for the Old Hill petty sessional division was held yesterday.....

Mr. Waldron made an application on behalf of Mr. *Harry Cooksey*, of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Old Hill, for a full license. He pointed out that the premises were adapted in every way for a full license. Extensive alterations had been made, which cost about £250, in order that they might make the application. Mr. Shakespeare appeared to oppose the application, and contended that there were several fully-licensed premises within a short distance of the house. The Bench refused the application.”

County Express 18/8/1888

“William Slater, senior, William Slater, junior, both of Old Hill, and James Priest, Wagon Street, Old Hill, were charged with being disorderly on the licensed premises of *Harry Cooksey*, ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Old Hill, on the 6th inst, and refusing to quit. The landlord said the three men commenced fighting and had to be ejected by the police. Inspector Walters said it was the most disgraceful row he has ever seen in a public house since he had been in Old Hill. Defendants were each fined 5s and costs, or seven days.”

County Express 1/9/1888

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

Harry Cooksey, landlord of the ROYAL EXCHANGE, applied for a wine license. Mr. Waldron appeared for the applicant, and Mr. Shakespeare opposed the application on behalf of Mr. Darby and Mr. Hobbs. Mr. Waldron in making the application, said that he had to apply for a wine license in addition to the license applicant held as a beer retailer. Last year he applied before the licensing magistrates for a full intoxicating license, and on that occasion the Bench thought that a full license was not required, and refused the application. He did not apply for a full license, but for a wine license, inasmuch as there was a constant demand for wines. The application was granted.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/10/1888

“Last night a well-attended meeting of miners was held at the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Old Hill, under the presidency of a miner, for the purpose of considering what action should be taken in the present crisis.

The Chairman remarked that those representatives who attended the Manchester Conference pledged themselves to accept nothing less than the 10 per cent increase.

Mr. B. Winwood said that great discontent now existed amongst the miners of the Black Country. He had been accused of pursuing a weak policy, but he considered the miners had pursued a weaker policy than he had in accepting the 5 per cent increase. The price of coal had been raised, and he was of opinion that it was only right that the men should have the 10 per cent increase. He hoped the men would act in conjunction with their fellow-toilers so as to strengthen their case. He strongly repudiated the statement that had been made that the miners of their district had broken faith with the Manchester Conference. It was his opinion that Cannock Chase miners were responsible for the position in which they had been placed, and the strife that had been created in their ranks. If the Cannock men had abided by the decision that was arrived at at the Wednesbury Conference, they would not have been placed in such a complicated position. They must make every sacrifice, and even lose the Wages Board and sliding-scale, rather than not have the 10 per cent increase. A large number of collieries in West Bromwich were at work, but the Sandwell men, he was glad to say, were still firm in their demand. The men employed at Rowley Hall and New Grace Mary Colliery had obtained the 10 per cent advance, and he considered it was unjust to employers and men that a portion of the men should be working at 5 per cent increase, whilst others had 10 per cent. Things had now been reversed. West Bromwich colliers had, on former occasions, been at work whilst the men in Rowley and Old Hill districts had been on strike. It was resolved that a strike should be declared on the 27th inst at all the collieries where the employers did not concede the advance of 10 per cent.”

1891 Census

228, Halesowen Road – ROYAL EXCHANGE

- [1] *Harry Cooksey* (30), beerhouse keeper, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Elizabeth Cooksey (31), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Mary Hall (27), domestic servant, born Cannock;
- [4] Nellie Freeman (23), boarder, pianist, born Wolverhampton:

County Express 20/6/1891

“Samuel Price, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, was charged with being disorderly on the licensed premises of the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, on the 13th, belonging to *Harry Cooksey*, and with being drunk and disorderly. Complainant said defendant came into his house drunk and behaved in a disorderly manner. Witness requested him to leave, but he refused and struck witness. Sarah Price, wife of defendant, was charged with assaulting Police-constable Lewis, who was called to eject him. Samuel Price was fined 5s and costs in each case, and Sarah Price 1s and costs.”

County Advertiser 5/3/1892

“Richard Humphries, and John Humphries, both of Reddal Hill, Old Hill, were charged with being drunk and disorderly, and also refusing to quit the licensed premises of *Harry Cooksey*, on the 29th ult.

Harry Shaw, of Riddings Street, Old Hill, was charged with the same offence on the same date.

The defendants it appeared, were ejected from the CROSS INN, on the date in question on account of their unruly conduct. They had been asked to go, but had refused.

Defendants were each fined 2s 6d and costs in each case.”

Midland Sun 27/5/1893

“Pharoah Adams, butcher, of Old Hill, was charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Cradley Heath, on the 18th of May, and also with assaulting the landlord, *Henry Cooksey*. It was alleged that on the date in question, defendant went into prosecutor’s house, and began quarrelling with his brother. The landlord interfered, and ordered defendant to leave, but he refused, and struck him several violent blows on the chest. Prosecutor, however, got him out with difficulty, but he returned again shortly afterwards, but witness prevented him from getting into the house by closing the doors. The police were sent for, and then the defendant left.

Inspector Bishop said defendant had told him that he had made up his mind to be a teetotaler. He was fined 20s and costs in each case.”

Harry Cooksey, beer retailer, 283, Halesowen Road. [1896], [1904]

County Advertiser 19/3/1898

“Local Miners and the Eight Hours’ Bill.

On Tuesday night a well-attended meeting of miners in connection with the Old Hill branch of the Miners’ Federation of Great Britain was held at the SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, High Street, Blackheath. Mr. Samuel Dyas presided, and said they had met to consider the Eight Hours’ Bill; and to adopt a petition in favour of the legal Eight Hours’ Bill from bank to bank.

Mr. B. Winwood (miners’ agent) addressed the meeting, and said the reason why they were taking that course was in consequence of the Federation asking for the branches in the different districts to send petitions in favour of the bill, and that they should be sent to the members for the divisions. He was glad to say that their member, Mr. Staveley Hill, gave him in a clear and definite reply stating that he should support the measure when it came before the House of Commons. He wished he could say that of

other local members. Some of the people were opposed to the measure because the miners themselves were somewhat divided in opinion. He did not say that because he felt antagonistic towards the gentleman who gave that reply, but he contended that the majority of miners were in favour of the measure, and the Northumberland and Durham miners who opposed the bill were not opposed to a shorter day, but simply to the mode of obtaining it. It had been said that the men in the North worked longer than the men in the south, but this he denied. The men, with their leaders, were as determined as ever to make every effort to get the measure made law, and it now behoved them to do their utmost to reduce the hours of toil. If they desired to secure the passing of the Bill, and their member would not vote for it, then they should oust him and put in his place someone who would. (Cheers.) The Bill would soon be secured if the miners in the North would only join hands with them. It was anticipated that the Bill would be introduced about April 27th, but probably it might come on a little sooner. In conclusion, Mr. Winwood urged the necessity of organisation. Trade had been better the last twelve months than for many years past; but he regretted that the miners were going downhill, and were bearing encroachments and grievances which, if he had to bear them, would drive him mad. If they did not try to alter their position, he should like to know what would be the result when trade was going down and on the wane. It was then resolved that the chairman and secretary should sign a petition to the House of Commons in favour of the Eight Hours' Bill, introduced by Captain Norton and Mr. Pickard, and forward it to Mr. Staveley Hill for presentation. On Wednesday night a meeting was held at the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Old Hill, when, after an address by Mr. Winwood, and a similar resolution to the above was carried, and it was decided to forward the petition to Mr. Brooke Robinson requesting him to present it to the House of Commons and also support it."

County Advertiser 29/10/1898

"On Tuesday night a meeting in connection with the Old Hill and District Branch of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, was held at the SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, Blackheath. Mr. B. Winwood (miners' agent) presided over a good attendance, and he was supported by Councillor A. Stanley (of the Cannock Chase Miners' Association), and Mr. S. Dyas.

The Chairman moved the following resolution: 'That seeing miners' wages can be increased, and their general rights protected better by and through federated action, and with a view of giving more support to the Miners' Federation of Great Britain this meeting hereby urges upon all those outside the local organisation the necessity of joining such an association immediately.' He remarked that there seemed to be a great deal of misunderstanding amongst the miners in that district, respecting the advance of 2½ per cent they recently received. Some believed that it would only remain in force until next January, but the agreement arrived at by the Conciliation Board was that an advance of 2½ per cent should be conceded until next January, and then the Board would meet for the purpose of deciding whether a further increase should be conceded, and not to make any reduction. He considered that the miners' wages in that district were much lower than the men were entitled to, but he was of opinion that if the men would only strengthen their organisation and show a bold front they would be able to get a further increase in January next. Mr. S. Dyas seconded the resolution.

Mr. Albert Stanley addressed the meeting, and said some of the miners were making the advance they had just received look ridiculous, but he thought that if they looked at it from a different standpoint there was a vast lot of difference in having an advance rather than having it taken off. They had a guarantee of 30 per cent for two years, and there was every reason to believe from the state of the trade that a further increase would be demanded at the end of the present year. He urged upon them the necessity of organisation, and said that although it was an old question it was none the less important. There were only about one out of every three miners in the Union, and he contended that the other two who were not in any organisation had no right to receive any benefit obtained for them by the Federation. (Hear, hear.)

The resolution was carried, and a vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Stanley.

On Thursday a meeting was held at the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Old Hill, at which a similar resolution was passed. Mr. Winwood presided, and Councillor A. Stanley addressed the meeting."

County Advertiser 14/10/1899

"Miners Meeting. On Monday evening the members of the Old Hill Lodge, held their annual dinner at the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Old Hill. After the repast Mr. B. Winwood, miners' agent, addressed the gathering upon the local and general federation, and the callous indifference which was shown by the non-unionists towards the combination that had obtained for men advances in their wages, was most astounding. That being so he should advise them as union men, not to play with them under circumstances that were illegal, although grievances may exist, and run the risk of having to attend in the police courts, and so waste their time and money also, when all such matters could have any reasonable attention if the fault finders would only join the association, which was for the purpose of greater protection of their rights. Resolutions were afterwards unanimously carried in favour of stronger local federation, and thanking the host and hostess for their excellent catering of the dinner."

Birmingham Daily Post 27/4/1900 - Advert

"For Sale, a Small Brickworks, situate at Codsall, Old Hill, Staffordshire, in growing district. Plans for new streets are being prepared. Erections: One Drying Stove, 90ft by 30ft; two Clamp Kilns; Wire-cutting Machine, by Murray; large quantity of Prepared Clay, Barrows, Wheeling Planks, and all necessary Tools and Appliances for commencing brickmaking at once. Good marl suitable for quarries and best goods. Most favourable terms for working this valuable seam of clay can be made with landlord. Must be sold.

No reasonable offer refused. The widow of deceased partner wishes to realise at once.

Apply, Mr. *H. Cooksey*, ROYAL EXCHANGE, Old Hill, Staffordshire."

1901 Census

283, Halesowen Road

- [1] *Harry Cooksey* (40), publican, born Old Hill;
- [2] *Ann E. Cooksey* (40), wife, born Old Hill;
- [3] *Eva Cooksey* (4), adopted, born Norton Canes, Staffordshire;
- [4] *Mary J. Brookes* (22), domestic servant, born Old Hill:

Tipton Herald 3/1/1903

“The annual dinner of the Sick and Draw Club held at the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, took place on Boxing Day at the headquarters. Over 50 members sat down to an excellent repast provided in host and hostess *Cooksey*’s well-known style. After full justice had been done to the good things provided, Mr. T. B. Wellings was voted to the chair, and Mr. A. Turner to the vice-chair. Mr. *Harry Cooksey* was re-elected to treasurer, Mr. William Parsons secretary, and a committee was appointed.....”

Tipton Herald 12/9/1903

“On Saturday last about 30 members and friends sat down to a supper in connection with the Sick and Draw Club held at the ROYAL EXCHANGE, Old Hill. An excellent repast was served up by Mr. and Mrs. *H. Cooksey*, and after the withdrawal of the cloth Mr. George Wellings was voted to the chair, and Mr. Richard Turner to the vice-chair.....”

County Advertiser 11/3/1905

“Meeting of Miners at Old Hill and Blackheath.

On Tuesday night a well-attended meeting was held under the auspices of the Old Hill and District Branch of the Miners’ Federation of Great Britain, at the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Old Hill, to consider the wages and employment questions. A miner, who presided, referred to the statement of Mr. Claughton, the Conservative candidate for Dudley borough, and said they disagreed with him. In regard to wages, miners were practically on the rock bottom, and in his opinion it was time they sought to advance them. Instead of working longer and for less pay, they wanted to work less and have more pay.

Mr. B. Winwood (miners’ agent) addressed the gathering. He rereferred to the statement recently made by Mr. Claughton, to the effect that when bad times came, it was far better to have a lower rate of wages and work full time than to have a high rate and work half time. He totally disagreed with Mr. Claughton, and urged that he had never known trade to improve in bad times by a reduction in wages. During the last few years the miners had submitted to a reduction of 20 per cent in their wages, but this had not tended to improve trade. (Applause.) Moreover, if they had a further 20 per cent on top of that it would not, in his opinion, have improved the trade. He urged them to reorganise their forces, and send men to Parliament who were in sympathy with their interests and who would vote for the Miners’ Eight Hours Bill and the Trade Union Bill.

At the close the following resolution was unanimously passed: ‘Seeing from past experience that the low rate of wages which were paid to the miners were not the means of improving the condition of the coal trade, this meeting cannot accept the opinion recently expressed at the Brockmoor meeting by Mr. Claughton, that the operation of lower wages in the future will result in an increased number of working days, we hereby agree to adhere to the present system until a more advantageous one is formulated.’”

County Express 8/8/1908

“On Sunday afternoon there was held the twelfth annual service promoted by the united friendly societies in the Old Hill district. The occasion was favoured with brilliant weather, and there was a large attendance at the services. The proceedings opened with a large procession, which aroused considerable interest in the district. The Old Hill Ironworks Band started from the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Wrights Lane, at one o’clock, and proceeded to the OLD HOUSE AT HOME INN for sick and draw club, through Cherry Orchard, calling for Court Robin Hood’s Cave and BRITISH OAK sick and draw club; by way of Wagon Street, calling for Success-to-the-FOX-HUNT Lodge; Elbow Street for Court Benjamin and KINGS HEAD sick and draw club; Halesowen Road, calling for Provident Institution, and on to the field. The Cradley Heath Salvation Army Band started from COOKSEY’S HOTEL at one o’clock with Snowdrop Lodge, by way of Halesowen Road, calling for Court Loyal Marlborough; Bank Street, Queens Street, High Street, and on to the field. The Cradley Heath Town Prize Band started from the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill, with Court Robin Hood the Brave; by way of Reddal Hill Road, calling for the WHY NOT sick and draw club, and on to the BRIDGE INN for Welcome to the Bridge Inn Lodge, across Plant Street, Lawrence Lane, Clyde Street, Petford Street calling for Druids Society; Pear Tree Street, Riddings Street, New Street, Halesowen Road, calling for Court Royal Sherwood and Rechabites Society and ROYAL EXCHANGE sick and draw club; High Street to the field. A grand procession was then formed.....”

1911 Census

315, Halesowen Road

- [1] *Harry Cooksey* (50), licensed victualler, born Old Hill;
- [2] *Ann Elizabeth Cooksey* (50), wife, married 24 years, assisting in the business, born Old Hill;
- [3] *Evangeline Cooksey* (14), adopted daughter, assisting in the business, born Old Hill;
- [4] *Alice Woodcock* (30), widow, domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

Harry Cooksey, beer retailer, 315, Halesowen Road. [1912]

Mrs. *Annie Cooksey*, beer retailer, 315, Halesowen Road. [1924]

Joseph Welding – see also CASTLE.

1939 Register

315, Halesowen Road

[1] *J. Henry Billingham*, date of birth 24/6/1896, licensed manager, married;

[2] Helen (Nellie) Billingham, dob 4/2/1899, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[4] Thomas Billingham, dob 25/1/1925, sheet iron worker, single;

A publican's license was granted on 1st February 1950.

Walsall Observer 3/2/1967

“The Staffordshire finals of the *News of the World* Individual Darts Championship of England and Wales will be held at Bloxwich Memorial Club, Harrison Street, Bloxwich, at 7.30pm on Monday next, February 6. The final of the Players No.6 competition will be held the same night.....

The eight players in the Players No.6 competition are.....

Jack Johnson (ROYAL EXCHANGE, Old Hill).....

The winner of the competition receives a Swiss watch.”

Black Country Bugle 16/3/2016 - Memories of Nick Bate

“.....On the corner of Halesowen Road and High Street stood the ROYAL EXCHANGE, known locally as the ‘Glass ‘Uss’ due to its glazed frontage. It stood slightly back from the High Street across a small, open yard which was paved in places with white ‘monkey bricks.’ The door into the bar was at the corner of the building, set at an angle, and had a well-worn step up to the small entrance lobby. A year or two earlier one of our group had caused uproar among the pub customers by riding his motorcycle up this step and into the bar, revving his engine and filling the place with exhaust fumes.....”

Closed

It was demolished pre 1987.

The site became a car park.

ROYAL OAK

185, (123), High Street, (Halesowen Street), BLACKHEATH

OWNERS

Joseph Nicklin

Henry Bennett Darby

Dare's Brewery

LICENSEES

Benjamin Chambers [1834] – [1855]

Joseph Nicklin [1856] – [1863]

William Darby [1862] – [1884]

Mrs. Darby [1885] – [1888]

Henry Bennett Darby [1888] – **1928**);

Mrs. Mary Ann Darby (**1928 – 1936**);

William Henry Raybould (**1936**):

NOTES

123, High Street [1881], [1891]

185, High Street [1908], [1924], [1932]

It was the staging post for the Halesowen to Oldbury coaches. [1775]

Benjamin Chambers was also a farmer. [1834]

He sold his farm to Joseph Darby. [pre 1851]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 10/9/1838 - Advert

“Desirable Freehold Messuages and Premises at Blackheath, in the parish of Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Newbold, on Tuesday the 18th day of September, 1838, at the house of Mr. Samuel Reynolds [owner?], the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, precisely at six o'clock in the evening, and subject to such conditions as will be submitted at the time of sale....."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 18/5/1840 - Advert

"Two Freehold Houses at Blackheath, in the parish of Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Jesse Wright, on Monday the 25th of May inst, at six o'clock in the evening, at the house of Mr. *Chambers*, known by the sign of the ROYAL OAK, at Blackheath, either together or in the following lots, and subject to such conditions as will be then produced....."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/11/1842 - Advert

"Sale This Day. Freeholds at the Cockshutt, in the parish of Halesowen.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Newbold, on Wednesday, the 30th day of November, 1842, at six o'clock in the evening, at the house of Mr. *Benjamin Chambers*, ROYAL OAK INN, Black Heath, near Rowley Regis, in the following or such other lots as may be agreed upon at the time of sale, and subject to conditions which will be then submitted....."

Worcestershire Chronicle 11/8/1847

"The first exhibition of the Blackheath Floral and Horticultural Society took place at the ROYAL OAK, on Monday week, when a very good attendance of growers and amateurs met. The display of carnations and picotees was truly excellent, and the miscellaneous specimens were very good. About forty gentlemen sat down to an excellent dinner, which was served up in the usual good style of the worthy host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. *Chambers*....."

Worcestershire Chronicle 22/9/1847

"Blackheath Floral and Horticultural Society.

The second exhibition of this society was held at the ROYAL OAK, Blackheath, on Wednesday last. The dahlias were unusually fine, considering the unfavourable season, but the flowers from the garden of Mr. J. H. Hingley and Mr. Parsons attracted the greatest attention. The prize for the best pan of four dissimilar blooms was awarded to Mr. J. H. Hingley, and that for the six dissimilar blooms to Mr. Parsons. The prizes for the single specimens were about equally divided between Mr. J. H. Hingley, Mr. Parsons, Mr. Waldron, and Mr. Woodhouse."

Birmingham Journal 8/3/1851 - Died

"On the 2nd inst, at Hunnington, after long suffering, in the 40th year of her age, Sarah, the beloved wife of Mr. *J. Nicklin*, and only child of Mr. *Benjamin Chambers*, of the ROYAL OAK, Blackheath, Rowley Regis."

1851 Census

Blackheath

[1] *Benjamin Chambers* (65), licensed victualler, born Warley Wigorn;

[2] Elizabeth Chambers (56), wife, born Alvechurch;

[3] Phoebe Millership (17), servant, born Newthrop, Nottinghamshire:

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 12/9/1853 - Died

"On the 26th ult, deeply regretted, in her 60th year, Elizabeth, the wife of Mr. *Benjamin Chambers*, of the ROYAL OAK INN, Blake Heath, Rowley Regis

Birmingham Journal 3/2/1855 - Advert

"Blackheath, Rowley Regis, Staffordshire. Valuable Freehold Property.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. John Parsons, at the house of Mr. *B. Chambers*, the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath aforesaid, on Monday Next, the 5th of February, at Five o'clock on the afternoon, subject to conditions to be then produced....."

Benjamin Chambers died on 14th March 1856 and was buried at St. Giles Church, Rowley Regis.

Joseph Nicklin = *Joses Nicklin* = *Joses Nicklen* = *Jones Nicklin*

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 25/2/1856 - Advert

"Important Sale of Live and Dead Farming Stock, Household Furniture, &c.

Thomas Howell has received instructions from Mr. *Joses Nicklin*, who is removing to the ROYAL OAK INN, Bleak Heath, Rowley Regis, to Sell by Auction, upon the premises, the Poach House Farm, Hunnington, near Hales Owen, Tomorrow (Tuesday) the 26th day of February.

The whole of the excellent Farming Stock which comprises about eight tons of Hay and Clover, in-calf Heifer, three valuable Draught and Hackney Horses, famous two-year old Black Pony, two capital six-inch wheel Waggons, four sets of thiller and chain tackle, six-inch wheel cart, trap, in excellent condition, neat gig, set of gig harness, two pairs of harrows, wood and iron ploughs, drill, scuffle, roll, winnowing machine, chaff-box, ladders, forks, rakes, and numerous minor Implements, &c; part of the excellent Household Furniture, brewing and dairy utensils, and other effects.

Sale to commence at eleven o'clock in the morning.

Auctioneer's offices, 34, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham, and Hales Owen."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 24/8/1857 - Advert

"Valuable Freeholds, at Black Heath, on the main road from Oldbury to Hales Owen and Rowley, and at Cradley Heath, near the Corngreaves Works, both in the county of Stafford.

Most Substantially-Built Inn and Dwelling Houses, in Excellent Letting Situations.

To be Sold by Auction by Joseph Parkes, on Tuesday the 8th of September next, at seven o'clock in the evening, at the house of Mr. *Joses Nicklin*, the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, subject to conditions then to be produced, either in two or more lots, as may be agreed upon at the time of sale....."

William Darby married Emily Bennett on 18th November 1857.

Birmingham Journal 28/11/1857

"An adjourned inquest was held on Wednesday last, before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, and a very respectable Jury, at Mr. *H. J. Nicklin's*, ROYAL OAK INN, on the body of Mr. John Smith, aged forty-nine, a shopkeeper.

The examination of a great number of witnesses showed that on the 11th of this month the deceased, complaining of pain in his stomach, sent his little boy to the shop of Mr. Nicholls, druggist, for a pennyworth of Irish slate – a popular medicine, it was stated, amongst the poorer class in this district. The daughter of Mr. Nicholls was in the shop, and on the boy referred to asking for the slate, Miss Nicholls opened a drawer and gave him a little paper packet, which he gave to his father. By the advice of a neighbour, Mr. Smith mixed the article sent (a powder) in some ale, and drank it off. He was soon afterwards purged and attacked with giddiness, and went to bed. Subsequently he became as it were convulsed, and his struggles were so violent that he was obliged to be held down in bed. Mr. Webster was called in, and that gentleman, after giving the patient an emetic, bled him. However, it was deemed necessary to send for Mr. Moore, of Hales Owen, who at once attended Mr. Smith. Of course every attention was paid him, but after lying ill until the 18th (seven days after) he died.

In this state of things the Coroner suggested that an adjournment of the enquiry must be had, in order that a post mortem examination should be made of the deceased's body, and the Jury at once adopted the suggestion.

Both Mr. Webster and Mr. Moore, from an examination of the remains of the powder given to Mr. Smith, as had from Miss Nicholls, said the drug was *coccus indicus*.

At the re-opening of the inquest, Mr. Moore minutely detailed the appearances which had been exhibited at the examination of the body, and finally both this gentlemen and Mr. Webster coincided in opinion, from such examination, that death had resulted from inflammation of the lungs. They were also of opinion that this disease had not been produced by the *coccus indicus* supplied to and taken by deceased, but they could not undertake to say but that the progress of the disorder might have been accelerated by its presence in the system.

The Coroner sent the whole matter to the Jury in a very clear and careful manner, who returned a verdict that deceased died from inflammation of the lungs, but they were of opinion that death had been accelerated by *coccus indicus* given to the unfortunate man's son in mistake by Miss Nicholls; and they called upon the Coroner to administer severe reproof to Mr. Nicholls, for allowing an incompetent person to serve drugs of injurious character.

Mr. Hinchliffe then, in accordance with the desire of the Jury, addressed Mr. Nicholls in very serious terms. The Coroner said it was the first time he had ever heard of a young female being entrusted to serve in a chemist's shop – a place where, from the great variety of articles sold, exceedingly great care and caution were required, as well as chemical knowledge. Had the medical testimony gone to show that the death of Mr. Smith had ensued from the noxious drug sold to him, Mr. Nicholls would have stood in a very awkward position. He (the Coroner) trusted that he would take the reproof given as a serious warning as to how he let manifestly incompetent persons serve in his establishment."

1861 Census

Black Heath – ROYAL OAK

- [1] *Joses Nicklin* (57), victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] Mary Nicklin (49), wife, born Ashted, Warwickshire;
- [3] Mary Ann Nicklin (16), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Ellen Nicklin (15), daughter, born Rowley Regis:

AND

1861 Census

Black Heath

- [1] *William Darby* (24), grocer and publican, born Cradley;
- [2] Emma Darby (25), wife, born Rowley;
- [3] George Darby (10 months), son, born Rowley;
- [4] Amelia Rollason (17), servant, born Oldbury;
- [5] Maria Ferkins (10), nurse, born Oldbury:

William Darby was the son of Samuel Darby of the HORSE SHOE, Waterfall Lane.

William Darby, retailer of beer, Bleak Heath. [1862]

Birmingham Journal 18/4/1863 - Advert

“To Capitalists and Others.

Important Well-Situated and Old-Established Freehold Old-Licensed Inn, Dwelling Houses, Nail Warehouses, Shops, and Premises; together with Four Valuable Front Lots of Freehold Building Land, situated at Blackheath, Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford.

Also, Ten Shares in the Britannia Mill Flour and Bread Company, Birmingham, late Mary Boddington and Sons.

Mr. Joseph S. Parkes is instructed to Sell by Public Auction, at the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath aforesaid, on Wednesday, the 29th day of April instant, at Six o'clock in the evening precisely, subject to conditions then to be produced – the following Valuable Freehold Property and Shares, consisting of the ROYAL OAK INN, with the Outbuildings, large Garden, and Premises thereto belonging, in the occupation of Mr. *Joseph Nicklin*, situate at Blackheath aforesaid, and adjoining the Turnpike Road leading from Dudley through Rowley Regis to Birmingham and Northfield, and fronting the Turnpike Road leading from Hales Owen to Oldbury and High Street.

The House consists of a front Tap Room, large Club Room, Smoke Room, Bar, two Cellars, capital Brewery, Malt and Hop Room, six Chambers, Coach-houses, Stabling, Yard, and Piggery, with a good supply of water, and produces, at a low rental, £30 per annum.

Lot 2. Three valuable Messuages or Dwelling Houses, Stabling, Nail Shops, Warehouses, and Premises adjoining the ROYAL OAK INN above mentioned, in the respective occupations of William Grove, William Shurwell, and Shadrach Crump, and produces in the whole the very low rental of £28 6s per annum, with a good supply of water.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/6/1863 - Deaths

“On the 3rd inst, Mr. *Joses Nicklin*, of Blackheath, Rowley Regis, in his 60th year.”

Birmingham Journal 13/6/1863 - Advert

“Positive and Unreserved Sale. To Publicans, Parties Furnishing, Brokers, and Others.

The ROYAL OAK INN, Black Heath, Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Joseph S. Parkes (by order of the Trustees of the late Mr. *Jones Nicklin*), on the Premises as above, on Tuesday Next, June 16.

The whole of the neat and clean Household Furniture, Bed and other Linen, Public House Effects, &c, comprising mahogany four-post, tent, and other Bedsteads, in chintz furniture, feather Beds, hair and other Palliasses, chamber and other Chairs, mahogany Chests of Drawers, mahogany toilet and other Glasses, Piano-forte, bed-side and other Carpeting, handsome Time-piece and Clocks, bed, table and other Linen, Chamber Ware, Washstands and Dressing Tables, handsome Dinners Service, brass-mounted steel and other Fenders, mahogany telescope and other Tables, Chimney Ornaments, three single and one double-barrel Gun, small Library of Books, Culinary and other Requisites, office and other Desks, 4-wheel Phaeton, set of Harness, together with 500, 120, 60, 40, 30, and other Ale Casks, gathering and other Tubs, drinking Tables and Forms, two large and one small cast-iron Boilers and Settings, 14-bushel Mash Tub, Wort Vats and Stays, and numerous other Effects, particulars of which will appear in catalogues which may be had at the Place of Sale, and at the Auctioneer's Offices, Wesley Street, Oldbury.

Sale to commence punctually at Ten o'clock am.”

Birmingham Journal 25/7/1863 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale. To Capitalists and Others.

Important, Well-Situated, and Old-Established Freehold Old-Licensed Inn, Dwelling Houses, Nail Warehouses, Shops, and Premises, situated at Black Heath, Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford.

Mr. Joseph S. Parkes is instructed to Sell by Public Auction, at Mrs. Honor Stainton's, the WARD ARMS HOTEL, Rowley Regis, on Tuesday Next, July 28, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be produced – the following valuable Freehold Properties.

Lot 1. The ROYAL OAK INN, with the Out-buildings, large Garden, and Premises thereto belonging, in the occupation of the Trustees of the late Mr. *Joses Nicklin*, situated at Black Heath aforesaid, and adjoining the turnpike road leading from Dudley through Rowley Regis to Birmingham and Northfield, and fronting the turnpike road leading from Hales Owen to Oldbury and High Street.

The House consists of front Tap Room, large Club Room, Bar, two Cellars, capital Brewery, Malt and Hop Room, six Chambers, Coach-house, Stabling, Yard, and Piggery, with a good supply of Water; and produces, at a low rental, £30 per annum.

Lot 2. Three valuable Messuages or Dwelling Houses, Stabling, Nail Shops, Warehouses, and Premises adjoining the ROYAL OAK INN above mentioned, in the respective occupations of William Grove, William Sperwell, and Shadrach Crump; and produces in the whole the very low rental of £28 6s per annum. There is a good supply of Water.

For further particulars, apply to Messrs. Hayes and Wright, Solicitors, Hales Owen and Oldbury; Messrs. Whitehouse, Solicitors, Wolverhampton; or the Auctioneer, Surveyor, and Estate Agent, Offices, Wesley Street, Oldbury.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/7/1863 - Advert

“Sale This Day, at 6pm.

By Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, at the WARD ARMS HOTEL, Rowley Regis – Freehold old-licensed Inn, the ROYAL OAK, and three Dwelling Houses adjoining, situated at Black Heath, Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/8/1863 - Advert

“Unreserved and Clearing-Out Sale. The ROYAL OAK INN, Black Heath Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, on Tuesday Next, August 25, upon the Premises as above, by order of the surviv-

ing Trustees of the late Mr. *Benjamin Chambers*.

The whole of the Public House Fixtures and Fittings, with the excellent Brewery Plant; consisting of cross-legged Drinking and other Tables, Drinking Forms; large Screens, with seating and back-boards; Fenders, pierced brass mounted and other Window Guards, five-tap Spirit Fountain, set of Spirit and Ale Measures, Spirit Bottles, Water and other Jugs, Wine and Ale Glasses, metal-top Tap Counter; four-pull Beer Machine, with taps and piping complete; 450, 120, 60-gallon and other Ale Casks; Gathering and other Tubs, Work Vats, and Piping complete; 16-bushel Mash Tub; two large Cast-iron and other Boilers and Settings; Malt Mill, Hopper, and Post; Swing Sign and other Boards, and other Effects, which appear in Catalogues which may be had at the Auctioneer's, Hotel Valuer and Surveyor, Wesley Street, Oldbury.
Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock."

William Darby was also a grocer. [1864], [1865], [1872]

County Advertiser 27/2/1864

"On Monday afternoon, an inquest was held at the ROYAL OAK public house, Blackheath (Mr. *W. Darby's*), before E. Hooper, Esq, Coroner, on the body of Joseph Hadley, aged three years and nine months, the illegitimate child of a single woman named Hannah Hadley, and who was burnt on the previous Thursday so severely that he died on Friday.

The first witness was Catherine Thompson, the wife of Henry Thompson, a chainmaker, living in New Street, Blackheath, who said that the deceased's mother resided next door to her. The child had enjoyed good health up to the previous Thursday, when, about half-past twelve o'clock, witness heard him scream, and going out, saw him running up an entry from the brewhouse, with his clothes all in flames. She tried to extinguish the flames, but could not in consequence of having a child of her own in her arms. She called to the mother of the deceased, who came out of her mother's house, extinguished the flames, and took the child into her own house, and dressed the burns. The deceased was fearfully burnt on the bowels, chest, neck, and face, and died the next day at half-past eleven in the forenoon. The door of the brewhouse was open, and there was no protection before the fire in the dwelling house. The witness added that she herself had no guard to her fire, although she had a family of six children.

The Coroner cautioned her that if an accident of such a nature happened to any of her family she would be held criminally responsible.

Hannah Hadley, the mother of the deceased, deposed that his father was Samuel Hingley, a labourer, formerly living at Langley Green. On the day in question she left the child alone near the door of her house, to call at her sister's close by. There was nothing to prevent the child going to the fire in the house. There was also a fire in the brewhouse, the door of which was open. Witness ran back on hearing the last witness's cries, and attended to the child. A young man named Abraham Sherward lived with witness as her husband. Mr. Webster was sent for, and sent some oils, but did not attend himself until two o'clock. The deceased told witness that his clothes caught fire from the furnace in the brewhouse.

Mary Ann Hadley, sister of the last witness, stated that she was a single woman, but had had three illegitimate children – two by one man and one by another, and that she was now cohabiting with a third man, and lived next door to the mother of the deceased. After calling on Mr. Webster, she went to the relieving officer, and obtained a medical note, which she took to Mr. Hayes, surgeon, but he was out, and did not call till noon on Friday, when the child was dead. Mr. Hayes then stated that he had not received the note until after he had arisen at eleven o'clock that (Friday) morning.

A Mrs. Hadley, to whom the note had been delivered, was here sent for, but refused to attend.

The Coroner instantly made out a summons, and desired Police-constable Bevington to inform her that if she refused to obey it, he would commit her to Stafford. After the lapse of some time she entered the Court, and was sworn. She said she was the wife of Daniel Hadley, a saddler, and lived at Blackheath, and Mr. Hayes, an assistant to Mr. Moore, of Halesowen, the parish surgeon, lodged in her house. On Thursday evening she received a medical note from a woman named Hadley. Mr. Hayes was then away attending a labour case, and the woman said she would have the note back and go to Halesowen. Mr. Hayes did not return until after the family had retired to rest. Mary Ann Hadley brought back the note on the following morning, and it was given to Mr. Hayes, who then attended the case.

The Coroner said that no blame could attach to Mr Hayes, but that the mother of the deceased had not used due caution. The other sister appeared to be leading a most depraved life, but it would be for the jury to say whether they were satisfied with the evidence which had been brought before them.

The Jury at once returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/5/1864

"On Saturday, Mr. E. Hooper, District Coroner, held an inquiry at the ROYAL OAK INN, Black Heath, concerning the death of Mary Steventon, a little girl of nine years old, who died on Friday from injuries she had sustained by burning on the 18th ult. It appeared from the evidence of Solomon Roberts, greengrocer, Hales Owen, that on the 18th ult a fire had been lighted by Mr. Darby, a neighbour of William Steventon, miner, and the father of the deceased, in the yard, for the purpose of consuming rubbish. Some children took some of the blazing material and made a bonfire in another portion of the yard, and deceased, fearing her little brother would get burnt, in her endeavours to extinguish the flames, caught fire. Her burning garments were extinguished by Mr. Roberts, and Mr. Moore and Mr. Kendrick, surgeons, attended her, but she expired on Friday. Mr. Darby was advised by the Coroner to take more precaution in burning rubbish for the future. The jury found a verdict of Accidental Death.

(The inquest had been fixed for a quarter past twelve o'clock, and on the Coroner's arrival he was informed by Police-constable Bevington that in consequence of the defective postal arrangements of the village, he had not received the warrant until after eleven o'clock, and had experienced considerable difficulty in getting a jury together by the required time. The Coroner apologised to the jury for the brief notice they had received. Several jurors complained of the inefficiency of the postal arrangements, and as it appeared that the inhabitants were about memorialising the Postmaster General for the purpose of obtaining an earlier delivery of

letters, Mr. Hooper promised them his co-operation in the movement.)”

Birmingham Journal 6/8/1864 - Advert

“Black Heath, Rowley Regis.

To Woolen Drapers, Tailors, Clothiers, Watch Makers, Families and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. J. S. Parkes, Tomorrow (Saturday), August 6, in the large Assembly Room, at Mr. *W. Darby*’s, the ROYAL OAK INN, Black Heath.

A quantity of New Ready-made Men’s and Boys’ Wearing Apparel, consisting of Black and other Cloth Coats, Jackets, Waistcoats, and Trousers; Waistcoat Pieces, Trouser and Coat Lengths, to suit purchasers; together with a Part of a Jeweller’s and Watch Maker’s Stock, comprising Patent Lever, Verge, and other Watches; a quantity of silver Watch Guards, &c, the whole removed as above for convenience of Sale.

Sale to commence at Six o’clock in the evening.

Auctioneer’s Offices, Wesley Street, Oldbury.”

Stourbridge Observer 25/2/1865

“An inquest was held on Thursday the 16th inst, at the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, before E. Docker, Esq, District Coroner, touching the death of the illegitimate child of a young woman, named Sarah Ashmore.

It appears that Sarah Ashmore is a single woman, and resides with her parents in Hackett Street, Blackheath. On the 12th inst, she was delivered of the deceased child, which was alleged by herself, and those who attended her, to be still-born, but which the neighbours and others, thought had been treated in an improper manner. The rumours of the illegitimate child having reached the ears of the police, they immediately corresponded with the Coroner, who forthwith held the inquest as above.

The evidence brought forward not being at all satisfactory, the inquest was adjourned for a few days, in order that a post mortem examination of the body might be made. On Tuesday last it was again resumed, when Dr. Phillips, of Rowley, who had made the post mortem examination was examined. According to his evidence the child was still-born, which statement quite exonerated the parties implicated from all blame.

After hearing this evidence, the Jury found that the child was still-born. There being suspicion was not the worst feature of the case. At the inquest, in the course of the examination, it was elicited by the Coroner that the house in which Ashmore lived contained only one bedroom, and also that the bedroom contained only one bed, in which, the parents of Ashmore, herself, and the man with whom she cohabited, all slept together. This is one of the most unnatural acts that we remember to have heard of. It plainly exhibits the degradation to which the above four must have sunken to. They surely cannot have the feelings of human beings, but rather of animals. The young woman Ashmore has not yet reached her 16th year. The man with whom she cohabited is named Speare.”

Stourbridge Observer 18/8/1865

“On Wednesday, Edward Hall, constable at Blackheath, summoned Messrs. *W. Darby*, Richard Hackett, and Priest, three trustees of a Friendly Society, for refusing to take his money and treating him as a member. The society, which is duly registered by Tidd Pratt, is held at the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, at the house of Mr. *W. Darby*, one of the defendants.

It appears that one of the rules specifies that any member becoming a bailiff, or a bailiff’s follower, shall cease to be a member.

The defendant, being a constable, had taken a distress to one John Harris, of Blackheath, who lived in one of the houses of the society, and in consequence of that the secretary refused to take complainant’s money.

The Magistrates’ Clerk advised the Bench that to be a bailiff was to derive a livelihood therefrom, and further, that complainant being a constable, it was his duty to go to houses for that purpose.

The order of the magistrates was that Hall be reinstated in the society, and that his money was to be taken. The case was adjourned for one month for that purpose.”

Stourbridge Observer 7/10/1865

“The adjourned inquest concerning the death of Henry White, a miner, who lost his life by a fall of coal at the Colliery of Messrs. William and Joseph Nock, on the 19th of August, was held on Monday last, at the ROYAL OAK INN, Black Heath. Both members of the firm were present, and Mr. Motteram, of the Oxford Circuit (instructed by Mr. Bolton, of Wolverhampton) was also present in their interest.

The Coroner explained that the only evidence taken at the previous enquiries had been as to the identity of the body and that of one of the miners who was at work with deceased when the accident occurred.

Thomas Hill, loader at the colliery deposed to working in the pit on the day of the accident. He was in an outside stall, and deceased was assisting him to load a skip. A ‘bump’ was heard, and about a minute afterwards the coal fell on deceased and another man. He saw White taken up the shaft. A message was sent up the shaft that Henry White was killed. He was taken to the house and the field surgeon was sent for. Joseph and John Sheldon had examined the pit that morning with pricklers. He and Thompson saw them examine the roof of the outside stall with pricklers.

By Mr. Baker: The stall was not wide enough to admit of a pillar being left to support the roof. It was as near eight yards as he could guess.

Mr. Baker: Oh, as near as you can guess? Can’t you tell? Did you never measure it?

Witness: No.

Mr. Motteram objected to the Inspector’s mode of putting the questions, as rather tending to terrify the witness than to elicit evidence, although he did not think such was the Inspector’s intention.

The Coroner said he felt convinced Mr. Baker had no such intention.

Mr. Baker: Certainly not.

Mr. Motteram said the length of the stalls had better be derived from the plans and surveyors. Every witness that could throw light upon the subject would be produced.

Edward Yardley, mine surveyor, Burnt Tree, Tipton, said he surveyed the pits at Messrs. Nock's including the one where the accident happened. He produced the plan, which was an exact copy, made to scale, of that portion where the accident occurred. The plans were made after the accident.

By Mr. Baker: The extreme length was 18 yards by 11 yards and 1 foot in width. Sixteen yards was the greatest width, measuring from the bolt hole into a nook. The width of the stall where the men were working was 11 yards 1 foot.

By Mr. Motteram: In my judgement the pit was worked properly. It was what was called a 'stret' stall, with coal all around it. Mason was manager, and quite competent to take the management of any thick coal workings. Aston, the doggy, was a man of experience, and competent for his place. Measuring from bolt hole up to the nook it was 16 yards, but that was not in a 'stret' stall, considered the proper way of measuring it. Eleven yards and a foot was the width. Had not been down the pit for a month or six weeks previous to the accident, but had received reports. Witness's suggestion as to the mode of working had always been carried out. Up to the time of the occurrence nothing had suggested itself to his mind as rendering the pit more safe, nor had anything since the accident suggested itself. The aperture from which the coal had fallen presented a 'slip face.' Assuming that it was seven yards high, and the roof perfectly level, it would not have been possible to have discovered that the coal would have been likely to fall. The bump would be caused by the superincumbent weight and the settling of the strata, and that would have the effect of detaching the coal that fell.

By Mr. Baker: It was not practical to leave a pillar in the stall. Did not think eleven yards a foot too wide to be left without a pillar in a 'stret' stall.

By Mr. Motteram: The stall must be wide to get black coal. Could not have left a pillar in the stall and have got the coal; and if it had been left, it would not have prevented the accident. Anything less than a five yard pillar would have been crushed out, and would not have stood.

John Aston, head doggy, deposed to having, in conjunction with John and Joseph Sheldon, examined the pit in the usual manner, at six o'clock, on the morning of the accident. The roof appeared safe and as level as the floor. There was no room for a pillar to have been 'thirled' in the stall. He did not know the width. He saw no necessity why a 'sog or knob' should have been left as in the adjoining work, as in that place the work was as wide again. He said that after thirty years experience.

Mr. J. P. Baker, Government Inspector of Mines for the district, deposed to having examined the place. Sixty feet six inches (taking the plans produced) was the extreme length, and the average width of the place he made about twelve yards. The height of the stall where the coal fell was about seven yards. It fell from two converging points or structural divisions in the coal, very treacherous in their character, without any support having been left in the stall for the roof, and he believed there was no timber there at the time of the accident. He considered that a small pillar ought to have been left in the opening in order to leave the maximum amount of safety to the miners. He thought the place was too wide. The place did not appear to have been carried on conformable to the adjoining work. A pillar might have been left and the coal still gotten.

Mr. Motteram: Have you not told me that you have never had any practical experience in working pits?

Mr. Baker: No, sir; you must be dreaming. I have had thirty years experience. You must be thinking of some other inspector – an inspector of nuisances, or an inspector of factories. You have got hold of the wrong man.

Mr. Motteram: What collieries have you managed?

Mr. Baker: Various, but I don't think you have the power to ask such a question.

The Coroner ruled that the question could be put.

Mr. Motteram: I am examining you as to your experience, and you will see by-and-by whether I have hold of the wrong man. It is in print at the present moment, when I examined you at Wolverhampton, and Mr. Bolton then appeared for you, in the case of Thorneycroft, and again the same day with Mr. Dawes. I want to know the names of the proprietors of the collieries you have managed.

Mr. Baker: Oh, various collieries. I managed the Chillington Company's works from the year 1852 till 1855, both underground and on the surface. I had sole management for more than three years – somewhat about four years. I laid out the workings. They were coal and ironstone. Sometimes it was thick coal, similar to this in the Messrs. Nock's pit, and black and bright coal. I managed the Moseley Hole, and had something to do with the Capponfields. Mr. Barker was the owner, but he gave no practical directions. We had no ground bailiff besides myself. I was colliery manager both above and below. I had no doggies; the pits were worked by butties. The work was laid out under my directions. Haywood, Pickering, Baker, Bould, are the names of some of the butties of my experience. I began work in the mines very early – ten years of age. I had something to do with thick coal at Barker's, at Capponfield, and the management of a colliery in thick coal at Bradley. I have been not only a colliery manager, but well known as a mining surveyor for many years up to the time of my appointment. From the time I left school, more or less, I have been connected with pits, and had the conduct of pits under my father; and after that, from June 1837, I have been directly concerned with collieries up to the present time, both in thick and thin coal and ironstone.

The Coroner: I am sure I am much obliged to Mr. Baker for what he has told us. I knew he had had great, but did not think he had had so great experience.

Mr. Baker: A small pillar, 9ft or 10ft square, it is highly probable, would have prevented the accident, as it would have been situated directly under the spot where the men were killed.

Henry Johnson, mine agent and surveyor, deposed that he had had considerable experience (twenty-five years) in his profession. Had examined the pit, and was of opinion that it was properly worked under the circumstances. Agreed with Mr. Yardley that it would have been impracticable to have left the pillar and have got the coal in a stall of that width and having regard to the nature of the coal. The bottom coal was extremely soft, and the top extremely hard and black. A small pillar would not have stood. A pillar of nine foot square would not have stood. One of the five yards square would have been of no use, as the bottom coal would

have been 'squose' out by the slightest weight. The proper measuring of the 'stret' stall was pretty much as Mr. Yardley had put it. He would go further. The stall was only eight yards at first. The extreme point at the time of the accident would have been about thirteen yards in the widest parts in the middle at the slips; at the benches only eight yards, and at the 'lambs and towcull' about six yards wide. It would be rather wider at the 'brazils.' The average width would be nine yards. Was of opinion that the coal had been jerked out by a bump caused by the subsidence of the strata, and no human soul could have prevented the accident. He instanced a colliery where an accident had recently occurred under similar circumstances where the roof was only 12 inches above the loaders' backs.

Mr. Baker (to witness): I will not be so impertinent as to ask you where you got your experience.

Mr. Motteram: I had a right to ask you.

Witness: A pillar could have been left and under-built but would have been of no use. It was a kind of work where cogs could not have been left.

The Coroner, in summing up, observed that the jury would have to consider whether the colliery where deceased had lost his life had been conducted properly, and in accordance with the mining of the district. They had the evidence of experienced men, which was always a pleasure to receive. It would be for the jury to say on whose evidence they most relied. If they were of opinion that there was not proper support to the roof, although they could not say there was culpable neglect, they could suggest as to the precautions to be taken in future. If they relied more on the evidence of Mr. Johnson and Mr. Yardley, they could say that Messrs. Nock were free from any blame whatever.

The jury deliberated for a short time and returned a verdict as follows, 'We find a verdict of Accidental Death, and we are of Mr. Baker's opinion that if knobs had been left in the stall the accident might have been prevented. We wish the proprietors to carry out the Inspector's suggestions. We consider the place to have been too wide without any support.'

Mr. Nock was called in and the verdict of the jury read over to him.

This ended the third and concluding chapter of this eventful inquest.

The opening of the inquiry was devoted mainly to the identity of the body of Henry White, the adjournment which followed to an inquisition on certain newspaper paragraphs with a verdict thereon, and Monday's proceedings, though not quite ignoring poor White's death, may be justly considered as much an inquest on the qualifications of her Majesty's Inspector for his appointment as to ascertain the death of the miner in question. The inquest on the body of the other victim of the catastrophe will be held in Dudley in due course."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/3/1866 - Advert

For Sale, a new Baking Trough, 12 feet long.

Apply, ROYAL OAK INN, Black Heath, Rowley Regis."

Stourbridge Observer 10/3/1866

"On Sunday morning, a family at Blackheath was about to have breakfast when an event happened which cast a gloom over the family. A cup of tea having been poured out, William, aged 1 year and 9 months, took hold of it and spilt it down his bosom, scalding himself so severely as to cause his death at 2 o'clock on the Monday afternoon. An inquest was held at the ROYAL OAK, Blackheath, when a verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

Stourbridge Observer 14/4/1866

"On Saturday last, an inquest was held before E. Hooper, Esq, Coroner, at the ROYAL OAK, Blackheath, on the body of Alfred Blakeway, aged sixteen months. On Good Friday the boy was knocked down by a cart and injured about the head, causing his death on Wednesday week last. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned. The lad driving the cart, named John Westwood, son of Enoch Westwood, fruiterer, was censured by the coroner for driving on his wrong side."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 10/1/1867

"Mr. Edwin Hooper, Coroner, held an inquest on Tuesday, at the ROYAL OAK INN, Black Heath, concerning the death of a child three months old, named Ann Eliza Williams, whose parents reside at Black Heath. The deceased since its birth had been in a weakly condition, and on Sunday morning last she was found by her mother dead in bed. There was no suspicion connected with the case, and the jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes."

County Advertiser 2/2/1867

"On Thursday, Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, held an inquest at the ROYAL OAK INN, Black Heath, on view of the body of Enoch Edwards, aged two years and five months. The evidence adduced showed that on the 6th of January, the deceased upset a cup of boiling water, and the contents running on to the child, caused such severe injuries as resulted in death on the 28th inst. It being clear that no blame attached to any one, the Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

County Advertiser 6/4/1867 - Advert

"ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath. Ready-made Clothing, Black and Grey Cloths, Shirts, &c.

Mr. Chandler will Sell by Auction, on Saturday April 6th, 1867, precisely at Six o'clock in the Evening, a large quantity of Ready-Made Clothing, &c, including Men's and Youths' Overcoats, Black Coats, Jackets, Waistcoats, and Trousers, in Cloth, Tweed, Moleskin, Woollen and Cotton Cords, &c; Wool and Linen Shirts; also parcels of Black and Grey Cloth, and numerous other Effects, removed to the above Inn for convenience of Sale, and consigned for absolute Sale."

County Advertiser 31/8/1867

“At the Police Court, on Wednesday, William Sankie, of Beech Lane, near Halesowen, was charged with cruelly ill-treating a horse. Parish-constable Moyle deposed that at eleven o’clock on the night of the 16th inst, he heard that a man was creating a great disturbance at the ROYAL OAK public house, Blackheath, and he accordingly went to the place. Directly after witness arrived, he saw the defendant rush out of the house, and commence to kick a horse which was standing in a cart at the door. Defendant several times kicked the horse most brutally on the fore legs and in the stomach. He refused to desist when spoken to by witness. The Bench, who expressed regret at seeing defendant in so disgraceful a position, imposed a fine of 5s and costs.”

Stourbridge Observer 31/10/1868

“Last Sunday morning it was found that a child was in a pool near the house of Mr. Taylor, Blackheath, which proved to be his son, Thomas William Taylor, aged 7 years.

An inquest was held at the ROYAL OAK, on Monday, before Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, when an open verdict of Found Drowned was returned. It is supposed that deceased, who was about washing himself, went out to fetch some cold water, when he accidentally fell in and got drowned.”

Stourbridge Observer 12/3/1870

“William Poole was charged with assaulting Thomas Tromans on the 26th ult, at Blackheath.

Complainant said he was in the ROYAL OAK, Blackheath, when the defendant came in and struck him twice on the eye without any provocation whatever.

William Hodgetts corroborated complainant.

Defendant said he did not know whether he struck complainant or not, and was fined 2s 6d and costs; in default 14 days.”

County Express 23/4/1870 - Advert

“Staffordshire and Worcestershire.

Valuable Freehold Building, Arable, and Meadow Land, at Blackheath, Long Lane, New England & Cakemore.

Mr. Hawkins will Sell by Auction, on Wednesday, the 4th day of May, 1870, at the house of Mr. *William Darby*, the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, at Six o’clock in the Evening, subject to conditions to be then read.....”

1871 Census

High Street

[1] *William Darby* (34), grocer and maltster, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Emily Darby (35), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] George Darby (10), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Mary J. Darby (8), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[5] *Henry B. Darby* (6), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Annie E. Darby (1), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[7] Mary A. Potter (16), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

Stourbridge Observer 29/4/1871

“Thomas Plant was charged with being disorderly and refusing to leave the ROYAL OAK, Blackheath, when requested, on the 22nd inst.

William Darby, the landlord, said he went into the room, and the defendant had a spinner on the table, and betting was going on. He requested him to leave the house, and he refused to go.

Defendant was fined 1s and costs; in default 14 days.”

Stourbridge Observer 25/11/1871

“On Friday, the 17th inst, a man was killed from a fall of coal which took place in a pit belonging to Messrs. Swindell and Collis. An inquest was held on the body on Tuesday last, at the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, before Mr. E. Hooper. Mr. Baker, Inspector of Mines, and Mr. J. Collis, were present during the enquiry.

From the evidence of Thomas Rollinson and Benjamin Golding, the ‘doggy,’ it appeared that deceased was at work in a pit on the Granville Colliery, and was in the act of running a ‘spern,’ when about 50 tons of coal fell, a portion of which fell on the deceased’s head, inflicting a frightful wound, which proved fatal. Every effort was quickly made to rescue the deceased from the debris. Mr. J. Collis, one of the proprietors was most energetic in extricating deceased.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/5/1872

“An inquest was held on Wednesday evening at the house of Mr. *William Darby*, ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, on the body of Henry Thompson, aged 58 years, chainmaker, who was found on Saturday the 18th instant, by William Adams, hanging from the staircase by a pocket handkerchief. It appears that the deceased was separated from his wife five years ago, and has led a reckless life since that time. He was the father of the lad Thompson who was stabbed some time ago. After the evidence of several witnesses, the Jury returned a verdict of Suicide whilst in a State of Temporary Insanity.”

County Advertiser 3/5/1873

“An inquest was held by Mr. Edwin Hooper, at the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, on Monday morning last, on the body of Joseph Smith, who committed suicide on the 25th ult.

Edna Smith, daughter of deceased, was the first witness called. She stated that on Friday morning last her father left his workshop and came into the house. He appeared to be troubled, and laid his head upon the table. At about 8 o'clock the same morning, she entered the house and found her father suspended by a rope from the ceiling.

Mary Ann Taylor, eldest daughter of the deceased, said her father had for some time appeared strange and troubled. About 18 months ago he threatened to take his life.

The jury returned a verdict of Committed Suicide whilst in a state of Unsound Mind.

The deceased was 43 years of age, and was a nailer by trade. His wife died in the asylum some months ago. He leaves five children, the youngest of which is about five years old."

Birmingham Daily Post 6/3/1874

"At the Police Court, on Wednesday, before Messrs. Barrs and Hingley.....

William Darby, landlord of the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, was summoned, by Superintendent Mills, for permitting drunkenness in his house, on the 21st ult. Mr. Shakespeare appeared for the defence.

Police-constable Shorthouse proved visiting defendant's house, on the above date, at 9.15pm, and finding a man named Robinson there. He was drunk. Witness again visited the place at 10.15 and 10.45, and the man was still there. He was drunk on both occasions. Witness called the landlord's attention to the man, and defendant said the man had only been in the house a few minutes. Mr. Shakespeare said he should prove that the man Robinson had only been in the house a few minutes.

Mr. Hingley: I consider the landlord ought to have been cautioned.

Mr. Shakespeare: Certainly.

Mr. Barrs: Here is a man found drunk in the house at 9.15, at 10.15, and again at 10.45.

Superintendent Mills said it was the landlord's duty to see that no drunken man was in the house.

Mr. Hingley: Yes, and it is the duty of the police, if they find anyone drunk in the house to call the attention of the landlord to it.

Mr. Barrs said it would have been different if the attention of the landlord had been called to the man before.

Case dismissed."

County Advertiser 13/11/1875

"The Guest Hospital. At a meeting of the Weekly Board, held on Friday, the 5th inst, the Secretary reported the following subscriptions and donations: Mr. Howe, £3 3s; Mr. *W. Darby*, ROYAL OAK, Blackheath, Rowley, £1; Mr. Samuel Parish, Wordsley, £1 1s. The medical report was as follows: Admitted during the week, 5; discharged, 3; dead, 1; remaining under treatment, 53; total number admitted since the opening of the Hospital, 1,420."

Dudley Herald 11/11/1876

"Mr. Edwin Hooper, district coroner, held an inquest on Saturday at the ROYAL OAK, Blackheath, Rowley, on the body of a child seventeen months old, named Annie Hadley, daughter of Charles Hadley, Beet Street, Blackheath. It appeared that on the 11th ult the mother of the child was engaged in making nails, and seeing the child was about to fall on the fire, rushed to save her. In her hand, however, she held a red-hot piece of iron, and this penetrated the child's eye. The deceased died from the effects of the injury on the 2nd inst. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

County Advertiser 22/11/1879

"Ezra Evans, potter, Beet Street, Blackheath, was charged with stealing a glass decanter and some sherry wine, on the 11th inst, belonging to *William Darby*, ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath.

Prosecutor's wife discovered prisoner leaning over the counter holding a glass under a running liquor tap that had been turned on by him. After he went away a decanter containing some sherry wine was missed. The value of the decanter and wine was 4s.

Police-sergeant Cooper said he went to the prisoner's house and found him in bed; and on searching the room he found the decanter produced. He charged the prisoner with stealing the decanter and wine, but he was so stupefied that he could not understand the nature of the charge. Witness again charged prisoner when sober, and he then said he had forgotten all about it.

The wife of prosecutor said she did not wish to press the case.

Prisoner was sent to gaol for seven days, with hard labour."

1881 Census

123, High Street

[1] *William Darby* (44), grocer and maltster, born Colley Gate;

[2] Emily Darby (45), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] George Darby (20), son, assistant grocer, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Jane Darby (18), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[5] *Henry Darby* (16), son, assistant grocer, born Rowley Regis;

[6] William Darby (10), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[7] Tom Darby (7), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[8] Lucy Darby (5), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[9] Maria Roberts (39), domestic servant, born Oldbury;

[10] Betsy Firkins (15), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

West Bromwich Weekly News 9/4/1881

"An inquest was held on Tuesday, at the ROYAL OAK, before Mr. E. Hooper, upon the body of James Hadley, 5 months, who was

found dead in bed on Sunday morning last.
The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

County Advertiser 31/12/1881

“*William Darby*, landlord of the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises, on the 20th inst. Mr. Shakespeare (Oldbury) defended.

The evidence was that between ten and eleven o’clock on the night named in the charge Police-sergeant Cooper and Police-constable Styles went to defendant’s house and found there a man named Noah Slade, drunk.

It was admitted in the defence that the man was drunk, but it was contended that he had not been on the premises more than five minutes when the police came in, and that the landlord had no knowledge that the man was there.

The Bench thought it a proper case to be brought before the Court, but under the circumstances decided to dismiss it. Slade was fined 1s and costs for being drunk on the premises.”

Dudley and District News 5/4/1884

“Mr. Edwin Hooper (South Staffordshire Coroner) held an inquest on Monday afternoon at the ROYAL OAK INN, Market Place, Blackheath, Rowley Regis, respecting the death of Richard Parkes (27), who had been killed at the Granville Colliery, belonging to Messrs. Collis and Swindell. The colliery proprietors were represented by Mr. Collis, the certificated manager; Mr. Pickering, the assistant inspector of coal mines, watched the proceedings on behalf of the Home Secretary.

The deceased was employed on the 28th ult, to get the ‘top coal,’ and whilst at work on a scaffold erected 8 feet from the ground, the roofing suddenly came down and fell upon the deceased, killing him instantaneously, his head being reduced to a pulp.

In reply to the coroner, a witness stated that four or five tons of coal fell on to the scaffold.

Mr. Pickering said he had examined the place, and was of opinion that every precaution for the safety of the men had been taken. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

County Advertiser 7/6/1884 - Advert

“Important Sale of Highly-valuable Freehold Properties, situate at Hurst Green, in the Township of Cakemore and Parish of Hale-sowen; and at Blackheath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis.

Mr. Joseph Hackett has been instructed to Sell by Auction, on Wednesday, the 11th day of June, 1884, at the House of Mr. *William Darby*, the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath.....”

William Darby died in the 4th quarter of 1884 and was buried at St. Paul’s Church, Blackheath.

County Express 11/4/1885 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Property, situate at Gorsty Hill, Blackheath, Rowley Regis, Staffordshire.

Mr. Joseph Hackett is instructed to Sell by Auction, on Wednesday, the 15th day of April, 1885, at the house of Mrs. *William Darby*, the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, aforesaid, at Seven o’clock in the Evening.....”

County Express 20/2/1886

“Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, held an inquest on Tuesday, at the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, on the body of Richard Payne (64), nailmaker. On Saturday last deceased was at the VINE INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, for several hours, and had three pints of ‘fourpenny,’ of which others partook. On starting to go home he complained of being unwell, and was taken back to the public house. The landlord took him home in a trap, but on arriving there he was dead. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

Birmingham Mail 23/4/1887 - Advert

“Copper Boiler and Tap, 120, and Mash Tub.
Apply, ROYAL OAK INN, Black Heath.”

Birmingham Daily Post 29/10/1887 - Advert

“Cob (good) for Sale; 14 hands. Owner no further use.
Darby, ROYAL OAK, Blackheath, near Dudley.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/12/1887

“Yesterday afternoon, Mr. F. W. Topham, deputy coroner for Staffordshire, opened an inquest at the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, respecting the death of Sarah Debney (22), a single woman, formerly residing at Oldbury, who died in the 21st inst, at the residence of her sister at Blackheath, under singular circumstances.

John Debney, of Hales Owen Street, Oldbury, general dealer, said he was the father of the deceased, who lived with him and had no occupation. She died on the 21st inst. His opinion was that death resulted from miscarriage or taking cold. His wife told witness that deceased was pregnant. About a month last Wednesday he went away from home, leaving his wife and the deceased in the house. When he returned, about eight o’clock at night, his wife told him the deceased had gone to see Buffalo Bill. He understood that she went with Herbert Hadley, who was keeping company with her. She did not return home that night, and the next day they sent down to the young man’s home, and he came up and said she was all right, as she was at his aunt’s in Birmingham. He said he was taken ill in a crowd, and he procured a cab and took deceased to his aunt’s house. Deceased came home on the following Saturday night. She seemed cheerful and well, and waited upon customers in the shop. On the Tuesday following

deceased complained of being ill. She, however, denied that she was enceinte. The same day Dr. Lyden was sent for, and attended her until the following Saturday. On Monday she went to her sister's at Blackheath, and remained there until she died. On the following Friday deceased became worse, and Dr. Lyden was again sent for, and he continued to attend her until her death. Deceased never said anything as to what took place in Birmingham. There being a suspicion that about the 30th ult deceased was subjected to an illegal operation, the enquiry was adjourned until January 4, in order that Dr. Beasley might make a post mortem examination of the body."

[At the adjourned inquest it was decided that Sarah Debney had an abortion, a miscarriage, or given birth, and that blood poisoning, arising from inflammation of the womb, was the cause of death.]

County Express 7/1/1888

"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."

County Advertiser 24/3/1888 - Advert

"Valuable Freehold Properties at Rowley Village, in the Parish of Rowley Regis.

Mr. E. H. Boilstone has received instructions to Sell by Auction, on Tuesday, the 27th day of March, 1888, at the House of Mrs. *Darby*, the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, at Six o'clock in the Evening....."

County Advertiser 20/10/1888 - Advert

"Olive Lane, Cocksheds, Halesowen.

Mr. T. Pateshall is instructed to Sell by Auction, at the House of Mr. *Darby*, the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, Rowley Regis, on Tuesday, the 30th day of October, 1888....."

Birmingham Daily Post 13/6/1889 - Advert

"Valuable Small Freehold Farms, at Illey, in the parish of Hales Owen, and Freehold Dwelling Houses and Building Land, at Blackheath, Cradley Heath, and Tory Street, Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Bateman & Son, at the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, on Monday, the 8th of July, 1889....."

County Express 8/2/1890 - Advert

"Valuable Freehold Property, at Blackheath, Rowley Regis.

Mr. E. H. Boilstone is favoured with instructions to Offer for Sale by Auction, at the House of Mr. *H. Darby*, the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, on Tuesday, the 11th day of February, 1890....."

Birmingham Mail 17/12/1890

"Midland Counties Trades Federation. The Truck System at Black Heath.

Last night a well-attended meeting of operatives employed in various trades in the Rowley and Black heath district in connection with the Midland Counties Trades Federation was held at the ROYAL OAK INN, Black Heath, Mr. B. Hadley (a member of the Rowley School Board) presiding.

The Chairman said that the truck system had sustained a tremendous blow at the hands of the working classes recently, but still it existed in an underhand form; and in that district it was carried on to a certain extent. By that system the men did not receive the money they ought to get, and they were being robbed. Those who carried on the traffic were obliged to sell their goods in the market, and they were able to sell them cheaper than other traders, but if the men would combine the truck system would soon be entirely abolished.

Mr. Juggins (secretary to the Midland Counties Trades Federation) pointed out that if the men in that locality were thoroughly combined the truck system would soon be suppressed. Masters were in favour of their men being united in trade societies. In the spike nail trade the operatives had gained a large increase of wages through the influence of the Federation. During the past year they had distributed £600 in strike pay, of which the chainmakers had received £300.

A resolution was passed in favour of the Federation, and it was decided to establish a local branch."

1891 Census

123, High Street

[1] George Darby (30), grocer, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Mary P. Darby (29), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] William H. Darby (7), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Horace R. Darby (5), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Ethel Darby (4), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Jessie Darby (1), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[7] Hannah Cooper (27), domestic servant, born Halesowen;

[8] Edith Mason (18), domestic servant, nurse, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 11/4/1891

“Sylvia Cole (44), married, of Beet Street, Blackheath, was charged on remand with stealing £1 0s 6d, the moneys of *Henry Bennett Darby*, the landlord of the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, on the 25th ult.

Prosecutor deposed to defendant being in the bar of his house with other persons on the day named, about 3.30 in the afternoon. He went into the cellar, and when he came back found the defendant behind the bar. Upon asking her why she was there, defendant said she was getting some matches. He then searched the drawer where the money was kept, and found the amount named missing. He took her into another room and taxed her with the theft, which she denied. When her hands were opened, however, it was found that there was 18s in one, and 2s 6d in the other. Defendant tried to put the money in her stocking, and complainant sent for PS Salt.

Eliza Cole deposed to seeing the prisoner go to the drawer, ostensibly for matches.

Prisoner, when arrested by PS Salt, said she was innocent.

She was sentenced to 21 days hard labour.”

County Advertiser 24/3/1894

“Rowley Regis Local Board Medical Officer’s Report.....

Sixteen out of twenty-two cases of scarlet fever were in the Upper Division, the bulk of them at Blackheath. The first case was at the ROYAL OAK INN. This case was imported from Birmingham by one of the children who had been on a visit there, and came home ill and conveyed the disease to two of the other children.”

County Advertiser 15/2/1896 - Advert

“To Builders, Speculators, and Others.

Notice of Sale by Auction of Valuable Freehold Building Land, with Mines and Minerals.

Alfred W. Dando has received instructions to Sell by Auction, at the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, on Tuesday, February 25th, 1896, at Seven o’clock in the Evening precisely, subject to conditions of Sale then to be produced.

About 100 Plots of Freehold Building Land, being the unsold portion of the Tump Estate, Blackheath.....”

County Advertiser 5/9/1896

“Samuel Faulkner, Hackett Street, Blackheath, was charged with stealing a felt hat value 2s the property of William Whitehouse, Long Lane, Blackheath, on the 31st ult.

Prosecutor alleged that he was sitting in the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, on the date named, when prisoner came in, pulled the hat off his head, and walked away with it leaving his own in its place.

Police-constable Poultney arrested prisoner the same night.

Prisoner said he took the hat, but he was going to return it.

Prisoner was discharged, the Bench thinking he had done it as a joke. They hoped that would be a lesson to him.”

Walsall Advertiser 19/6/1897

“*Henry Bennett Darby*, ROYAL OAK HOTEL, Blackheath, and Philemon Jones, 47, Oldbury Road, Blackheath were summoned, the first for causing a horse to be worked, and the latter for working it while in an unfit condition in West Bromwich Road, on the 7th inst. *Darby* was fined 40s and costs, or 21 days, and Jones 10s and costs, or 10 days.”

County Advertiser 7/8/1897

“On Monday morning a meeting of the nailmakers out on strike was held at the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, Mr. H. Lea presiding.

The Chairman remarked that he was expected to give the report of the result of the visit of the deputation to the masters. They went to the masters, but the course they took was to go to the large employers first. They found that their position was a very difficult one, as the masters were not prepared to give the advance whether it was for a test or not; but he thought they were fast ruining the trade. (Hear, hear.) He considered that if the large employers would be willing to give the increase the others would follow their lead. They received a report to the effect that if they visited the masters most of the employers would be willing to give the advance. He was prepared to say that that report was correct, but they had to beat the large masters, who were so stubborn. One of the masters said he thought they were having a very fair wage. He averaged the wage some time ago, and found it to be about 14s. Since then he had found out that he had averaged it a little bit too high. After deducting for coal, tools, &c, the average of the wages was 12s. That feeling man said 12s was a very fair wage. (A voice: ‘And let him live in it.’) He thought that he would soon require better wages if he did so. The masters were keeping them out for a paltry 12½ per cent. One master said the times were different from fifty years ago, but he (Mr. Lea) then asked him if he wished to go back to that period. The master then said if he had not got a better argument he could not give the increase. He then reminded him if 12s was a living wage, and he wished to know what he could better forward than a better wage for nailmakers. He might tell them some tales about the events which he had been told, but they were appalling to them. The masters had quenched the life and blood out of the nailmakers for many years. The question was whether they were going back to work. (A voice: ‘We will stick out.’) He advised them not to let the masters get the life and blood out of them any longer.

A delegate, who said he had worked in the nail trade for nearly seventy years, remarked that years ago he could get 2s 3d for nails for which they were now getting 5d. The masters always said they were losing but he thought their gains were large and their losses small. He said they called it a Christian country, but he always said there was a lot of scamps in it. His advice was for them to remain firm whilst they were out. If there was any man who ought to be pitied it was the poor old nailer.

A resolution deciding to continue the strike was unanimously passed.”

Dudley Herald 26/2/1898 - Advert

“Blackheath, Staffordshire. Important Sale of Freehold Property.

E. H. Boilstone has been favoured with instructions to Sell by Auction, on Monday, the 7th day of March, 1898, at the house of Mr. *Harry Darby*, the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, at 6 for 7 o'clock in the evening.....”

County Advertiser 18/2/1899

“*H. B. Darby*, of the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, was fined 34s 6d, on the evidence of Police-constable Clark, for causing a horse to be worked while in an unfit state, on the 10th inst; and Daniel Portman, Blackheath, 18s 6d costs for working it.”

Henry Bennett Darby was also a maltster of Causeway. [1900]

Dudley Herald 3/11/1900 - Advert

“To Investors Speculators, and Others. Notice of Sale by Auction of Three First-class Newly-erected Dwelling Houses and Shopping at Blackheath, Rowley Regis.

Alfred W. Dando has received instructions to Sell by Auction, at the House of Mr. *Darby*, the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, on Tuesday, November 13, 1900, at Seven o'clock in the evening precisely.....”

1901 Census

Halesowen Street

- [1] *Henry B. Darby* (36), maltster and publican, born Blackheath;
- [2] *Mary A. Darby* (37), wife, born Blackheath;
- [3] *Emily B. Darby* (14), daughter, born Blackheath;
- [4] *Henry B. Darby* (12), son, born Blackheath;
- [5] *Mary A. B. Darby* (11), daughter, born Blackheath;
- [6] *Lucy B. Darby* (10), daughter, born Blackheath;
- [7] *Dennis B. Darby* (7), son, born Blackheath;
- [8] *Edith B. Darby* (5), daughter, born Blackheath;
- [9] *Major B. Darby* (3), son, born Blackheath;
- [10] *Fred B. Darby* (2), son, born Blackheath;
- [11] *Elizabeth Johnson* (23), domestic servant, born Blackheath;
- [12] *Annie Johnson* (22), domestic servant, born Blackheath:

County Express 15/11/1902

“*Henry Bennett Darby*, landlord of the ROYAL OAK INN, Market Place, Blackheath, was charged with assaulting Joseph Cox, a collier, Blackheath, on the 4th inst.

Cox told the Bench that while he was in defendant's house the defendant asked him to leave. As witness was going along the passage, the defendant struck him on the side of the head, and knocked him into the street.

The defendant's version was that the complainant was an objectionable customer, as he was very quarrelsome, and he refused to supply him whether he was drunk or sober. On the day in question he ordered Cox to leave three times, and as he persisted in remaining on the premises, he ejected him.

The case was dismissed.”

Tipton Herald 5/9/1903

“David Evans, Oldbury Road, Blackheath, and David Webster, of Shepherds Fold, Blackheath, were charged with committing a breach of the peace by fighting.

PS Bentley deposed that on the 26th ult, he saw the defendants opposite the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath. They were fighting, and had a large number of people around them.

They were bound over to keep the peace for three months.”

Henry Bennett Darby was also described as a jobmaster, of Causeway. [1904]

County Advertiser 11/3/1905

“Meeting of Miners at Old Hill and Blackheath.....

A meeting was also held on Wednesday night at the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath. Mr. Winwood spoke, and condemned the attitude of Col. W. G. Webb, MP, the member for the Kingswinford Division, upon labour questions, and his vote in favour of the introduction of Chinese labour into the Transvaal. At the close a similar resolution to that passed at the Old Hill meeting was adopted.”

[See ROYAL EXCHANGE, Old Hill.]

County Advertiser 2/9/1905

“Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest on Saturday at the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath on the body of Phineas Rollason (48), boot maker, who expired suddenly on the 24th ult. According to the evidence of the deceased's father and mother he had suffered from a cold and cough, and which, it was believed, was due to the deceased having had a rather heavy beard shaved off.

On August 24th he retired to bed about 6pm, and four hours later he was taken ill, and during a fit of coughing he ruptured a blood vessel, death ensuing before Dr. Beasley, who was summoned, could arrive. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

County Advertiser 3/2/1906

“William Henry Skipton, a tube tester, of Hurst Green, Cakemore, was charged with stealing a duck, of the value of 2s, belonging to *Henry Bennett Darby*, landlord of the ROYAL OAK INN, Market Place, Blackheath, on the 26th ult.

It appeared from the evidence that on the date in question the duck was locked up securely at prosecutor’s premises, but subsequently it was missed on the night of the 27th ult. Police-constable Munslow was in company with Police-constables James and Emms, of the Halesowen police, in Long Lane, Halesowen, when defendant passed him by. Being suspicious, he followed the defendant and found he was carrying a duck. Munslow asked defendant where he had got the duck from, and he replied that he had pinched it, but could not say where from. Defendant was taken to Halesowen Police Station, but subsequently Police-sergeant Bentley received him into custody.

In reply to the charge defendant said he did not know what made him do it.

Defendant now pleaded that he had been greatly troubled with his wife of late, and he must have been out of his mind at the time. Fined 40s including costs.”

County Advertiser 15/12/1906

“At Dudley County Court on Tuesday, before his Honour Judge H. P. Smith, *Harry Darby*, ROYAL OAK, Blackheath, sued the Dudley and Stourbridge Electric Tramway Company for £31 0s 6d for damages to a brake, horses, and driver. Mr. Parkhouse appeared for the plaintiff, Mr. W. Waldron for the defence, and the case was tried by a jury.

It appeared that on 9th September one of plaintiff’s brakes was used to take a party to Stourport. Returning through Netherton, the vehicle collided with one of the company’s tramcars, one of the horses being killed. It was alleged on the one hand that the motor-man was reckless, and on the other that the plaintiff’s driver was drunk.

The jury decided that there had been negligence on the part of the defendants’ servant, but for which the accident might have been avoided. They gave plaintiff a verdict for £21.

His Honour said the verdict was contrary to the weight of evidence.

Mr. Waldron applied for a new trial, and the Judge granted the application.”

County Advertiser 29/6/1907

“William Parkes, of Powke Lane, Blackheath, was charged with being disorderly upon the licensed premises of the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, kept by *Henry Bennett Darby*, and refusing to quit when requested to do so on the 15th inst. Mr. C. H. Collis, who prosecuted, said defendant went into the house and commenced shouting and singing. *Darby* told him he must go, but he refused to do so, and eventually had to be ejected. He was fined 15s.”

County Express 28/1/1911 - Advert

“On Monday Next. Under a Deed of Assignment. Re Johnson Bros. & Underwood & Co.

Notice of Sale by Auction of the Imperial Works, Blackheath, Staffs, and Six Freehold Dwelling Houses adjoining (subject to a Life Annuity therein), 3 Life Endowment Assurance Policies, and other Freehold Properties.

Alfred Hill has been instructed by the Trustee to Sell by Public Auction, at the House of Mr. *H. B. Darby*, the ROYAL OAK, Blackheath, on Monday, January 30th, 1911.....”

1911 Census

Blackheath – ROYAL OAK INN

- [1] *Henry B. Darby* (46), licensed victualler and cab and car proprietor, born Blackheath;
- [2] *Annie Darby* (47), wife, married 26 years, house keeper, born Blackheath;
- [3] *Emily B. Darby* (24), daughter, assisting in the business, born Blackheath;
- [4] *Harry B. Darby* (22), son, assisting in the business cabs and cars, born Blackheath;
- [5] *May B. Darby* (20), daughter, house work, born Blackheath;
- [6] *Lucy B. Darby* (18), daughter, house work, born Blackheath;
- [7] *Dennis B. Darby* (16), son, assisting in the business, born Blackheath;
- [8] *Ethel B. Darby* (14), daughter, dressmaker, born Blackheath;
- [9] *Major B. Darby* (13), son, school, born Blackheath;
- [10] *Fred B. Darby* (12), son, school, born Blackheath;
- [11] *Gladys B. Darby* (8), daughter, school, born Blackheath:

Birmingham Daily Post 9/4/1917

“Private Major *Darby*, a son of Mr. and Mrs. *H. B. B. Darby*, of the ROYAL OAK INN, Market Place, Black Heath, together with two comrades, has escaped from the clutches of the Germans. *Darby*, who is 20 years of age, and belonged to the Warwickshire Regiment, was taken prisoner by the enemy on September 9 last during the Somme offensive, as was removed to an internment camp at Lagendreer. Here he was employed on railway work, and it was whilst following this occupation that the idea to escape from their confinement was conceived by *Darby* and two comrades, a member of the King’s Scottish Borderers, residing at Newcastle, and a soldier belonging to the Essex Regiment, who lived at Colchester, both of whom were taken prisoners by the enemy during the retreat from Mons. Their opportunity came to them on February 15. When they reached the frontier the men were

again faced with more dangers. They were taken to the British Consul, who, though called upon in the middle of a night, provided the men with refreshments, and despatched them to England. Food was very much required, for during four days the men had only partaken of one meal, which they saved from the parcels sent to prisoners from England. *Darby* states that whilst in Germany he was never supplied with any meat. For breakfast prisoners were given a cup of coffee and a piece of bread; for dinner they lived on boiled beans and cabbage, and were given the broth to drink. But for the parcels sent by friends and different societies in England, British prisoners would have fared very badly. Whilst the German people were not in a state of acute starvation, the privations they suffered were severe. The price of meat was very high, and a few days before he escaped he noticed whilst being marched through a town that it was marked 6s 8d a lb.

To mark their appreciation of his ingenuity and bravery on the occasion of his escape, the friends of *Darby* have presented him with a gold watch, which bears the following inscription: ‘Presented to Private Major *Darby*, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, to commemorate his escape from Germany on February 15, 1917.’”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/9/1917

“Ethel *Darby*, the daughter of Mr. *H. B. Darby*, licensee of the ROYAL OAK INN, Market Street, Black Heath, was cycling along Oldbury Road yesterday, when owing to a misunderstanding she collided with a heavy motor-lorry belonging to Messrs. W. Somers and Co. of Hales Owen, which was being driven round the corner from Station Lane. *Darby* was caught by the lorry and carried a distance of twenty yards before the driver could pull up, but was found to have had a remarkable escape from death. She was only suffering from a few abrasions, but the bicycle was completely smashed.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/12/1917 - Advert

“Estate of the Late Mr. *William Darby*. Estate of the Late Mr. Henry Bennett.

Highly Important Announcement of Sale by Auction, of Numerous Freehold Business Premises, Dwelling Houses, and Off License, Malthouse, Building and Accommodation Lands, and Other Properties, in and around Blackheath, Old Hill, and Rowley, Staffordshire.

Comprising in all 19 Lots, embracing the Well-known Castle Property, situate right in the heart of Black Heath, with frontages to High Street and the Market Place of 58 yards, and occupying an area of 1,586 square yards or thereabouts.

Alfred W. Dando & Co. have received instructions from the Trustees under the above wills to Sell by Auction, at the House of Mr. *H. B. Darby*, the ROYAL OAK INN, Black Heath, on Tuesday, October 30, 1917, at 6.45 o’clock in the Evening precisely.

This extensive Sale by Auction embraces many Important Properties in the Centre of Black Heath, which for the most part are let at merely nominal rentals, and in many instances on a moderate expenditure are capable of producing a greatly increased income. Very large Works have during the last three years been built in the district of Blackheath, and new employment for many thousand hands has been found; housing accommodation will, therefore, under normal conditions, have to be provided, and the centre of the above thriving district, in which many of the properties are situate, must greatly benefit.

Further particulars may be obtained and Office Plans inspected of the principal lots at the Office of Messrs. Thomas Cooksey and Co., Solicitors, old Hill; or of the Auctioneers, Dudley.”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/2/1918

“The following particulars of the Midland men killed have been supplied by relatives.....

Private Dennis *Darby*, a son of Mr. *H. B. Darby*, licensee of the ROYAL OAK INN, Market Place, Black Heath, was 23 years of age, and single. He enlisted eighteen months ago in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, prior to which he was engaged as a dentist with a Birmingham firm. His brother Private Major *Darby*, of the same regiment, was taken prisoner by the Germans in the battle of the Somme in 1916, but subsequently escaped from Germany.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/9/1921

“Frederick *Darby*, son of the licensee of the ROYAL OAK, Market Place, Blackheath, was riding a motor-cycle down Mucklows Hill, Halesowen, yesterday, with two passengers on the carrier, when the machine skidded and dashed into a lamp-post. One of the passengers, Fredrick Wallace Keeling, of Powke Lane, Blackheath, had his thigh fractured, while the other, Allan Gaunt, also of Powke Lane, and the driver received minor injuries.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 11/10/1922

“At Dudley County Court yesterday Frederick *Darby*, son of the licensee of the ROYAL OAK, Blackheath, was brought up on a judgement summons, the plaintiff being Alice Grigg, Titford Lodge, Langley, and the amount £351.

Plaintiff’s solicitor stated that the debt represented damages granted at the Birmingham Assizes a year ago to his client in respect of personal injuries sustained in a motor-cycle accident. Defendant had stated that he received no wages from his father, who maintained him and gave him 10s per week for himself. He (the solicitor) contended it was about time defendant earned his own living, but defendant did not want to do this because he would have to pay this young lady.

Defendant said he could not get a job because of the state of trade.

His Honour made a new order for £1, adding that if he did not pay he should consider an application to commit defendant.”

Henry Bennett Darby was fined £6, on 6th April 1927, for permitting gaming on his premises.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/6/1927

“An appeal by *Henry Bennett Darby*, licensee and proprietor of the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, against a conviction and fine of £6 by the Old Hill justices for suffering gaming on his licensed premises, was dismissed with costs at the Staffordshire Quarter

Sessions yesterday.

The case for the respondents was that two police officers were keeping observation on the house about 11.30pm on 22 March. The officers heard the rattle of coins, and someone in the sitting-room say, 'The bank is off this time.' The officers entered, and then saw *Darby* come from the sitting-room with a tray containing empty glasses. *Darby* said, 'It is all right, sergeant. There is nothing wrong.'

After putting down the tray *Darby* went back to the door of the sitting-room and stretched his arms across to prevent the police sergeant entering. The sergeant found eight men gathered round a table. There were coins on the table, and in the centre of it a crown and anchor sheet or board.

Appellant's case was that eight men met at the house to discuss arrangements for an outing to Droitwich. Some chaffing took place between them, in the course of which Charles Pearson, an ex-soldier, said to a disabled soldier (Mucklow) that he would have to go to China, and handed him the crown and anchor sheet to take with him. Mucklow threw it on the table. The money was provided by Leonard Bird, because the landlord had complained of being short of change.

Darby stated that he had been proprietor of the ROYAL OAK for 38 years. He had no knowledge of any gaming taking place, or of any drinks being served in the sitting-room. He was attending to some canaries when the police arrived. The first time he saw the crown and anchor sheet was at the Old Hill Police Court."

Blackcountryman (Autumn 1981)

'Connop's Corner, Blackheath'

".....Soon after his [Joseph Connop] death the property [draper's shop] was sold to William Darby who, in addition to being a draper, was also the local undertaker. His two brothers *Harry* and Tom were innkeepers, *Harry* of the ROYAL OAK and Tom of the MANCHESTER. The ROYAL OAK, an ancient coaching station, stood on the site of the present traffic island opposite Connop's Corner. *Harry* hired black horses, cabs, hearses and coaches to William, thus keeping the undertaking business in the family....."

Black Country Bugle

'Staffords At Shepwell Green'

".....for his [George Walton, Chairman of the Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club] great-grandfather was Ned Parkes, a name still remembered in the Rowley area. Old Ned handled fighting dogs for *Harry Darby* the Blackheath publican who kept the ROYAL OAK (now demolished) and enjoyed a great sporting reputation in the area....."

'The Shambles, the Quack and Glory-for-me: reminiscences of Blackheath and Rowley'

"In the 1920s *Harry Darby* kept the ROYAL OAK pub which was where Blackheath roundabout is now. I can remember going on trips to Bromsgrove Fair in horse-drawn carriages he kept in the back yard. They were pulled by two horses and you could get twelve people on. We used to call them brakes."

Henry Bennett Darby died on 10th March 1928 and was buried at St. Paul's, Blackheath.

The Scotsman 13/3/1928

"*Henry Bennett Derby* [sic], licensee of the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, near Dudley (Staffs), had just pulled a mug of beer for a customer yesterday when he collapsed and died."

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/3/1928

"While sitting among his customers on Saturday night, *Henry Bennett Darby*, licensee of the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, became interested in a game of draughts which was in progress. To one of the participants he observed, 'That's a good move,' and then almost immediately he collapsed in his chair. A daughter who was serving at the time tried to rouse him, but she found that he was dead. At yesterday's inquest a doctor said death was due to heart failure, and Mr. J. H. S. Addison returned a verdict accordingly."

Express and Star 3/7/1928

"Mr. *Henry Bennett Darby*, of the ROYAL OAK INN, Blackheath, Staffordshire, licensed victualler, who died on March 10th last, estate of the gross value of £7,111 9s 8d with net personally nil. Probate of his will has been granted to his widow, *Mary Ann Darby*, of the same address, the surviving executrix."

Closed

Demolished

The license transferred to the GRANGE, Rowley Regis.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/3/1936

"Permission was granted for the removal of the license of the ROYAL OAK, Black Heath, to the GRANGE, Rowley Regis."

Black Country Bugle Annual 1989

"The ROYAL OAK, kept by the Darby family, stood on ground later used for the traffic island."

ROYAL OAK

93, Oldbury Road, BLACKHEATH

OWNERS

LICENSEES

NOTES

1881 Census

93, Oldbury Road – ROYAL OAK

[1] Sarah Ann Davenport (20), unmarried, barmaid, born Dudley:

ROYAL OAK

14, (64), Bannister Street, (64, New Town Lane), (Banner Street), (Bowater Street), CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

William Woodall [1864], [1875]

Samuel Homer

North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd.

Smith and Williams, Brierley Hill

Julia Hanson and Son Ltd. (acquired on 1st August 1934)

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

William Woodall [1861] – [1884]

Rosannah Homer [1891] – [1907]

Samuel Homer [1908] – **1925**);

Joseph Bennett (**1925 – 1937**);

James Lane (**1937 – 1955**);

Cyril Hubball (**1955 – 1966**);

Henry Thomas Guest (**1966 – []**)

Stan Williams []

John Ernest James []

George John Garbett [1985] – **1986**)

Lyn Patricia Margaret Smith []

Steven Cooper [] – **1988**);

Deirdre Jane O'Rourke (**1988 – 1990**);

David John Mason (**1990**);

Paul Whyley (**1990 – []**)

NOTES

64, New Town Lane [1881], [1891]

64, Bannister Street [1901]

Bowater Street [1908]

Banner Street [1931]

14, Bannister Street [1939], [1990]

It was known locally as “Laney’s”.

It had an ante '69 beerhouse license.

William Woodall = William Woodhall

1861 Census

New Town

- [1] *William Woodall* (39), publican, born Rowley;
- [2] Mary Woodall (40), wife, born Rowley;
- [3] Emma Woodall (20), daughter, house servant, born Rowley;
- [4] Elizabeth Woodall (18), daughter, house servant, born Rowley;
- [5] Mary Ann Woodall (15), daughter, dress maker, born Rowley;
- [6] Ellen Woodall (7), daughter, scholar, born Sedgley;
- [7] William Woodall (4), son, scholar, born Rowley;
- [8] Lora Woodall (1), daughter, born Rowley:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/4/1864 - Advert

“Valuable Mineral Estate and Property, situate at Spinners End, between Cradley Heath and Old Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford.

Mr. Bateman will Sell by Auction (by order of the trustees of the late Mr. Thomas Sidaway, Esq), at the BUSH INN, High Street, Dudley, on Monday, the 9th day of May, 1864, at six o'clock in the evening (subject to conditions then to be produced, and in one lot), the following very valuable Properties.

All that very valuable Estate and Mining Property, situate at Spinners End, and lying on the north side of the road leading from the Fourways, Cradley Heath, to the Cross at Old Hill, in the parish of Rowley Regis, comprising the Dwelling House, Garden, and Premises, in the occupation of Mrs. Small, at the yearly rent of £14; and three pieces of excellent Grass Land adjoining, now in the holding of James Bridge, the whole containing together 5a 0r 10p.....

Also, Five Cottages, Nailshops, and Premises adjoining the above on the west side thereof situate at the northern corner of the above Land, being part of the same estate, the surface of which was some time since sold to Mr. *William Woodall*, and upon which is now erected the ROYAL OAK Public-house and other Buildings.....”

County Advertiser 27/8/1864

“Yesterday, the annual licensing of the Rowley division was held at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill.....

There were nine applications by beerhouse keepers for licenses, only one of which was granted.....

William Woodall, ROYAL OAK, Newtown (refused).”

County Advertiser 31/8/1867

“Rowley. The Annual Licensing Meeting.....

There were thirteen applications for spirit licenses. The applications of the following were refused.....

William Woodhall, New Town, Cradley Heath.”

1871 Census

New Town – ROYAL OAK

- [1] *William Woodall* (49), publican and chain maker, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Mary Woodall (50), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Ellen Woodall (17), daughter, born Sedgley;
- [4] William Woodall (14), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Loria Woodall (10), daughter, born Rowley Regis:

Stourbridge Observer 19/8/1871

“Early on Monday morning Cradley Heath was all astir and hundreds of persons could be seen wending their way towards the Five Ways to witness the procession of Foresters, which was announced to take place that day. The weather being fine thousands of persons were present to witness the procession through the various streets. Ten o'clock was the appointed time for starting, but it was nearly half-past eleven before they got away, owing to their having to wait for some of the Courts from a distance.

The various Courts assembled at the Five Ways, and then formed themselves into order of procession. The following Courts were represented: No.3068, Hope and Anchor, QUEENS HEAD, Corngreaves Street, Cradley Heath; No.3595, Cable and Anchor, BIRD IN HAND, Cradley Heath; 4127, Good Samaritan, BEEHIVE, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath; 4196, Foresters’ Home, VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath; 4233, Loyal Shenstone; 4340, Loyal Marlborough, COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill; 4398, Moss Rose, ROYAL OAK INN, New Town; 4546, Robin Hood’s Merry Rangers, CROWN INN, Five Ways; 4970, Lye Reformed, WINDMILL INN, Lye. Although the district of Cradley Heath and Halesowen comprises 36 Courts, only nine took part in getting up the Fete.

The procession started from the Five Ways, headed by the Cradley Heath Brass Band. The Pensnett Victoria Brass and Reed Band and the Halesowen Drum and Fife Band also took part in the procession. Each band played lively quick steps passing through Lomey Town, Five Ways, Four Ways, Reddal Hill, Old Hill, and Haden Hill, en route for Halesowen, passing through the principal streets and then to the Leasowes. The procession was three-quarters of a mile in length, and was accompanied with three magnificent banners bearing suitable mottoes of the Order, and a large number of flags, the members wearing the various badges

of the Order, and accompanied by Robin Hood, Little John, Will Scarlet, Friar Tuck, Shepherds, &c, &c.

On arriving at the beautiful and classic grounds, famed as having been the seat of the poet Shenstone, the procession passed round the house of B. Gibbons, Esq, who had kindly placed the whole of the grounds at the disposal of the Committee.....

There was a number of shooting galleries, Aunt Sallys, and other things to amuse all classes. During the day a number of balloon ascents took place.....

It is estimated that between six and seven thousand persons were present, upwards of £100 being taken at the gates, and it is expected there will be a good surplus in aid of the funds of the Order and General Hospital.

We must not close without a word of praise to the Committee, who were indefatigable in carrying out the arrangements according to the programme. The refreshments were provided by Mrs. S. Cartwright of Cradley Heath, and the tea and confectionery by Mr. J. Corns of Wolverhampton.”

County Advertiser 3/8/1872

“The annual dinner of Court 4398 AOF was recently held, at their Court House, ROYAL OAK, Cradley Heath. After dinner the chair was taken by Bro. Bisgood, PCR, and the vice-chair by Bro. Sidaway, CR. Some excellent songs and recitations were given by Bros. Thomas Clee, Price and Ross. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts were given, and a very pleasant evening was spent.”

County Express 7/8/1875 - Notice

“To the Overseers of the Poor, and the Superintendent of Police, of the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, and to all whom it may concern.

I, *William Woodhall*, Beerhouse Keeper, now residing at Newtown, Cradley Heath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, do Hereby Give Notice that it is my intention to Apply, at the General Annual Licensing Meeting, for the Division of Rowley Regis, to be holden at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, at Old Hill, in the said County, on the 27th day of August next ensuing, at the hour of Eleven o’clock in the forenoon of the same day, for a License to hold an Excise License to Sell Wine by retail, to be drunk and consumed on and off the house and premises thereunto belonging, situate at Cradley Heath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis aforesaid, in pursuance of the Act 23 Vict. Cap.27, Section 7 and 8, and the Acts amending the same, and which said premises are duly rated for the relief of the poor, as by law is required, of which house and premises I am the owner, and the same are now in my own occupation.

Given under my hand this 30th day of July, 1875.

William Woodhall.”

County Advertiser 28/8/1875

“Licensing Sessions.....

William Woodhall, of Cradley Heath, applied for a wine license. Granted.”

County Express 7/10/1876

“Dudley and Cradley Heath District of Foresters.

The usual quarterly meeting of this important body was held on Monday last at the ROYAL OAK INN, New Town, Cradley Heath. The meeting was presided over by Bro. Smart, DCR, and there were thirty-eight delegates present. The business was conducted in a satisfactory manner and the balance in favour of the district was proved to amount to the very handsome sum of £1,458 8s 11½d.”

1881 Census

64, New Town Lane – ROYAL OAK INN

[1] *William Woodall* (59), chain manufacturer, born Cradley Heath;

[2] *Mary Woodall* (60), wife, born Old Hill;

[3] *William Woodall* (24), son, manager of chain works, born Cradley Heath;

[4] *Laura Woodall* (21), daughter, born Cradley Heath:

County Express 24/9/1881

“Forestry. The anniversary of Court Moss Rose, No.4398, was celebrated on Monday last, at the ROYAL OAK INN, New Town, and a good dinner was served up under the superintendence of the hostess. Bro. T. Sidaway, PCR, was voted to the chair; the vice-chair being occupied by Bro. T. Williams, PCR. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts were given, after which a vote of thanks was accorded to the surgeon, Mr. T. Standish, and to the Secretary, T. Clee, PCR, for the manner in which he had kept the books and accounts of the society. The proceedings were interspersed with songs suitable to the occasion. Thanks to the Chairman and Vice-chairman concluded an agreeable evening.”

County Express 8/7/1882

“The member of Court Moss Rose, No.4398, AOF, held their anniversary on Monday last at the house of Bro. *Woodall*, ROYAL OAK INN, Newtown. After doing justice to the substantial dinner provided by the host, Bro. Bisgood was elected to take the chair, and Bro. Williams the vice-chair. Success to Court Moss Rose was proposed by Bro. Williams, who said that the Court was in a flourishing condition and stood as well financially as any Court in the district. He sincerely hoped it would continue to hold that position. The health of the Secretary, Bro. Thomas Clee, was proposed by the vice-chairman. The health of the Host was proposed and drank with musical honours. The rest of the evening was enlivened by songs rendered by Bro. J. Dimmock and W. Dimmock.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/11/1882

“A meeting of the chainmakers who are now on strike for an advance of wages was held yesterday, at the MANCHESTER INN, Cradley Heath; Mr. B. Billingham presiding. The Chairman reported that the following firms had promised to pay the advance..... *William Woodall*, Newtown.....

It was resolved that the men in the employ of these firms should return to work. It was also resolved that the men whose employers had not promised the advance should continue on strike. It is expected that the majority of the men will resume work this morning, and that the strike will come to an end during the present week.”

County Advertiser 30/12/1882 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant.
Apply, ROYAL OAK INN, New Town, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 27/9/1884 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant.
Apply, Mrs. *Woodall*, ROYAL OAK, Newtown, Cradley Heath, near Brierley Hill.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/6/1886

“At the Old Hill Police Court, yesterday, *William Woodall*, chain manufacturer, of Cradley Heath, was charged with having in his possession property belonging to the trustees of the Moss Rose Friendly Society.
Mr. Waldron (Brierley Hill), who prosecuted, said the defendant until recently had been the landlord of the ROYAL OAK INN, Cradley Heath, and a friendly society called the Moss Rose had been held at his house. He was appointed treasurer, and it was his duty to keep a book showing the financial position of the court. A disagreement afterwards arose, and he was dismissed from his office of treasurer, the society being removed from his house. Repeated applications were made for the treasurer’s book, but he refused to give it up, and the trustees therefore adopted that course to recover it.
Thomas Sidaway, one of the trustees of the Moss Rose Friendly Society, corroborated the above statement, and said *Woodall* was dismissed from the office of treasurer to the society about eight months ago.
Defendant was discharged upon giving up the book referred to and paying the costs of the case.”

County Advertiser 30/10/1886

“At the Dudley Bankruptcy Court, on Tuesday, *William Woodall*, chainmaker and publican, Old Hill, was examined. His liabilities were £674, and his assets nil. He said he paid his creditors last November with the proceeds of a sale of his furniture, and he had sustained heavy losses in consequence of his being bound for his father, who was treasurer to a friendly society. The examination was adjourned.”

County Advertiser 8/12/1888

“Henry Hingley, chainmaker, Bowling Green, near Dudley, was charged with stealing 2s 6d belonging to Benjamin Sidaway, on the 19th ult. Mr. Tanfield defended.
Complainant said that on the night of the date named he was drinking in the ROYAL OAK, New Town. He ordered a pint of ale, and had the half-crown in his hand, when the defendant snatched it from him. Two witnesses for the complainant were called, and stated that complainant put the half-crown down on the table, and that defendant picked it up.
Mr. Tanfield contended the complainant put down the half-crown to bet with, but that there was no evidence of a theft.
Defendant said he was willing to give up the half-crown, and the Bench, considering there was a doubt, dismissed the case.”

1891 Census

64, New Town Lane
[1] *Rosannah Homer* (53), widow, licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
[2] *Ellen Homer* (20), daughter, barmaid, born Rowley Regis;
[3] *Martha Homer* (17), daughter, barmaid, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 6/4/1895

“A smoking concert was held at the ROYAL OAK INN, New Town, on Thursday last week. The proceedings throughout were very enjoyable, and there was a large attendance. An excellent programme was gone through in a most efficient manner by Mr. Josiah Weston’s Cradley Heath Orchestral Band. Songs were given by Messrs. Billingham, Dingley, Fletcher, Pritchard, and Tarley, and recitations by Messrs. Rose and Sidaway.”

1901 Census

64, Bannister Street – ROYAL OAK
[1] *Rosannah Homer* (63), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Cradley Heath;
[2] *Martha Homer* (27), daughter, born Cradley Heath;
[3] *Samuel Homer* (26), son, cabinet maker, born Cradley Heath;
[4] *Elizabeth Drew* (17), domestic servant, born Cradley Heath:

County Express 23/11/1901

“A Foresters Court was recently opened at the ROYAL OAK INN, Newtown, and named King Edward VII. The opening ceremony was performed by Bro. T. Southall, DCR, and amongst those present were Bros. T. Rock (district secretary), A. Crumpton (district treasurer), J. Darby, PDCR, Dr. Mitchell, Messrs. A. E. Sidaway, L. Hall Flemings, J. Potts, J. Hackett, and A. Potts. Upwards of sixteen members joined the new court.”

County Advertiser 24/6/1905

“Mr. A. A. Betham (deputy coroner) investigated on Wednesday morning, at the ROYAL OAK INN, Bannister Street, the death of a child named Martha Lane, four months old, whose parents reside at Meredith Street. The child, who had been in good health since its birth, went to bed with its mother at 10.30pm on Sunday night. A quarter past five the next morning, the mother awoke to find the child foaming at the mouth, and a moment later the little thing was dead. Medical evidence showed the child had been accidentally suffocated, and the jury returned a verdict to that effect.”

County Advertiser 13/4/1907 - Deaths

“On Sunday, the 7th inst, Mrs. *Rosannah Homer*, ROYAL OAK, Bannister Street, Cradley Heath, in her 70th year; after four days’ illness. Deeply lamented. Will friends kindly accept this intimation.”

County Express 12/9/1908

“Friendly Societies’ Parade. On Wednesday evening the committee of the above met at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Mr. W. Coley presiding over a large attendance. The following was a complete list of those boxes which contained amounts of 1s and upwards.

Mr. *S. Homer*, ROYAL OAK, 2s 10½d.”

County Express 7/11/1908

“On Thursday evening the members of Cradley Heath Friendly Societies’ Parade Committee had their annual dinner at the ROYAL OAK, Bowater Street, Newton, Cradley Heath.”

1911 Census

14, Bannister Street

- [1] *Samuel Homer* (36), publican, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Asenath Homer* (27), wife, married 5 years, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Hilda Margaret Homer* (4), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Cyril William Samuel Joseph Homer* (3), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Harold Homer* (1), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Rosannah Homer* (6 months), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *Lily Gladys Humphries* (16), domestic servant, born Wolverhampton;
- [8] *Rhoda Willetts* (13), nurse, born Rowley Regis;

Dudley Herald 7/3/1931

“The licensing justices, besides renewing several licenses, heard three cases in which the police recommended that the house should be referred to the Compensation Committee for closure. In two cases – those of the VINE INN, Rowley, and the BRITANNIA INN, Springfield – they referred to the committee, and in that of the ROYAL OAK INN, Banner Street, Cradley Heath, Mr. J. T. Higgs appeared on behalf of the licensee (Mr. *Joseph Bennett*) and opposed the closure of the house.

Inspector Davison said the application was being made by the police on the grounds of redundancy. He considered that there were enough houses of a better class to serve that locality.

After further statements had been made the Chairman said the Bench felt that there was no likelihood of the Compensation Committee entertaining the case, and the license would be renewed.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/7/1931

“Eleven more claims have been paid out under the *Birmingham Gazette* Insurance scheme.

Children’s Accidents.

Mrs. *Bennett*, ROYAL OAK, Bannister Street, Cradley Heath. Accident to reader’s child – broken collar bone.

Newsagent: Mr. Sidaway, Lawrence Lane, Old Hill.”

Conveyance 2/7/1934

“All that messuage tenement or dwelling house with the land outbuildings and appurtenances thereto belonging situate and being at Newtown Cradley Heath aforesaid bounded in front by Bannister Street at the back by property of James Smith on both sides by property of Samuel Homer All which premises are known as the ROYAL OAK INN.”

1939 Register

14, Bannister Street

- [1] *James Lane*, date of birth 1/5/1888, chain maker, married;
- [2] *Amy Lane*, dob 27/9/1892, unpaid house duties, married;

Stan Williams was born c.1920.

He was married to Dora.

It was referred to the Compensation Authority on 3rd July 1948.
The license was renewed.

A team from here took part in the Cradley Heath Darts League. [1970]

George John Garbett – see also WAGGON AND HORSES.

Closed [pre 1994]
Demolished

ROYAL OAK

High Street, CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Matthews [1863] – [1872]

NOTES

Birmingham Daily Post 8/1/1863 - Advert

“Wanted, immediately, a thorough General Servant. Must understand plain Cooking, and make herself generally useful. One from the country preferred. Good character indispensable.
Apply to *John Matthews*, Grocer and Publican, ROYAL OAK, High Street, Cradley Heath.”

Stourbridge Observer 23/10/1869

“A month or two ago Mr. Timothy Parkes, of Reddal Hill, was kind enough to present to the congregation worshipping at the Baptist Chapel, Four Ways, a beautiful harmonium, which has since been efficiently played by his son, Mr. Alfred Parkes. At its introduction, a suitable choir was formed, who have acquitted themselves so well that it was deemed advisable to acknowledge their services. Accordingly they were as is the general custom at the present time, entertained to supper on Monday evening at the ROYAL OAK, High Street, Cradley Heath. A capital spread was prepared, to which ample justice was done, and the evening was spent in harmless jollification as befitted a chapel choir. Toasts of course went round, and the originators of the supper, as well as the host and hostess, came in for their due share.”

Stourbridge Observer 4/1/1872

“On Monday a large number of tradesmen and friends of Mr. John Berry met at the ROYAL OAK, High Street, and partook of an excellent supper, which was served up in a capital manner by the host, Mr. *Matthews*. After the cloth was removed, Mr. Berry was called to the chair, and Mr. A. Woodhouse to the vice chair. The usual toasts were proposed and responded to, and various songs, recitations &c, given at intervals, and a very pleasant evening was spent.”

ROYAL OAK

48, Lower High Street, (43, Lomey Town), CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

John Tromans [1878]
Joseph Harris [1901]
George N. Bridgwater, Dudley Wood
Lesters Ltd., Dudley
Frederick Smith Ltd.
William Butler and Co. Ltd. (acquired on 12th October 1959)

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Moses Dunn [1870] – **1878**);
Matthew Bower (**1878**);
John Troman (**1878** – [1891]
Joseph Harris [1894] – **1901**)
Mrs. Bridgewater [1901]
Thomas Farmer [1904] – **1919**)
John Thomas Piper (**1919** – **1929**);
Ernest Robinson (**1929** – **1931**);
Herbert Williams (**1931** – **1932**);
Frederick William Fell (**1932** – **1933**);
Thomas George Buckley (**1933** – **1935**);
George Thomas Brown (**1935** – [1965]
George Stanley Williams []

NOTES

43, Lomey Town [1881], [1891], [1904], [1908], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1924], [1932]
48, Lower High Street [1939], [1940]

It had a beerhouse license.

It was popular with chain makers.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/2/1870

“Yesterday, at the Brierley Hill Police Court, before Messrs. W. Hancocks, J. C. A. Scott, and H. Talbot, a glede dealer, named *Moses Dunn*, was charged with having, on the 27th of November, paid Mary Hill and Louisa Round, two persons employed by him, the sum of 14s wages in other than the current coin of the realm. Mr. Addison appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Perry defended.

On Friday last the complainants Hill and Round were charged with having stolen a quantity of gledes belonging to the defendant *Dunn*, but there being a doubt in the minds of the magistrates, the case was dismissed, and on Saturday last complainants laid these informations under the Truck Act. The evidence of the complainants and a large number of witnesses was to the effect that they went, on the evening of the 27th of November, to a shop and public house kept by *Dunn*, and that there they received a quantity of goods consisting of rabbits, fowl, tea, soap, cheese, &c; in payment of their week’s wages, being 14s.

For the defence, Mr. Perry asked the magistrates to take into account the fact that the complainants had been charged by *Dunn* with stealing from him, which fact, he contended, threw suspicion upon their evidence. His case was that they had been, like the other persons employed by defendant, invariably paid in money, that of course, if they chose to buy articles out of the shop they were welcome; but there was no compulsion placed upon them to do so. He then called a number of witnesses, who all deposed that the complainants were paid in coin, but their statements in other respects showed great discrepancies, and were entirely incompatible with each other.

Mrs. Summers, sister of the defendant, swore that she kept the shop on her own account, and that she bought the goods for it with her own money, but immediately after admitted that she was receiving out-door relief from the Board of Guardians.

Before the magistrates retired to consider their decision, Mr. Perry raised a point of law for their consideration. He pointed out that the trade of a glede seller was not enumerated among those to which the Truck Act applied, nor was it a trade which could be included within the definitive clause of the Act, which said, ‘That for the purposes of the Act, all labourers in any manner engaged in any way about the several trades or occupations enumerated will come under its operation.’

Mr. Addison’s reply was to the effect that there had been cases decided in which it was held that the true test of the application of the Act was whether the contract was for labour or the results of labour. He submitted that in this case it was for the results of labour.

The Clerk (Mr. King) did not think that the point exactly applied, and that there were stronger cases decided than those mentioned by Mr. Addison, in which it had been held that a person employed as a boat unloader for an iron-work came under the operation of the Act. Mr. Perry remarked that the trade of glede seller was separate and distinct.

The Bench then retired to consider their decision, and upon their return they said they had given the cases very careful consideration, and they had decided to convict in both cases. Defendant must pay a fine of £10 and costs in each case, half the fine to go to the informer. In default of distress, two months’ imprisonment.

Several other cases were withdrawn on payment of costs.”

County Advertiser 19/2/1870

“The profits of the truck system are so very large that those who carry it on are not to be frightened at small things. It is said that

‘all men think all men are mortal but themselves,’ and so truck dealers have an impression that all other truck dealers may be caught but themselves. Some time ago we reported a case at Halesowen, in which one of this fraternity was sharply fined; but the warning then given seems either to have been speedily forgotten or the fame of it had not extended very far. At any rate, it did not prevent Mr. *Moses Dunn*, of Lomey Town, telling people who worked for him that unless they would take their wages in goods from his shop they should not have any work. And this little game he has carried on for some time, till at last he has been caught, and warned in a manner we daresay will not very quickly fade from his remembrance. It is verily a dangerous thing for a man who carries on this system to get to loggerheads with any of his servants. So, no doubt, *Moses Dunn* will now be ready to admit. The evidence for the prosecution was clear and conclusive, and though open to a certain suspicion on the ground of motive, was so coherent in every point that it left no doubt of the truth of the charge.

The evidence given for the defence was simply disgraceful, and abundantly showed the excellence of the plan of sending witnesses out of Court. If some other workpeople had had the courage to come forward and give information against masters carrying on this system of trading, a few penalties of £10 and costs would have a great effect in abating the nuisance.”

Stourbridge Observer 16/7/1870

“William Hill was charged with being drunk and refusing to leave a public house when requested to do so, on the 3rd instant. Mr. Addison defended.

Mary Attenborough, wife of Edward Attenborough, said she was sister of *Moses Dunn*, the landlord of the public house. On the above date she was at his house, helping to clean. Defendant went in, and called for a pint of cider. He was drunk. She refused to give him any, and he cursed and swore at her, and she requested him to leave and told him she should summons him if he did not. He afterwards went out.

Cross-examined: His brother gave evidence against my brother in a truck case. Do not speak to his family. It was ten minutes to twelve when he came in.

A witness named Dunn said when defendant came into the house he was not drunk. He refused to go out when requested to do so. Ordered to pay the costs.”

1871 Census

Lomey Town – ROYAL OAK INN

[1] *Moses Dunn* (45), unmarried, publican and greengrocer, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Ellen Summers (35), sister, widow, house keeper, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Moses Summers (9), nephew, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Thomas Summers (7), nephew, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Mary Summers (4), niece, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Alice Summers (2), niece, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 28/3/1874

“The following persons were summoned by Mr. Horder, inspector, for having in their possession deficient weights or scales, and were fined the sum adjoined.....

Moses Dunn, greengrocer, Cradley Heath, 5s, including costs.”

County Advertiser 16/1/1875 - Advert

“Wanted, a respectable middle-aged Woman as Housekeeper, in a Greengrocery Business.

Apply, ROYAL OAK, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 6/3/1875

“John Hampton was charged with having, on the 18th ult, been disorderly and refused to quit the ROYAL OAK, Cradley Heath, kept by *Moses Dunn*. He was further charged with an assault upon the landlord. Complainant stated that on the above date the defendant came into his house, and, after drinking the ale which had been supplied to him, commenced to drink that belonging to other persons present. Complainant remonstrated with the defendant, whereupon he seized complainant by the throat and attempted to strangle him.

There was a further charge of his having been drunk and riotous on the 27th ult, and resisted Police-constable Collier whilst in the execution of his duty.

Defendant had been several times previously convicted, and he was fined 10s and costs, or two months’ hard labour; and 20s and costs in the second case, or two months’ hard labour, the periods to be consecutive.”

County Advertiser 28/8/1875

“Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. Wright, solicitor, Oldbury, opposed the grant of a renewal beer license to *Moses Dunn*, beerhouse keeper, Cradley Heath, in consequence of an alteration decreasing the value of the premises having been made. Mr. Watts, of Dudley, appeared for Mr. *Dunn*, and asked their worships to suspend their decision till the adjourned day, so that some arrangement might be come to, and the Bench complied with his request.”

County Express 25/8/1877

“After the business of the Petty Sessions had been disposed of the Annual Licensing Sessions were held.....

Moses Dunn, landlord of the ROYAL OAK INN, Lomey Town, applied for a six days’ license to sell wines upon the premises; and

the application was complied with.”

London Gazette 9/11/1877

“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 *Moses Dunn*, of Cradley Heath, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, Publican, Greengrocer, and Glede 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 No.87, High-street, Brierley Hill, in the county of Stafford, on the 21st day of November, 1877, at twelve o'clock at noon precisely.

Dated this 3rd day of November, 1877.

Thomas Homer, Brierley Hill, Solicitor for the said Debtor.”

Matthew Bower = Matthew Bowers

County Advertiser 2/2/1878

“*Mathew Bower*, landlord of the ROYAL OAK INN, Lomey Town, preferred charges against John Baker, collier, the Lye; John Raybould, collier, Cradley Heath; and Abel Homer, chainmaker, Cradley Heath, of being disorderly and refusing to quit his house on the night of Saturday, the 19th inst.

Mr. W. S. Hayes prosecuted, and told the magistrates that Mr. *Bower* had been very much annoyed by persons systematically coming to his premises and making a disturbance, and the trustee under whom Mr. *Bower* held the house had been put to considerable expense in journeys to quell these disturbances. The complainant spoke in support of the charge, and said he did not wish to press the cases except against Raybould, whom he had forgiven several times. The Bench recommended him to withdraw the charges against all the defendants on their paying costs, and promising not to repeat the offence in the future. The case ended on this being done.”

County Advertiser 23/2/1878

“Mr. Stokes appeared to make an application under the 1st and 2nd Vic. for an order of ejectment against *Moses Dunn*. *Dunn* was formerly the occupier of a public house now tenanted by a Mr. *Bowers*, and *Bowers* having sub-let to him a cottage near the house he refused to pay the rent or leave. The Bench made an order for ejectment within three weeks.”

London Gazette 30/4/1878

“The Bankruptcy Act, 1869. In the County Court of Worcestershire, holden at Dudley.

In the Matter of a Bankruptcy Petition against *Matthew Bowers*, of the ROYAL OAK INN, Cradley Heath, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, Beer-house Keeper and Horse Dealer.

Upon the hearing of this Petition this day, and upon proof satisfactory to the Court of the debt of the Petitioner, Thomas Plant, and of the act or acts of the Bankruptcy alleged to have been committed by the said *Matthew Bowers* having been given, it is ordered that the said *Matthew Bowers* be, and he is hereby, adjudged bankrupt. Given under the Seal of the Court this 26th day of April, 1878.

By the Court, Thos. Walker, Registrar.

The First General Meeting of the creditors of the said *Matthew Bowers* is hereby summoned to be held at this Court, on the 17th day of May, 1878, at twelve o'clock at noon, and that the Court has ordered the bankrupt to attend thereat for examination, and to produce thereat a statement of his affairs, as required by the statute.

Until the appointment of a Trustee, all persons having in their possession any of the effects of the bankrupt must deliver them, and all debts due to the bankrupt must be paid, to the Registrar. Creditors must forward their Proofs of Debts to the Registrar.”

County Express 18/5/1878 - Advert

“Re *Matthew Bower*.

To be Disposed Of, by Private Treaty, that well-known and old-established Inn, known as the ROYAL OAK, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath. Immediate possession.

Apply to Mr. Herbert Humphries, Brierly Hill, Trustee to the Estate.”

County Advertiser 20/7/1878

“*Moses Dunn*, greengrocer, Cradley Heath, appeared in answer to a summons, charging him with keeping a dog without holding a license to do so from the excise authorities. Mr. Addison defended.

An Inland Revenue Officer visited defendant's residence on the 13th May last, and found a dog there, for which he had no license. When asked about the license by the officer, defendant said, 'I didn't know that I had no license, but I will have one.' After hearing the evidence offered the Bench imposed the mitigated fine of 25s.”

County Express 14/9/1878

“The following transfers were allowed by the Bench.....

ROYAL OAK, Cradley Heath, from the trustee of Mr. *Bowers* to *John Tromans*.”

County Advertiser 14/9/1878

“*Moses Dunn*, the occupier of a cottage at Lomey Town, was summoned by the owner, *John Tromans*, who asked for an order of

the bench to eject him from the premises. Mr. Hayes appeared for *Tromans*, defendant being represented by Mr. Addison. Mr. Hayes stated that some time ago a public house and four small cottages adjoining, at Lowey Town, were let to *Dunn*. He filed his petition and was adjudicated bankrupt, and the property was given up to a trustee, after which it was occupied by a man named *Bowers*, who also became bankrupt. The property was then returned to Mr. *Tromans* as the owner; he served *Dunn* with a notice to quit one of the cottages of which he still retained possession, but he refused to obey it, and the present case was the result. Mr. Addison asked for proof that *Tromans* was the owner, and denied that *Bowers* became a bankrupt. The magistrates did not think the latter affair affected the case, and *Tromans* affirmed that he had owned the property for some years. Mr. Addison then said he would bring an action against him if he compelled his client to give up the cottage. Mr. Hayes said his client would risk that. The magistrates then made the order for ejection.”

County Express 14/9/1878

“The following transfers were allowed by the Bench.....

ROYAL OAK, Cradley Heath, from the trustee of Mr. *Bowers* to *John Tromans*.”

John Troman = John Tromans

Dudley Herald 25/9/1880

“James Harris was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of *John Tromans*, landlord of the ROYAL OAK INN, Cradley Heath, on the 13th inst. The charge was proved, and defendant pleaded guilty. He was fined 5s, including costs, or, in default, seven days.”

Dudley Herald 11/12/1880 - 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 *Moses Dunn*, of the ROYAL OAK INN, Cradley Heath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, Publican, Greengrocer, and Glead Dealer. The Creditors of the above-named *Moses Dunn*, who have not already proved their debts, are required on or before the 22nd day of December instant, to Send their names and addresses and the Particulars of their Debts or Claims to me, the undersigned, Jabez Bywater, of Princes End, in the County of Stafford, the Trustee under the liquidation, or in default thereof, they will be excluded from benefit of the proposed dividend.

Dated this 9th day of December, 1880.

Jabez Bywater, Trustee.”

1881 Census

43, Lomey Town – ROYAL OAK INN

- [1] *John Troman* (56), beer seller, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Jane Troman (54), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Edwin Troman (18), son, bricklayer, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Joseph Troman (16), son, spade maker, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Miriam Troman (14), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Ruth Troman (12), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

The beer was brewed here by Edwin *Troman*, the son of *John Troman*.

1891 Census

43, Lomey Town

- [1] *John Troman* (66), beer seller, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Jane Troman (65), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Miriam Troman (24), daughter, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 17/2/1894

“*Joseph Harris*, landlord of the ROYAL OAK INN, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, was charged with permitting drunkenness, and also with supplying ale to drunken persons, on the 27th ult.

Police-constable Bennett said he visited defendant’s house on the date in question, at about 6.50pm. He saw in the tap room two men named Daniel Round and Eli Evans. They were both intoxicated and quarrelling; Evans was supporting himself by the table, and Round was staggering across the room, while the landlady, Mrs. *Harris*, was endeavouring to restore order, and telling the men to sit down and be quiet. On seeing the officer, she told the men they would have no more beer on the premises that night. He called the attention of Mrs. *Harris* and also of the defendant, whom he met as he was going out, to the fact that the men were drunk; and the latter replied, ‘Oh, it’s all right; say nothing about it; I will order them home at once.’ About an hour afterwards, when witness was in company with Police-sergeant Newman in High Street, Cradley Heath, defendant came up and asked him to say nothing about it. He said Round had only had two pints, but he was a regular blackguard when he had had a pint of beer; and if he (witness) would overlook it, Round should not come in his house again for three months.

By Mr. Waldron: Mr. *Harris* was a respectable man, and he had heard nothing against the house previously.

Mr. Waldron, who defended, said he proposed to call evidence to prove that the men were not drunk. Acting upon the suggestion of the Bench, however, he decided to drop that line of defence, and went on to urge that the officer might have been mistaken as

to the condition of the men. The evidence given by the officer, too, proved that his client endeavoured to conduct his house in a proper and orderly manner, and he urged that, if the offence were proved, it was not a serious case.

The Bench considered the case proved, but thought that it was not one in which a very heavy fine should be inflicted, and fined defendant 40s and costs, in all £2 9s.

Daniel Round, of Lomey Town, and Eli Evans, of Dudley Wood, were each fined 15s and costs for being drunk on the premises.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/8/1894

“The annual licensing sessions for Old Hill were held yesterday.....

Inspector Green stated that the licensed persons who had been convicted were.....

Joseph Harris, ROYAL OAK INN, Cradley Heath.....

Mr. Bassano said the magistrates had decided to renew the licenses of the three publicans who had been convicted.”

Joseph Harris was also a scrap dealer.

1901 Census

Lomey Town

[1] *Joseph Harris* (59), inn keeper, born Old Hill;

[2] Emma M. Harris (57), wife, born Cradley Heath;

[3] Frederick Harris (29), son, scrap iron dealer, born Cradley Heath;

[4] Albert Harris (22), son, chain examiner, born Cradley Heath;

[5] Thomas Harris (17), son, born Old Hill;

[6] George Harris (14), son, hydraulic fitter, born Old Hill:

County Express 7/9/1901

“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 the house hereinafter is situate; and to all whom it may concern.

I, *Joseph Harris*, the Holder of a Six Days’ Beer and Wine License, now residing at Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, do Hereby Give Notice that it is my intention to Apply at the Adjourned Annual General Licensing Meeting for the Division of Rowley Regis, to be holden at the Public Office at Old Hill, in the said County, on Wednesday, the 25th day of September, 1901, for the grant of a Seven Days’ License or Certificate authorising me to apply for and hold any Excise License for the Sale By Retail, at a House and Premises known as the ROYAL OAK INN, and situate at Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis aforesaid, of Beer and Wine, to be consumed either on or off the Premises, in pursuance of the Act 11 George IV and William IV cap.64 and 23 Vic cap.27, sections 7 and 8, and Acts amending the same, of which premises the said *Joseph Harris* is the owner, and the same of the annual value and are otherwise qualified as required by law, and are now in my occupation.

Given under my hand this 26th Day of August, 1901.

X The Mark Of *Joseph Harris*.”

County Express 28/9/1901

“Adjourned Licensing Session.....

Joseph Harris, of the ROYAL OAK, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, applied through Mr. G. Williams for the extension of his six days’ license to a seven days’ license.

Mr. Williams said Mr. *Harris* was the owner and licensee of the ROYAL OAK INN. Some time ago the question of extending the six days’ license to seven days’ came before the Bench, and the principle was laid down that if application were made for such an extension it should be granted so that the licensees should all be on the same footing. Several applications had been made and granted under the principle. He believed the house he now applied for was the last in the whole of the parish that had a six days’ license, and now Mr. *Harris* asked for the extension, and to be put on the same footing as the other licensed victuallers in the district.

Mr. *Harris* said he had been in the house ten years. In reply to Superintendent Spendlove, he admitted he was giving up possession in a months’ time.

The application was granted.”

County Advertiser 28/9/1901 - Advert

“Brewing Plant, Public House Furniture and Effects.

ROYAL OAK INN, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath.

A. H. Sidaway is instructed by Mr. *Joseph Harris*, who is leaving, to Sell by Auction, on Tuesday Next, October 1st, 1901, a Quantity of Public House Furniture and Brewing Plant, comprising capital 4-Pull Beer Machine, with Piping and Taps; Cross-leg Tables, Kitchen Tables, Large Table, fitted with Six Drawers; Rail-back Forms; Windsor Chairs, Clocks, Wood Forms, Sets of Ale and Wine Pewter Measures, quantity of Pint and Quart Cups and Jugs, Ale and Wine Glasses, Musical Box, Spittoons, &c. 120-gallon Steel Boiler, 120-gallon Iron ditto, large Fermenting Vessel, Wood Vats, Copper-bottom Sieve, Wort Spout and Ladle, Mash Rule, Two 120-gallon Casks, 100-gallon ditto, Four 60-gallon, Three 36-gallon, and Three 18-gallon Casks, Barm Tubs, Two Pockets of Hops, Stone Jars, Wash Tubs and Timber, Pair of Iron Cellar Doors, Snatch Block Chain, Cooking Stove and Piping, quantity of Nuts and Bolts (new), Wood Boxes, and numerous other Effects.

Sale to commence at 11 o’clock.

Auctioneer's Offices: High Street, Cradley Heath.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 14/12/1901 - Advert

“Wanted, General Servant; age 18 or 20.

Mrs. *Bridgewater*, ROYAL OAK, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 21/7/1906

“On Wednesday afternoon Mr. G. C. Lewis (coroner) held an inquest at the ROYAL OAK INN, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, respecting the death of Ann Maria Whorton (22), assistant school teacher, formerly residing at Compton Road, Cradley Heath, who died on the 17th inst, under singular circumstances. Mr. W. Waldron appeared for the Dudley and Stourbridge Tramway Company, and Mr. G. Williams represented the relatives of the deceased.

Joshua John Whorton, warehouseman, identified the body as that of his daughter, who was an assistant teacher at the Corngreaves School. Deceased had not been in her usual health for some time, having suffered from sciatica. She also suffered from a lung trouble, but the doctor informed him that this was healed up. Deceased told witness that she was alighting from the tram, when her dress got caught. The tram started, and she was dragged along the ground.

In reply to Mr. Williams, witness said his daughter was well enough to go to her school duties.

Replying to the Foreman, witness said deceased did not say that she called upon the conductor to stop the car.

In answer to Mr. Waldron he said his daughter had not been in a consumptive sanitorium.

Mr. John Green, JP, of Pedmore, stated that on the morning of the 11th inst, he was a passenger upon the tramcar which was proceeding from Cradley Heath to Dudley, and pulled up at the Corngreaves Schools. Deceased, who was also a passenger, got up to leave the car, and the next witness heard was a scream. He then noticed deceased upon the ground. When he heard the scream there was a signal for the car to proceed and also to stop. The two signals and the scream followed each other so closely that he could not tell which was first. Witness could not see whether the deceased was dragged along the ground. The tramcar was stopped instantly. He could not say whether there was time for deceased to get off the car before it was re-started, as he was reading a paper at the time. Deceased was picked up by another woman, with whom she went away. No complaint was made that the car was started too soon. Witness looked round for the cause, and he could only suppose that the dress of deceased caught a pedal on the car which the driver used to drop the sand on the line.

Replying to Mr. Waldron, he said he did not think any blame attached to the conductor.

Answering Mr. Williams, witness said it was quite possible the dress of deceased caught in the pedal. He had seen deceased several mornings, and she was not in very good health. She might have been very much frightened by the accident.

In reply to the Foreman, witness said the conductor was in his proper position at the back of the car.

James Nicklin, the conductor of the car upon which deceased was travelling, stated that on the morning in question the car stopped opposite Corngreaves Schools, and deceased got up to alight. When he signalled for the car to go on deceased was standing on the ground. He did not notice when he gave the signal for the car to proceed that her dress had caught anywhere on the car. Witness was inside the car when he gave the signal to re-start. He came out at once, and noticed the dress of deceased had caught the sand pedal. The car started, and deceased was pulled over and dragged about a yard. Witness immediately stopped the car. To his knowledge the sand pedal had not been interfered with that morning, and he had never noticed anything wrong before. It was the duty of the motorman to look after the sand pedals.

In reply to Mr. Waldron, witness said the car was stopped within a yard or so, and he went to the assistance of the deceased. He asked her if she was injured, and she replied, ‘No.’

In reply to Mr. Williams, witness said deceased did not appear agitated or injured. The pedal was up about an inch and a half.

Robert Chilton, motorman, of Halesowen Road, Netherton, said he examined the sand pedal about three minutes before he left the terminus on the morning of the accident. It was then all right, and he left it down in its proper place. Immediately after the accident it was up about an inch – far enough for working. It had apparently been pulled up. At the terminus lads were in the habit of playing round the car, and he suggested they might have pulled it up

In reply to Mr. Waldron witness said after putting the pedal right the conductor and himself had their breakfast. The pedal was in the proper position when he started from the terminus.

Dr. T. M. Tibbetts stated that he attended deceased eight months before the accident. She was then suffering from sciatica. A question was raised as to whether she was also suffering from consumption, but after an examination he could find no trace of this disease. When witness was called in after the accident she was suffering severely from shock. Witness then found that her chest was tuberculous. Death was due to consumption accelerated by the shock resulting from the accident. Deceased had no injuries. When the accident occurred something happened internally which gave her little chance of living. The strain upon her lungs as a result of the shrieking might have caused her condition.

The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, but added a rider to the effect that the sand pedals should be kept down when they were not being used.

Mr. Waldron said he would convey this to the Tramway Company.”

County Advertiser 1/9/1906

“Albert Forrest, chainmaker, of Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, was charged with being disorderly and refusing to quit the licensed premises of the ROYAL OAK INN, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, when requested to do so on the 25th ult.

Martha *Farmer*, wife of the landlord, stated that defendant was disorderly in the house, and when requested to leave he refused to go for fifteen minutes, and used violent language towards her. Defendant pleaded guilty, and was fined 15s, including costs.”

County Express 12/9/1908

“Friendly Societies’ Parade. On Wednesday evening the committee of the above met at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Mr. W. Coley presiding over a large attendance. The following was a complete list of those boxes which contained amounts of 1s and upwards.....

Mr. *T. Farmer*, ROYAL OAK, 5s 3d.”

1911 Census

43, Lomey Town – ROYAL OAK

- [1] *Thomas Farmer* (42), galvanizer (holloware trade), born Lye;
- [2] *Martha Farmer* (42), wife, married 21 years, born Lye;
- [3] *Howard Farmer* (18), son, railway porter, born Cradley Heath;
- [4] *Annie Farmer* (16), daughter, assisting housework, born Cradley Heath;
- [5] *Thomas Farmer* (14), son, galvanizer’s assistant (bucket factory), born Cradley Heath;
- [6] *Louisa Farmer* (12), daughter, school, born Cradley Heath;
- [7] *Cyril Farmer* (10), son, school, born Cradley Heath;
- [8] *Martha Farmer* (8), daughter, school, born Cradley Heath;
- [9] *Lily Farmer* (6), daughter, school, born Cradley Heath;
- [10] *Jack Farmer* (5), son, school, born Cradley Heath;
- [11] *Nelly Farmer* (5 months), daughter, born Cradley Heath:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/8/1913

“*William Henry Evans*, Store Road, Hamstead, a miner, was remanded at a special sitting of the Old Hill Police Court yesterday on a charge of attempting to steal 7s 5½d from the till of the ROYAL OAK, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, on Monday night.”

Auction Catalogue 25/10/1932

“Beerhouse-on with wine license. Situate within a short distance of the Five Ways close to the Railway Station. The accommodation comprises: On the ground floor, Entrance Passage from front and back, Front Vaults, Front Tap Room, Back Smoke Room, Private Sitting Room and Pantry. On the first floor, Spacious Club Room, Four Bedrooms. In the basement, Excellent Cellars. In a spacious Yard with party side approach is a 2 stall stable with loft over, Washhouse, two WCs and Urinal. Held under quarterly tenancy at a rental of £1 0s 0d per annum, tenant paying all outgoings (*Tenant Mr. Frederick William Fell*). Value of Trade Fixtures £75 0s 0d.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/10/1932

“Public houses in the Black Country are in greatly in demand. At a Dudley sale this week ten licensed properties and a small number of dwelling houses realised £29,542 10s.

The premises that changed hands were as follows.....

ROYAL OAK INN, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, £1,650.”

1939 Register

48, Lower High Street – ROYAL OAK Public House

- [1] *George T. Brown*, date of birth 12/1/1888, manager public house, married;
- [2] *Mary J. Brown*, dob 27/2/1886, invalid, married;
- [3] *Doris M. (Brown) Adams*, dob 19/11/1913, barmaid at above address, single:

A full license was granted on 6th February 1952.

Closed

Demolished

ROYAL OAK

70, Halesowen Road, Haden Hill, OLD HILL

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Edward Bastable [1871] – [1881]

NOTES

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/10/1871

“*Edward Bastable*, of the ROYAL OAK INN, was charged with selling at an illegal hour. A police officer found two men in the house, with drink in front of them. For the defence it was stated that the landlord called in the men to assist in giving a cow a drench, and that he gave them the ale. Ordered to pay costs.”

AND

Stourbridge Observer 14/10/1871

“George [sic] *Bastable*, landlord of the ROYAL OAK beerhouse, Haden Hill, was charged with keeping his house open for the sale of drink during prohibited hours, on the 8th instant.

Police constables Johnson and Griffin visited defendant’s house at nine o’clock on the morning of the above date, and found two men in the house with a pint of ale.

Defendant said the men had been doing some work for him, and he asked them to have some breakfast; but they preferred beer to coffee or tea.

The Bench informed the defendant he had no right to give ale away, and ordered him to pay the costs.”

County Express 28/8/1875

“*Edward Bastable* landlord of the ROYAL OAK INN, Cradley Heath, was charged with keeping his house open for the sale of intoxicating drink, during prohibited hours on the night of the 15th inst. Mr. Stokes defended.

Police-constable Cooper stated that on the night in question, at twelve minutes past ten o’clock, he visited the house of defendant, in company with Police-constable Collier, and found four men drinking, and two cups on the table with some ale in. He called the attention of the landlord to the fact, and he replied that it was only just ten o’clock. They all produced their watches. The landlord’s watch was at five minutes past ten, and the officer’s at ten minutes past. He took the men’s names and left the house.

Police-constable Collier gave corroborative evidence.

Mr. Stokes for the defence said it would be straining the law to an unreasonable extent if his client were to be convicted for so small an infringement of the law as five minutes. The case was withdrawn on the payment of costs.”

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.....

Edward Bastable, ROYAL OAK, Haden Hill.”

1881 Census

70, Halesowen Road

[1] *Edward Bastable* (72), farmer and publican, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Sarah Bastable (63), wife, born Bromsgrove;

[3] Mary Hannah Bastable (27), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Thomas Lapworth (20), servant, farm labourer, born Letchlade, Berkshire:

ROYAL OAK

301, (63), (30), Dudley Road, (Knowle Lane), Springfield, ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

Mary Ann Mason

Thomas B. Williams and Lizzie Bate (acquired on 1st March 1939)

Ansells Ltd. (acquired on 15th June 1946)

Pubmaster [1994], [2002]

Punch Taverns

LICENSEES

Jane Evans [1835]

Thomas Tomlinson [1841] – [1842]

John Tranter [1868] – **1880**;

Daniel Mason (**1880** – [1886]

Mrs. Mary Ann Mason [1891] – [1908]

Frederick Hollis Mason (**1908** – **1926**);

Albert Joseph Hearn (**1926** – **1927**);

Reuben Kirby (**1927** – **1928**);

Joseph Plant (1928 – 1939);
Albert Harris (1939 – 1952);
James Dan Adams (1952 – 1957);
Albert Harris (1957 – 1966);
James Constantine (1966);
Albert Harris (1966 – []
Pat Brady (1980 – [1981]
Charles Grashion [1990]
Mrs. Heather Morris [] – 1994)
Sharren Lunn (1998 – [1999]
Brian Venables []
Barry Clift [2002] – 2004)
Mark Devine [2008]

NOTES

30, Dudley Road [1881], [1891], [1900], [1901], [1904]
63, Dudley Road [1908], [1911], [1912], [1913], [1916], [1932], [1939], [1940]
301, Dudley Road [1998], [2008]

Brierley Hill Advertiser 2/2/1856

“Jane Priest summoned Joseph and Edward Evans, father and son, for an assault at Rowley Regis, on 29th ult. Priest said that she was servant at the ROYAL OAK INN, Rowley, and that on the day in question the two Evanses were at her master’s house about 11 o’clock in the evening, and that on refusing the older Evans any more ale on credit, angry words arose, and the old man pushed her about, and the son struck her several violent blows.

Edward Evans admitted striking Priest, but said it was in defence of his father. Joseph Edwards was fined 5s and expenses and Edward Evans 10s and expenses or in default 21 days hard labour.

Sarah Priest, also a servant at the ROYAL OAK INN, and sister to the former complainant, then charged the Evanses with an assault on her at the same time and place. The evidence was merely a repetition of the former, and the Evanses were fined – father 5s and expenses, and the son 10s and expenses, or 21 days hard labour.”

1871 Census

Knowle Lane

- [1] John Tranter (50), brickmaker and beer seller, born Stourbridge;
- [2] Sarah Tranter (50), wife, born Tamworth;
- [3] Rebecca Tranter (24), daughter, servant at house, born Oldbury;
- [4] Sarah Jane Tranter (10), daughter, scholar, born West Bromwich:

Stourbridge Observer 11/7/1874

“At the Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, before Messrs. F. W. G. Barrs and N. Hingley, John Tranter, landlord of the ROYAL OAK INN, Springfields, was summoned for unlawfully selling a quantity of ale during prohibited hours, on Sunday, the 28th ult. Mr. Stokes defended.

Police-constable Cooper, stationed at Old Hill, said he was on duty on the morning in question, in company with Police-constable Allcock. They were near defendant’s house at about ten minutes to twelve, when he saw a man leaving the stable, with a stone bottle in his hand. He also saw another man coming up the road, and this person also had a stone bottle, and he went to the back of defendant’s house. Witness saw the bottle put through the door of the house. He waited a few minutes and saw defendant come out of the house and take the bottle back to the man. Witness then went up to the stable, and saw four men and one boy there. He also saw four barrels standing on one end, and one lying down. In the latter barrel there was a tap, and the beer was dripping from it. The barrel was placed on a bench. Witness saw defendant come out of the cellar, and he went in and saw the bottle amongst some barrels. There was a man in the cellar. He asked the man what brought him there, and he said he had come for the allowance beer.

Police-constable Allcock said he went to defendant’s house, in company with the last witness, and heard defendant say to the man, ‘You may as well take the bottle now; I know they would be after me. That b—— has had me before.’

Mr. Stokes, in defence, contended that the stable belonged to Messrs. Mason, and an accident had occurred. The men went to the stable to get their allowance drink, which was kept there. As regarded the defendant taking the ale out to the men, he was under the impression that as he had contracted with Messrs. Mason to supply the men with beer, he was quite right in doing so. Defendant, who has been previously convicted, was fined 50s and costs.”

County Express 18/7/1874

“John Perry and Henry Watkins, two men, were charged with being on the premises of the ROYAL OAK INN, Springfields, the house of Mr. John Tranter, during such time the premises ought to have been closed on Sunday, the 28th ult. This arose out of a case heard last week, and reported in our columns. The case was not pressed, and defendants were dismissed on payment of costs.”

County Express 26/2/1876 - Advert

“Ancient Order of Foresters.

The Committee of Court No.6022 beg to announce that they have made arrangements for a Grand Evening Concert to take place at the National School Room, Rowley Regis, on Wednesday, March 1st, 1876. For the Benefit of the Funds of the above Court.

Vocalists: Miss Weston, Mr. J. Hargreaves, Mr. Roberts, Miss Hampton, Mr. Macmillan, Mr. P. W. Pardoe.

The Cradley Heath Glee Union.

Solo Pianoforte, Mr. H. M. Jackson; Accompanyist, Mr. S. Partridge.

Tickets may be had of Mr. Allen, Rowley Schools; Mr. J. Stokes, WARD ARMS INN, Rowley; Mr. *John Tranter*, ROYAL OAK INN, Springfield, Rowley; or any of the Secretaries of the Courts in the neighbourhood.

Admission, Reserved Seats, 2s each; Unreserved, 1s each.

Doors open at 7.30, to commence at 8pm.”

Dudley Herald 16/9/1876

“Mr. Edwin Hooper, district coroner, held an inquest at ROYAL OAK INN, Rowley, on the body of Edward Brazenhall (69), pike-man, who died on the 7th inst, from injuries received at the Prince of Wales Colliery, Dudley, the previous day.

Samuel Brazenhall, miner, son of the deceased, identified the body as that of his father, and stated that on the 6th inst he went to work with his father, and about three o’clock in the afternoon, as he was coming out of the blacksmith’s shop, he saw his father near the pit, picking up some bricks that were lying inside the rails of the tramway leading to the dirt mound. At the same time a horse was drawing a loaded tub, but the driver was not close to the horse, and the horse knocked deceased down, and then dragged him along for some distance, the tub being partially on him. Deceased was drawn about seven yards and then the horse was stopped by a man coming up the mound. When the horse was stopped witness assisted to get his father from beneath the tub, and he was then taken to the hovel, where he complained of injuries to his head, neck, and back. Dr. Higgs, from Dudley, was sent for, and he attended deceased about an hour and a half after the accident happened. Deceased was then taken home but died about eight o’clock the next night.....

The Coroner said the deceased old man had unfortunately lost his life, and no doubt it had been in consequence of the driver leaving his horse, and for that there was a certain amount of blame attaching to the driver; knowing the horse to be a spirited animal he should not have left the rein of the horse at all. He did not think there was sufficient evidence to render the driver culpable for his neglect, but at the same time it was a case in which the driver must be cautioned.....

The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death and recommended that the driver be censured.

The driver was hereupon called into the room and censured by the coroner, who remarked that it was fortunate for the driver there was a jury as well as a coroner, as otherwise the decision might have been very different.”

County Advertiser 22/6/1878

“Enoch Wood, engineman, was brought up on a charge of stealing an umbrella, a quantity of pianoforte wire, and tools, on the 14th inst, from John Dingley, pianoforte tuner, to the value of 12s.

Mr. Dingley went to the house of Mr. *John Tranter*, ROYAL OAK, Springfield, about 1.30 on the 13th inst. He had the articles in question with him. He placed them under a seat by him, the umbrella on the bag. He was there about half-an-hour. When he left the place the articles were on the seat, and in the room were Mr. *Tranter* and prisoner. Mr. *Tranter* was not in the room long; he went out by the back door. Mr. Dingley returned in about a quarter of an hour, and then it was he missed the articles. He asked Mrs. *Tranter* if Mr. *Tranter* had taken them, but she said he had not. They then went into the back yard to see if they could find them there.

Prisoner was seen by William Grant, boat unloader, Dudley Port Road, on the 14th inst, in the tap room of the BARLEY MOW, about half-past four; he was handing the umbrella round for sale. Witness asked how much he would take for it. Prisoner said, ‘I will let you have it for 4d as you are a gentleman.’ Witness said he would not give it him. Prisoner then said, ‘You may have it for 3d, as I have got about eleven more at home.’

Police-constable Green, having received information about the robbery, went to the prisoner’s house, at Greets Green, on the 14th inst, about five o’clock. When he got there he saw prisoner sitting at a bench with all the tools before him, examining them one by one. When taken into custody and charged with stealing them, he denied stealing them, and said he bought them off a man up the hills. He did not know what was inside. When cautioned about the umbrella, he said that he never went into the BARLEY MOW, but stopped, and had a pint of porter outside. On the way to Brierly Hill prisoner stated that he bought the umbrella for 8d from a man named Round, near the Hailstone.

Prisoner pleaded guilty, and was sent to gaol for six months, with hard labour.”

1881 Census

30, Dudley Road

- [1] *Daniel Mason* (41), publican, born Sedgley;
- [2] *Mary Ann Mason* (39), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Susannah Mason* (18), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Richard Mason* (16), son, born Kingswinford;
- [5] *Ann Elizabeth Mason* (15), daughter, scholar, born Kingswinford;
- [6] *Florence Mason* (13), daughter, scholar, born Kingswinford;
- [7] *Frederick H. Mason* (3 months), son, born Rowley Regis;

County Express 20/1/1883

“Mr. E. Hooper held an inquest on Monday last at the ROYAL OAK INN, Dudley Road, on the body of Elizabeth Walleth (66), Dudley Road, who was found dead in a chair on Saturday last by her son. It was stated that for some time deceased had been ailing, and a verdict of Died from Natural Causes was returned.”

AND

“On Monday Mr. Edwin Hooper held an inquest at the ROYAL OAK INN, Dudley Road, touching the death of Joseph, son of John and Emma Malpass, of Cock Green, who met with a shocking death on Saturday. The deceased was knocked down by a load of coal which was being emptied out of a cart by a labourer named Abraham Whitehall. He received injuries which resulted in his death shortly afterwards. No blame could be attached to Whitehall, and the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Dudley and District News 14/6/1884

“*Daniel Mason*, licensed victualler, was charged with keeping open his licensed premises during prohibited hours on Sunday, June 1st. Mr. Shakespeare defended.

At about 4.40 on the afternoon of this date PC Styles saw four men in a field at the back of the ROYAL OAK, Springfield, Rowley, kept by the defendant. He saw one of them, named Walleth, go into the back premises and in a minute enter the back door. In the course of another minute Walleth returned carrying a bottle, and proceeding through the garden, went into the field and joined the other men. Styles made his appearance, and a man named Davies picked up the bottle, laid himself down in the ditch and dragged himself along. He feigned sleep when the officer went up to him, and the bottle was discovered under him. Styles took the bottle, which he found filled with beer, to the defendant, and asked how he accounted for it, seeing that it was fresh beer. Defendant said, ‘Oh, yes; it’s ale.’

For the defence Annie *Mason*, defendant’s daughter, stated that just before closing time on the day named she filled two bottles of beer for Walleth, the brewer, and both were taken out of the house.

Walleth stated that he was on the premises all afternoon. Some men in a brick-kiln hovel had the first bottle, which they took with them at half-past two. When he rejoined them at about half-past four he was asked where the other bottle was. He said he had forgotten it, and it was when he went back to the house that the officer saw him.

The defendant was sworn, and he denied having sold the beer to Walleth after half-past two.

The Bench considered the charge proved, and the least fine they could inflict would be 40s and costs.”

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 presented the black list.....

On the application of Mr. Shakespeare, the Bench granted the renewal of the license of *Daniel Mason*, ROYAL OAK, INN, Rowley.”

County Advertiser 31/1/1885- Advert

“Money! Money! Money!

The Springfield Mutual Loan and Investment Society, held at the house of Mr. *Daniel Mason*, ROYAL OAK INN, Springfield, Rowley Road, Dudley, will commence on Thursday Evening, February 3rd, 1885, at 7.30 o’clock.

Payments:

For a Share of £5, 1s 3d per week

For a Share of £10, 2s 3d per week

For a Share of £15, 3s 3d per week

For a Share of £20, 4s 3d per week

For a Share of £25, 5s 3d per week

Persons desirous of obtaining good interest and security for their money, or wishing to purchase the same, will find this an excellent opportunity, as the Society will be Registered, and carried on by a committee of the most competent gentlemen in the immediate neighbourhood.”

Daniel Mason died in the 2nd quarter of 1886 and was buried at St. Giles, Rowley Regis.

1891 Census

30, Dudley Road – ROYAL OAK INN

[1] *Mary Ann Mason* (49), widow, publican, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Richard Mason* (26), son, mining engineer, born Kingswinford;

[3] *Annie Mason* (25), daughter, born Kingswinford;

[4] *Florence S. Adams* (24), daughter, widow, born Kingswinford;

[5] *Frederick H. Mason* (10), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 25/8/1894

“The members of Court Robin Hood’s Pride (No.6022), of the Ancient Order of Foresters, held their annual dinner on Monday, at Messrs. *Mason*’s, ROYAL OAK INN, Springfield. Bro. Samuel Denstone, PCR, presided, and Bro. Albert Taylor was in the vice-chair. ‘Success to the Ancient Order of Foresters’ having been drunk, Dr. J. O’Dowd spoke of the success of the court, since 1884, and still hoped each member would try to make greater progress for years to come. The Secretary (Mr. S. Denstone) read the

report for the year, which showed the funds to be very satisfactory. The rest of the evening was spent convivially. Bros. E. Kite, H. Rose, J. Perry, W. Ettle, and G. Robinson contributed excellent songs.”

County Advertiser 29/8/1896

“On Wednesday, at the Rowley Police Court – before Sir B. Hingley, Messrs. W. Bassano, A. H. Bassano, and J. F. Pearson – Alfred Edwards, miner, Springfield, Rowley, was charged on remand with wounding Abraham Taylor, on the 4th ult. Mr. Ward defended.

Complainant said that on the Saturday afternoon in question he was in the ROYAL OAK INN, Springfield, in company with several others. Prisoner came into the house some time in the afternoon, and they agreed to toss for a quart of ale. They had a toss, two out of three, and witness won the toss. Prisoner then said he was not going to pay. Witness then got up, and said, ‘You will not go until you have paid.’ Prisoner kicked at him, and witness caught his leg and threw him on the bench. While he was on the bench witness saw prisoner put his hand in his pocket, and saw a blade in his hand. Prisoner dashed at him, saying, ‘I will pay you,’ and struck him with the knife, which went through his shirt, and gashed him in the chest. The wound bled a great deal, but he was able to walk home, and was afterwards attended by Dr. Beasley, who sewed up the wound. Witness was taken to the Guest Hospital the same night, and had been there until that morning.

John Perks, miner, of Springfield, said on Saturday, the 15th inst, he was at *Mason’s* public house, in company with prisoner and some other men. He described how the quarrel arose, and how prisoner stabbed prosecutor.

In reply to Mr. Ward witness said he and prisoner fought as they were taking him to the police station. Prisoner then threatened witness that he would not live a month after he was liberated.

Joseph Morton gave evidence, and said he saw the prosecutor take hold of prisoner’s leg, and throw him upon his back. Witness requested the prosecutor to stop it, but he refused to until the prisoner had paid for the ale. Witness then separated the men, and a few minutes afterwards a man named Bytheway told him to keep prisoner in the house until the policeman arrived. Witness wanted to know what was the matter, when he was informed that prosecutor had been stabbed. He went outside to see the wounded man, but when he returned he saw that Perks was stripped to fight the prisoner. Prisoner then had the knife produced in his hand, and witness immediately took it from him. Witness did not see prisoner strike the prosecutor with a knife. They were all the worse for beer excepting witness.

Dr. Beasley said on the 15th of August he was called to see the prosecutor, about 6-30. He was suffering from an extensive flesh wound under the right breast, about an inch deep. The wound was such as would be produced by a knife. Witness stitched up the wound, and ordered his removal to the hospital. The wound itself was not dangerous, but the consequences might have been serious. It would be about another week before the wound was healed.

Police-constable Reynolds deposed to arresting prisoner on the night of the occurrence. In reply to the charge, prisoner said, ‘Yes; all right.’ When witness was taking prisoner to the police station he ran away, but after a chase of about a quarter of a mile he re-captured him. Prisoner was very drunk. On the 17th witness re-charged prisoner, when he replied, ‘I don’t remember anything of it. I did not know I had had a misword with him until I was taken to the house.’

Edward Bytheway, of Dudley, gave evidence as to the quarrel, but said he did not see the knife used. Prisoner was the worse for beer.

Prisoner was committed to take his trial at the next Assizes.”

[On 2nd December 1896 at the assizes Alfred Edwards, charged with ‘on 15th August 1896, at Rowley Regis, unlawfully, maliciously, and feloniously wounding Abraham Taylor, with intent to do him grievous bodily harm,’ was found guilty and sentenced to three calendar months’ hard labour.]

County Advertiser 19/9/1896

“*Mary Ann Mason*, landlady of the ROYAL OAK INN, Dudley Road, Springfields, Rowley, was charged with permitting drunkenness on her licensed premises, and also with permitting gaming on the 15th ult. Mr. W. Shakespeare defended.

The evidence for the prosecution showed that on the date in question a number of miners visited the defendant’s house. One of them, Alfred Edwards, who was drunk, played a game known as ‘tippet’ for a quart of ale and lost. A dispute took place between Edwards and a man named Abraham Taylor as to the payment of some money, which had been tossed for. Edwards, it was alleged, then stabbed Taylor. The police were then called in, and Police-constable Reynolds went to the house. He arrested Edwards outside the house, and he was then very drunk. The constable charged him with the wounding, and he said, ‘All right.’ Reynolds took him to Old Hill Police Station, and on the way he tried to escape. Edwards ran for about a quarter of a mile, and Reynold ultimately caught him.

Inspector Given saw Edwards at the station, and deposed to his being in a bad state of drunkenness.

In reply to Mr. Shakespeare, the whole of the miners called, stated that the only man who was under the influence of drink was Edwards, and he was not seen by the defendant, neither did she or her servants witness the gaming.

In cross-examination Inspector Given said that defendant had kept the house for eighteen or nineteen years, and there had been no conviction against her.

Mr. Bassano remarked that the men who had been called had stated a set of facts which were altogether different to those which they gave at the hearing of the charge of wounding.

Mr. Shakespeare said that the defendant had every wish to keep her house respectably and in accordance with the law, and the strongest proof of this was to be found in the fact that she had kept the house for nineteen years without a single complaint having been made against her. He submitted that the evidence clearly showed that the defendant had no knowledge that gaming was taking place, and that it was not through carelessness or negligence that she did not have that knowledge. Apart from the evidence of the police, there was no evidence of gaming, and he put it to the Bench that the evidence of the men who had been called was entirely favourable to his client, though they had given a different version on the present occasion. He submitted that there was no

disorder until the stabbing affray took place, and in view of the evidence, which was favourable to his client and her good character, he left the case with the Bench, and asked them to dismiss the charges.

The Bench fined defendant £3 9s on the charge of permitting drunkenness, and the charge of gaming was dismissed.”

County Advertiser 28/8/1897

“The annual licensing sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Rowley Regis were held on Wednesday, at the Police Court, Old Hill.

The licenses, they had decided, would be all renewed.

The following were the licensed victuallers who had been convicted.

Mary Ann Mason, ROYAL OAK INN, Springfield, Rowley, fined 20s and costs for permitting drunkenness on the 16th September, 1896.”

1901 Census

30, Dudley Road

[1] *Mary Ann Mason* (59), widow, publican, born West Bromwich;

[2] *Frederick H. Mason* (20), son, engineer’s pattern maker, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Prudence Dunn (23), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Susannah Danks (38), daughter, married, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Thomas Danks (9), grandson, born Netherton;

[6] Annie Danks (8), granddaughter, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 19/3/1904

“On Thursday morning Mr. H. A. Pearson (Coroner) held an inquest at the ROYAL OAK INN, Dudley Road, Springfields, Rowley, concerning the death of Ellen Hughes, aged three years, whose parents reside at Dudley Road, Rowley, and who met with her death under shocking circumstances on the 15th inst. The evidence showed that on the afternoon in question the deceased was playing with other children close to her home when a horse and trap, driven by Thomas Westwood, of High Street, Kates Hill, Dudley, approached. On getting closer to the children Westwood shouted to them several times, and they all attempted to cross the road. When half way over the roadway deceased turned sharply round, and before the driver could pull up she was knocked down by the horse and trampled upon. Death appeared to have been instantaneous, the child having her neck dislocated. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and attached no blame to the driver. They also expressed their sympathy with the parents of the child, and the Coroner said it was a very sad case.”

County Express 8/10/1910

“On Saturday the coroner (Mr. G. C. Lewis) held an inquest at the ROYAL OAK INN, Dudley Road, Rowley Regis, concerning the death yesterday week of James Musty (67), of Dudley Road. At 3am on Saturday deceased complained to his wife of pains in the stomach, and although she got some brandy and water he died immediately afterwards. Dr. J. G. Beasley, who made a post mortem examination, attributed death to syncope. A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned.”

1911 Census

63, Dudley Road

[1] *Frederick H. Mason* (30), colliery clerk and licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Bertha Mason (28), wife, married 7 years, born Halesowen;

[3] Edna Mason (5), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Barbara Mason (3), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Sarah Taylor (19), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

11th June 1913 - Frederick Richard, son of *Frederick Hollis* and *Bertha Mason*, publican, 63, Dudley Road, Springfield.

Mary Ann Mason died in 1924 and was buried at St. Giles, Rowley Regis.

Frederick Hollis Mason was also a brewer.

1939 Register

63, Dudley Road – ROYAL OAK

[1] *Albert Harris*, date of birth 3/8/1907, publican, married;

[2] Ellen Clara Harris, dob 9/11/1907, unpaid domestic duties, married;

Closed

Demolished

It was rebuilt and reopened on 12th January 1966.

Pat Brady was married to Maureen.

He played Gaelic football.

It was headquarters of the Dudley Branch of the Aston Villa Supporters' Club. [1981]

It closed for extensive refurbishment in 1986.

Sandwell Evening Mail 23/12/1987

"A Dudley mother-of-two who has never raised any cash for charity before has handed over a £2,000 cheque to the Russells Hall Hospital leukaemia unit. Mrs. Margaret Adams decided almost a year ago to try to raise £1,000 after a friend began having treatment for the disease. But she managed to raise twice as much as she first intended – with a little help from her friends at the ROYAL OAK pub in Dudley Road, Rowley Regis.

Mrs. Adams collected the money through events such as a fancy dress pub crawl, and entertainment in local pubs....."

Sandwell Evening Mail 10/8/1988

"A brain scan has revealed no trace of cancer in a ten-year-old Rowley Regis girl who has been battling against the disease for 18 months. Vicky Mason had to undergo 12 months of chemotherapy, but now doctors at Birmingham Children's Hospital have given her family the best possible news. Her mother, Mrs. Marie Mason, who launched a fund-raising appeal to take Vicky to Disneyworld, said, 'I haven't come down from cloud nine yet.....

A 24-hour darts/pool/domino marathon at the ROYAL OAK pub, Dudley Road, Rowley Regis, on Saturday, helped to raise nearly £600 towards the appeal."

Sandwell Evening Mail 24/7/1990

"A stripper wearing a dog collar and carrying a whip pushed a policeman's head between her thighs during an indecent act at a Midland pub. She also invited men customers at the ROYAL OAK pub, Rowley Regis, to eat marshmallows off her naked breasts, Warley magistrates were told.

The girl, who was paid £45 to perform before an audience of 39, carried out other indecent acts while naked, said Mrs. Susan Sims-Steward, prosecuting for Sandwell Council in a private prosecution.

Charles Grashion (40), licensee of the ROYAL OAK, Dudley Road, Rowley Regis, was fined £400 and ordered to pay £30 costs after admitting allowing a striptease act involving indecency to take place in breach of the license.

Mrs. Sims-Steward said two plain clothes policemen had gone to the pub's lounge bar after being told there had been a breach of the license. After paying £1 entrance money and a further £1 membership fee they saw a stripper appear wearing black plastic briefs, a dog collar and carrying a whip. She whipped several men, pushed one policeman's face between her thighs and invited men to eat marshmallows off her exposed breasts. She stripped naked and performed other indecent acts.

Grashion told the magistrates that £60,000 had been invested in the pub and that he had a £12,000 over-draft. He said he was struggling to survive in a depressed area and that he and his wife had only £45 a week to live on. 'Some of the lads asked me to put on the act – but we had an audience of only 39,' he said. 'I paid the stripper £45 and made a loss on the show.'

When told he was being fined £400 *Grashion* told the magistrates, 'You had better send me straight to prison because I cannot pay it.'

He was ordered to pay £8 a week."

Sandwell Evening Mail 4/10/1990

"A Sandwell licensee who illegally put on a striptease act at his pub has been allowed to keep his entertainments licence. Mr. *Charles Grashion*, who breached his licence at the ROYAL OAK, Dudley Road, Rowley Regis, was last night let off with a stern warning. The 40-year-old father-of-three now faces a court hearing over whether he keeps his drinks licence."

Sandwell Evening Mail 6/10/1990

"A Sandwell licensee, who ran an illegal strip show at his pub, has won a court battle to keep his drinks licence. Oldbury licensing magistrates decided not to revoke Mr. *Charles Grashion*'s licence for the ROYAL OAK at Dudley Road, Rowley Regis, but gave him a 'strong rebuke'.

The decision came one day after Mr. *Grashion*, aged 39, was allowed by council environmental officials to keep his entertainments licence. He was fined £400 at a court hearing on March 11 for staging a striptease act in breach of the licence. Mr. *Grashion* told magistrates many local pubs staged similar entertainment. He believed he had been within the law by forming a private club for members aged over 21 who had to dress respectably. He said, 'I run a very clean house, and in order to run it cleanly and respectably, I have lost a lot of custom through throwing trouble-makers out.'

Mr. Kevin Bradley, licensing clerk for Ansells Sales Ltd, said the firm felt Mr. *Grashion* had done a good job in his two-and-a-half years at the ROYAL OAK. He had given in his notice to quit by February and had been disciplined.

Licensing bench chairman Mr. Gordon Linsey said the magistrates strongly rebuked Mr. *Grashion* but told him, 'We are not going to revoke your licence on this occasion. We do not wish to jeopardise any future opportunities for you.'"

Heather Morris was married to Glyn.

It was renamed BARNUMS. [1995]

It closed in December 1997.

It reopened in June 1998 as the ROYAL OAK.

Brian Venables was married to Anne.

Barry Clift was married to Linda.

He was given a 2½ year conditional discharge, in May 2004, after admitting to serving under strength whisky in February 2003.

[2015]

It was renamed BAYLEAF. [2017]

[2019]

SALMON

CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Thomas Fox [1862]

SALUTATION

5, Lower High Street, (1, Lomey Town), Five Ways, CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

Julia Hanson and Son Ltd. [1908]

LICENSEES

Jeremiah Billingham [1833] – [1842]

Thomas Grice [1849] – **1861**);

Alfred Priest (**1861 – 1866**);

Henry Barber (**1866** – [1887]

Phoebe Barber [1888]

Oliver James Deeming [1891] – **1899**)

Henry Fisher [1900]

Alexander C Aldridge [1901]

John Perry [] – **1903**);

John Hill (**1903 – 1904**);

George Day (**1904 – 1905**);

Benoni Buttery (**1905 – 1906**);

Lorenzo St. Clair Dorset (**1906 – 1912**);

Jesse Grigg (**1912** – []

George Botfield [1916] – **1925**);

Frederick George Hickman (**1925**);

George Botfield (**1925 – 1933**);

Theresa Botfield (**1933 – 1937**);

Harry Willetts (**1937 – 1939**);

George Pugh (**1939 – 1942**);

Isaiah Holt (**1942 – 1945**);

Esau Little (**1945 – 1955**);

Caroline Little (**1955**);

Joseph Preece (**1955 – 1956**);

NOTES

1, Lomey Town [1881], [1904], [1908], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1924], [1932]
5, Lower High Street [1940]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 12/9/1836 - Advert

“Vote For The County. Freehold Property, Cradley Heath.

To be Sold by Auction, by W. Jobson, at the house of *Jeremiah Billingham*, Cradley Heath aforesaid, on Wednesday next, September 14, precisely at four o'clock in the afternoon – all that Freehold Messuage or Tenement, situate as above.....”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 13/2/1837 - Advert

“New-Built House, Warehouse, and Premises, Five Ways, Cradley Heath, Rowley.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Davies, at the SALUTATION INN, at the Five Ways, Cradley Heath, in the parish of Rowley, on Tuesday the 21st of February inst, at four o'clock in the afternoon.....”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 16/4/1838 - Advert

“Cradley Heath. Valuable Engine and Mills.

To be Sold by Auction, by John Webb, on Wednesday, April 25, 1838, at four o'clock in the afternoon, at the house of Mr. *Billingham*, the SALUTATION INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath, by the direction of the Assignee of Mr. Joseph Attwood, a bankrupt, subject to conditions then to be produced.

All that recently erected Gun-barrel Boring, Grinding, and Polishing Mill, with Sawing Mill attached, and the Machinery thereto belonging, together with the Shops and other Buildings, and also a High-pressure Steam Engine, 14-horse Power, with Boiler, and Fly and other Wheels, quite complete; situate at New Town, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, and till recently worked by the bankrupt.

The Premises are Freehold, and the Works have been erected with great care within the last two years, are in a very advantageous situation, and receive the supply of a regular stream of water.

Any further information may be obtained upon application to Messrs. Roberts and Crompton, Solicitors, Stourbridge.”

1841 Census

Five Ways

- [1] *Jeremiah Billingham* (50), chainman, born Staffordshire;
- [2] Gideon Billingham (20), born Staffordshire;
- [3] *Jeremiah Billingham* (15), born Staffordshire;
- [4] Rebecka Billingham (20), born Staffordshire;
- [5] James Billingham (18), born Staffordshire;
- [6] Lucy Billingham (15), born Staffordshire;
- [6] Mariah Billingham (10), born Staffordshire:

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 14/11/1842 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Property, at Cradley Heath.

To be Sold by Auction, by Ferdinando Lea, at the house of *Jeremiah Billingham*, the SALUTATION INN, the Five Ways, at Cradley Heath.....”

Birmingham Journal 13/11/1847

“On Monday an inquest was held before George Hinchliffe, Esq, at the SALUTATION INN, Rowley Regis, on the body of Matthias Attwood, twelve years of age, who came by his death on Friday last, under very distressing circumstances. He was employed in a pit at Cradley Heath, belonging to the British Iron Company, for the purpose of unhanging the skips when they come down the shaft. On the afternoon of the above day, a fellow-workman saw him at work, but on going to the spot in ten minutes afterwards, he found him stretched quite dead on the ground, and nothing to show how this had happened. On further examination, however, it became obvious that he had been struck by the projecting arm of a gin, near the bottom of the shaft, which revolves at considerable speed when empty skips are being let down to a deeper part of the pit, and by which persons not taking proper care are liable to be struck, and thrown some distance. Under these circumstances, the death of the lad was purely accidental, and the Jury returned a verdict to that effect.”

Birmingham Journal 26/1/1850 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Property, at the Five Ways, Rowley Regis, Staffordshire.

To be Sold by Auction, without reserve, by Mr. Thomas P. Stokes, on Tuesday, February the 5th, 1850, at Five o'clock in the afternoon, at the house of Mr. *Thomas Grice*, the SALUTATION INN, at the Five Ways, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the following or in such other lots as may be agreed upon at the time of sale, and subject to conditions to be then produced – the under-mentioned valuable Properties.

Lot 1. A valuable corner Plot of Building Land, situated at the Five Ways aforesaid, adjoining the SALUTATION INN, having a frontage of 21 yards to the Turnpike Road, leading from Dudley to Cradley, and of 36 yards to the Turnpike Road leading from

Rowley Regis to the Lye, and containing in the whole 598 square yards, or thereabouts.

NB. This lot is admirably situated for the erection of a Public House or a Retail Shop.

Lot 2. All that old-established and well-accustomed Public House, adjoining the last lot, known by the sign of the SALUTATION INN, together with the Yard, Garden, Warehouse, Chain Maker's Shop, and Appurtenances, thereto belonging, as now marked out, occupied by *Thomas Grice*, and containing, including the site of the Buildings, 912 square yards, or thereabouts. This lot is well-built, comprises a large Lodge Room, and other Chambers, excellent Cellaring, is supplied with Water, and is calculated for carrying on the Chain Making Trade to any extent.

Lot 3. A Plot of Freehold Building Land, adjoining the last lot....."

[There were another three lots of building land adjoining.]

1851 Census

Lomey Town – SALUTATION INN

[1] *Thomas Grice* (37), iron slitter and publican, born Bilston;

[2] Ann Grice (35), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Hannah Grice (10), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Ellen Grice (9), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[5] William Grice (8), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Thomas Grice (5), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[7] Sarah Grice (2), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[8] Jesse Billingham (22), brother-in-law, chain maker, born Rowley Regis:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 27/2/1853

"Zec Edmonds of the Five Ways, Cradley Heath, will fight the Butcher Boy of Dudley, at catch-weight, for £10 or £20 a side. Money ready any night next week at Mr. *Thomas Grice's*, SALUTATION INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath."

Worcestershire Chronicle 3/8/1853

"*Shadrach Priest and Emanuel Billingham*, stewards of a friendly society held at Mr. *Thomas Grice's*, Rowley Regis, were summoned and ordered to pay 8s, two weeks' money, due to Joseph Willetts, a sick member, and costs."

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 4/2/1855

"William Attwood, at the Five Ways, will fight Joseph Price, of Halesowen, for £10 a side. Man and money ready at Mr. *Grice's*, SALUTATION, Five Ways, Cradley Heath. To fight at catch-weight."

Brierley Hill Advertiser 27/2/1858

"*Thomas Grice*, licensed victualler, of Cradley Heath, was charged by PC Farmer with having his house open for the sale of beer on the 14th inst, before one o'clock. Superintendent Mills said that defendant had been previously brought before the Bench on the same charge. Fined 20s and costs."

County Advertiser 14/5/1859 - Advert

"Public Notice.

The Permanent Money Society held at James Robinson's, next the Gas Works, is now removed to Mr. *T. Grice's*, SALUTATION INN, Cradley Heath. Persons in want of Money will do well to enter at once, as it is now in a very Prosperous Condition. Rules or other information may be obtained on application to the Secretary, Mr. *T. Grice.*"

Birmingham Journal 12/5/1860 - Advert

"Most Eligibly Situated and Very Valuable Freehold Building Land, at Five Ways, Cradley Heath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis. To Be Sold By Auction, by Mr. Bateman, on Friday Next, the 18th day of May, at Six o'clock in the evening, at the house of Mr. *Thomas Grice*, the SALUTATION INN, at Five Ways, Cradley Heath aforesaid, and subject to conditions then to be read....."

Birmingham Daily Post 17/1/1861 - Advert

"The Well-Known Old-Licensed Tavern, the SALUTATION, Five Ways, Cradley Heath.

To be Sold by Private Treaty, the valuable Licenses, Goodwill, and immediate Possession of the SALUTATION INN, one of the best known and oldest-established Houses, and situate in the most commanding situation in the rapidly-increasing town of Cradley Heath, being close to the Market Place, Five Ways, and offers to a person of industrious habits a speedy and certain fortune.

The Fixtures and Brewing Plant to be taken to at a valuation.

The present Proprietor has carried on the business for the past fourteen years, and is now declining the same.

If not disposed of before the 21st day of January, 1861, it will then be Sold by Public Auction, at Twelve at noon.

To treat, apply to Mr. Chandler, Auctioneer, &c, High Street, Cradley Heath."

Staffordshire Advertiser 9/3/1861 - Advert

"Insolvent Debtor, to be heard before Rupert Kettle, Esquire, Judge of the County Court of Worcestershire, holden at the Guild-hall, Worcester, on Wednesday, the 20th of March, 1861, at 10 o'clock in the morning precisely.

Thomas Grice, late of the Five Ways, Cradley Heath, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, keeping the SALUTATION INN; and also carrying on the trade of a Grocer, at Bloomfield, in the parish of Tipton, in the county

aforesaid.

William Corles, Attorney-at-Law, Worcester. Attorney for said Insolvent.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/3/1861

“*Thomas Grice*, a publican and grocer, carrying on business at the SALUTATION INN, Five Ways, Cradley, applied for his discharge, supported by Mr. Corles, and opposed by Mr. Rea, on behalf of several creditors, on the ground that he had contracted his debts with two of the opposing creditors by means of false pretences, also that he had incurred debts without reasonable expectation of payment, and under the discretionary clause. Causes of insolvency, badness of trade, ill-health, heavy expenses, and his father having distrained upon him for arrears of rent. The case was adjourned till next Court for the attendance of the insolvent’s father and his detaining creditors, and the production of some necessary books and documents.”

Worcester Journal 31/8/1861

“*Re Thomas Grice*. This was a case which had been adjourned no less than six times. Mr. W. Corles supported. The debts were £502 8s 2d; and the credits £31 0s 3d. The insolvent did not answer to his bail, and Mr. Rea, who opposed, said he presumed his Honor would dismiss the petition. The judge said he should do nothing in the matter at present, and should postpone his decision.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 2/10/1861

“*Thomas Grice* late of the SALUTATION INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath, out on bail, whose case had been before the court since April last, and was adjourned last court through insolvent’s non-attendance, again failed to appear. In consequence, Mr. Rea asked that bail might be called on their recognizances. They were asked for accordingly, but did not answer, and his Honour further adjourned the case. Mr. Terry was nominated assignee.”

1861 Census

Lomey Town – SALUTATION INN

- [1] *Alfred Priest* (28), publican, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Susannah Priest (30), wife, born Stourbridge;
- [3] Jane Priest (2), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Emma Priest (1), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Emily Banckfield (21), domestic servant, born Amblecote:

Birmingham Daily Post 20/11/1862

“At the Petty Sessions, yesterday, before Mr. St. John Matthews and Mr. F. D. Smith, *Alfred Priest*, SALUTATION INN, Cradley Heath, was charged by the police with having allowed gaming in his house. The evidence was to the effect that on Saturday last there had been a raffle for a watch at defendant’s house, and that at the conclusion of the game a dispute arose which resulted in a disturbance. The police were communicated with, and as numerous complaints had previously been made of the disorderly manner in which defendant kept his house, Mr. Superintendent Mills instituted the present proceedings. The defendant had been previously convicted of having kept his house open during prohibited hours, and the Bench fined him 50s and costs, and cautioned him as to his future conduct.”

Stourbridge Observer 16/7/1864

“On Tuesday evening last, a friendly supper took place at the house of Mr. *Priest*, the SALUTATION INN. About twenty sat down. The health of the landlord was drunk, as well as that of the worthy hostess. Mr. *Priest* replied in a neat speech, observing that his object was to ‘try and please’ and he would endeavour to maintain the good opinion they had of him.”

Stourbridge Observer 6/8/1864 - Advert

“Wanted, a respectable young Girl, about 18.
Apply at the SALUTATION INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath.”

Stourbridge Observer 3/12/1864

“*Alfred Priest*, SALUTATION INN, Cradley Heath, was charged by superintendent Mills with having refused to admit the police into a certain room in his house, on the night of the 26th instant. Mr. Shakespeare appeared for the defendant. Sergeant Powner deposed: I am a sergeant of police, and reside at Old Hill. I know the defendant, he is a licensed victualler. From information I received, I visited the defendant’s house, on Saturday night last, at about a quarter to eleven, in company with police-constable Fox. In a room to the right, I saw two men and the wife of the defendant. I said to Mrs. *Priest* you seem very quiet, and she said yes, we have no one else in the house. I passed on to a small back parlour. I heard some voices. I tried the door, but it was fastened on the inside. Upon my knocking at the door and asking to be admitted, the mistress jumped up and said *Alfred* open the door, the sergeant is here. This she said twice. Upon her saying that, a great scuffle took place in the room. It was similar to some men all moving suddenly. I said open the door, I shall not wait. I should think I waited about three minutes. At the expiration of that time I left. I do not know whether the door was locked or bolted. I turned the handle towards the right. It opened inside of the room; that is should have had to push the door from me if I could have entered. I am quite sure of the fact that there was a general scuffle in the room, and also that I staid at the door not less than three minutes. Police-constable Fox then corroborated the evidence of the sergeant. For the defence it was urged that the sergeant did not stop while the door was being opened, but went off as soon as he had

knocked at it.

Mr. *Priest* deposed: I live at Cradley Heath. I was in the defendant's house on Saturday night last. I saw the police come in; I was in the kitchen. The sergeant went to the parlour door and tried to open it but could not. The handle is very difficult to turn. He only tried it once. He then turned to go out. As he was going out the door was opened, and Mrs. *Priest* said, 'Now go in.' He said, I shan't, I shall summons you. He was not in the house above one minute. The case was dismissed."

County Advertiser 11/11/1865 - Advert

"SALUTATION INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath.

To be Let, with immediate possession, the above Old-licensed Inn. It is centrally situate in a populous manufacturing district, which is rapidly increasing, and had every convenience for carrying on an extensive trade. Being on the principal road leading to the Railway Station (from which it is only a short distance), and close to the junction of several important thoroughfares, and the Market Place, Five Ways, Cradley Heath, it offers unusual and important advantages to an enterprising and energetic person, who would soon realise a fortune. Coming-in about £120. Rent very low. Apply to Mr. Chandler, Publicans' Valuer, &c, Cradley Heath."

County Express 28/3/1868

"On Saturday last an adjourned inquest was held on the body of Josiah Chivers, before Edwin Hooker, Esq, coroner, at the SALUTATION INN, Cradley Heath. He was one of the sufferers in the recent colliery accident at Brettell Lane. Mr. Baker, Government Inspector of Mines, and Mr. Breakwell, agent of the Miners' National Association, were present.

The Coroner said the inquiry had been twice gone into and the cause of the accident fully investigated by Mr. Phillips, the deputy coroner, and in each case different juries had returned a verdict of manslaughter against the butty, Joseph Shaw. He did not think it necessary to go into the whole evidence as his duty would be simply to investigate the actual cause of the death of Josiah Chivers, when that was proved the duty of the jurymen would cease. Shaw was already been convicted of manslaughter, and if this jury did the same there would be three distinct charges of manslaughter against him. To take sufficient evidence to show how deceased lost his life without saying anything about the butty would effect a considerable saving of the time of the jurymen, of expense to the county, and be in strict accordance with the law. But if the jury considered it necessary he would go into the whole evidence. The body had been identified at the previous inquest.

The foreman said he should be satisfied with simply inquiring into the cause of death of the deceased.

The first witness called was Thomas Gough, pikeman, residing at Meeting Lane, which has been published before.

Richard Growcott, mine agent, Kingswinford, produced a plan of the colliery, and said it was a correct plan, it was made on the previous Thursday. He pointed out the place where the men were found.

Thomas Gough said Chivers lay with his head on the dam; we found five bodies altogether. He was quite dead. Joseph Shaw, the butty, came while we were staying there. They were taken up on a skip about six o'clock. They were all dead. When I went down the shaft I consider the air was in such a state that it would cause the death of the men. In answer to the foreman, he said it was about three hours and a half from the time he came up till he went down again.

Richard Growcott said he gave instructions to Shaw to keep the fire in regularly night and day. He promised he would see to it himself. On the day in question Shaw took the fire out and threw sand down the shaft after the fire was out. As soon as the shaft was cold the damp air would get in, which was the cause of the catastrophe. It was contrary to his orders to remove the lamp, and the sand was thrown down without his consent, this would cause an accumulation of black damp; the sand should have been put down the working shaft. In his opinion the accident would not have occurred if the sand had not been put down the wrong shaft nor the lamp removed. He impressed on Shaw the necessity of keeping the lamp in, knowing the prevalence of black damp in the district.

The Coroner said sufficient evidence had been adduced to show the cause of the accident, and if the jury would return a verdict that deceased died from suffocation their duties would be at an end. After a few minutes consultation a verdict was returned to the effect the Deceased was found dead in a coalpit, having been Suffocated by Carbonic Acid Gas."

[On 22nd July 1868, Joseph Shaw appeared at the Assizes, charged with killing and slaying Thomas Hicks and others, on 11th March 1868, at the parish of Kingswinford. He was found not guilty of manslaughter.]

County Express 26/9/1868

"John Raybould was charged with being drunk and riotous on Sunday, the 6th inst. Police-constable Shenstone said he came out of the SALUTATION INN, Cradley Heath, at about three o'clock in the afternoon of the day in question, and commenced fighting with another man, who did not appear. Fined 10s and costs."

Stourbridge Observer 5/11/1870

"A man named Thomas Grice succeeded on Monday last, in committing suicide.

Some time back he was seized with a kind of stroke, and since then has been mentally affected. He went upstairs on Monday, and after placing his head in a noose made of some blind-string, he rolled off the bed, and was strangled. His son called him, but received no answer, and on proceeding upstairs found his father in part lying on the floor, with his head in the string. He immediately cut the string and Dr. Standish was fetched. On examination, he pronounced him quite dead.

An inquest was held on Thursday, at the SALUTATION INN, before Mr. Hooper, Coroner, and the jury returned a verdict to the effect that deceased Committed Suicide, while in a state of Temporary Insanity."

1871 Census

Lomey Town – SALUTATION INN

[1] *Henry Barber* (49), publican and coal hauler, born Coventry;

[2] *Phoebe Barber* (51), wife, born Old Hill;

[3] *Henry Barber* (20), son, clerk, unemployed, born Old Hill;

[4] *John Barber* (15), son, assistant in house, born Old Hill:

County Advertiser 25/10/1873

“On Monday afternoon last a meeting of the delegates representing the makers of Essex, Woolen, and Cooler nails, met at the house of Mr. *H. Barber*, the SALUTATION INN, Lomey Town. It was stated that the men were firmly resolved not to commence to work until they got 13 per cent and the alteration in the yield asked for; that the men had been on strike six weeks, but that their general opinion was that their employers would soon bring the struggle to an end by acceding to the terms of the notice. It was also stated that Mr. Walker, Messrs. Homes and Hickton, and Mr. Moore had already agreed to pay the advance and make the extra allowance for yield. The men expressed themselves highly pleased at the conduct of the gentlemen mentioned above.”

Stourbridge Observer 1/11/1873

“At the Petty Sessions, held on Wednesday, before Messrs. F. W. G. Barrs and N. Hingley, James Marsh, Daniel Weaver, and George Stringer, were charged with being drunk and refusing to leave the SALUTATION INN, Five Ways, when requested. *Henry Barber* proved the case, and said that Marsh had his jacket off to fight, and they were all quarrelsome, and he had to send for the police to turn them out. After they had been turned out the defendants came in again, and began to quarrel. PC Collier corroborated. In answer to the Bench, *Barber* said there was from fifty to sixty persons in the room. It was a free and easy meeting. Mr. Hingley: These free and easy meetings seem to lead to quarrels. I do not like them at all. Fined 2s 6d.”

County Express 2/5/1874

“The deputy-coroner F. W. Topham, held an inquest at the SALUTATION INN, Cradley Heath, on Wednesday afternoon last, to enquire into the death of Albert Gill, aged two years, who was run over by two horses and a break about two o’clock on Sunday afternoon and died in about an hour after from the injuries he had received.

Mr. J. Poole was the foreman of the jury and the following evidence was taken.

Sarah Gill, wife of Joseph Gill a chainmaker, of Cradley Heath said she was the mother of the deceased who died about three o’clock on Sunday. He was in the horse road at the top of the entry with her other child. She heard a break drawn by two horses coming along the road and she ran out of the house but before she got to the deceased, the break had gone over him. Walter Grove was driving the horses a sharp trot. The break went over his stomach and legs. The accident happened after dinner and the deceased died about twenty minutes after Dr. Kerr’s assistant was sent for. He came and said there was nothing the matter with him except to the leg and said the idea of sending for him. He did not examine him at all, and did not stop in the house more than a minute.

By a Juryman: It was the assistant of Dr. Kerr who was lame.

Joseph Billingham, living at Cradley Heath, said about two o’clock on Sunday he was sitting outside his house when he saw Whitmore’s break as he thought, drawn by two horses, going towards the station. The deceased was first, standing on the foot-road, but he went out into the road and was knocked down, and the break went over him. The driver was not driving fast, and in his opinion there was no blame attributable to him. He pulled up directly. He did not see any children in the road except the deceased. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death but they added that Mr. McGill, Dr. Kerr’s assistant, was greatly to blame for the manner he treated the affair.”

Dudley Guardian 4/7/1874

“Important Meeting of Colliers at Dudley.

On Monday morning a district meeting, representing forty-five lodges belonging to the Dudley district, was held at the Central Lodge House, SHAKESPEARE INN, New Mill Street, Dudley.

Mr. Joseph Lee occupied the chair, and in opening the proceedings, he said he should have been glad to have met the delegates under more gratifying circumstances, but it appeared that they could not turn back. How long the struggle would last it was not for him to say; in fact, he did not know. It rested with the delegates who represented the men to say what was the feeling of their constituents – whether they were disposed to play on, or go to work at the reduction – (cries of ‘No’). The masters, by their conduct, did not seem disposed to give way, or offer any conciliatory terms; but the men, on the other hand, wanted to have the dispute amicably and honourably settled They had carried on the fight for thirteen weeks.....

The reports from each delegate were then verbally given.....

No.46 Lodge, SALUTATION INN, Cradley Heath; 10 members. Six men are at work at the old rate of wages; the other four will not resume work at the reduction.”

[The consensus was overwhelmingly to remain on strike.]

Dudley Herald 22/7/1876

“*Henry Barber*, landlord of the SALUTATION INN, Cradley Heath, was charged with having in his possession on the 2nd of May, a quantity of sugar not being for the necessary or ordinary use of his family, he not being licensed to brew with sugar. There was another charge against him of having unlawfully removed a quantity of grains out of his mash tub before they had been gauged by the Excise officer. Mr. Stokes appeared for the defendant, who pleaded guilty to both charges.

Mr. Stokes, in addressing the magistrates for the defence, trusted they would recommend a mitigation of the penalties being made

by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, on account of the defendant having left the conduct of his house mainly in the hands of his son. The defendant's son had assured him that when he had used sugar in the brewing he had entered upon his brewing sheet double the quantity of malt he had actually used, so that the Revenue should be no losers by the transaction.

The Magistrates fined the defendant in the mitigated penalties of £50 and £5 respectively, and refused to recommend any reduction being made, and would rather the matter should rest with the Excise authorities."

County Express 16/9/1876

"On Thursday evening last, a dinner was given at the house of Mr. *Henry Barber*, SALUTATION INN, in his usual taste and hospitality. After the removal of the cloth, Mr. Thomas Taylor occupied the chair, and Mr. John Poole the vice-chair. The usual toasts were introduced and enlivened with magnificent harmony, rendered by Messrs. John Poole, Joseph Poole, Thomas Poole, John Barber, and 'Old Mark.' Eleven o'clock terminated a most enjoyable and pleasant evening."

Dudley Herald 16/12/1876

"An inquest was held on Monday, before Mr. E. Hooper, district coroner, at the SALUTATION INN, Cradley Heath, on the body of George Frederick Shepherd, aged five years. Deceased was coming out of the Board School, on the 8th inst, at noon, when his hat blew off. He turned round to go in pursuit of it, when he was run over by a horse and trap, driven by Mr. Chatwin, of Netherton, and received injuries in the back, from which he died the same evening. The evidence proved that the horse was being carefully and steadily driven, and the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

County Advertiser 1/12/1877

"On Wednesday afternoon Mr. Edwin Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the SALUTATION INN, Cradley Heath, touching the decease of Edward Westwood (21), collier, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath. On the 23rd ult, the deceased was working in No.28 coal pit, at Darby Hand, belonging to the Earl of Dudley. About 8am a fall of coal took place, and he being under it, was killed on the spot in the presence of James Bunn and Joseph Smith. It was found that he had received injuries about the head and body, and death was almost, if not quite, instantaneous. The jury heard evidence to this effect, and returned a verdict of Accidentally Killed."

Dudley Herald 3/1/1880

"William Deeley, chainmaker, Cradley Heath, was charged with feloniously stealing a dog, the property of Joseph Parsons, on the 27th ult. Mr. Hayes defended.

George Wilkes stated that he saw the defendant in the SALUTATION INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath, with a dog under his arm, which he (witness) recognised as the property of the prosecutor. He told defendant whose property it was; the defendant then took it out of the house.

Mr. Hayes, for the defence, called a witness who said he was in company of the prisoner, at the SALUTATION INN, for about an hour. He had no dog under his arm, but there was one running about, which he (witness) kicked. Mr. Hayes submitted that there was no case for him to answer, and the Bench dismissed the case."

Birmingham Daily Post 19/8/1880

"The inquest touching the death of Ann Heath (55), who was killed by the falling of two chain shops at Cradley Heath, on the 11th inst, was resumed yesterday, at the SALUTATION INN, Cradley Heath, before Mr. F. W. Topham, deputy-coroner.

The depositions taken on the previous occasion were read over, and the witnesses signed them.

Hannah Gill said she saw the two shops fall together. A beam fell from the roof in Garratt's shop, next to where the deceased was at work, between one and two o'clock. They went back to look at the shops some time afterwards, and she saw the shops falling. She pulled her father (Thomas Garratt) out of the shop. The beam was upon him. In reply to the Coroner, witness said the shops were in the same condition as they had been for a long time, but they did not think there was any danger. If they had considered the shops dangerous to work in they should not have continued to work in them. There was only one prop to the building outside. At the time the shops fell she knew that the Heaths were at work in their shop, but had not time to warn them. She had barely time to pull her father out before the buildings fell. In answer to a juror, witness stated that the prop was put there because the building had given way. She believed the Heaths knew the beam in the next shop had fallen before they went to work after dinner, but she supposed they did not think there was any danger.

Thomas Garratt, chainmaker, called, said the property was kept in a good state of repair until the last four or five years. During the latter period it appeared to have been knocked about and shaken a great deal. It was not in a fair state of repair. The buildings showed no signs of falling, and the people who worked in them were not afraid. When the beam fell last Wednesday he went to Mr. Billingham about it, and he promised to have some repairs done to the shops. They, however, fell down to the ground shortly afterwards.

Sarah Heath, the injured woman, said she was at work in the shop with her mother when the buildings fell. The shop wanted repairing very badly. Her mother, she knew, had called Mr. Billingham's attention to the condition of the shops, and he on several occasions promised to attend to it, but had neglected to do so. She did not consider the buildings any more dangerous on the day of the accident than they had been for a long time past. In reply to a juror, witness said she considered the buildings in a very dangerous state.

The Coroner: Then why did you work in them? – Witness: Because we had nothing else to depend upon to earn our bread.

The Coroner, in summing up, explained the law with regard to the case. He said if a man had a duty to discharge, and neglected to discharge that duty, and death ensued in consequence of such neglect, he was guilty of manslaughter.

The jury, after a brief consultation alone, returned a verdict of manslaughter against Joseph Billingham, and expressed the opinion

that there had been a certain amount of neglect on the part of the local authorities in not having insisted upon this class of buildings being kept in a proper and safe state of repair.

The Coroner then formally committed Billingham to take his trial at the Staffordshire Assizes on a charge of manslaughter. Bail was allowed, the prisoner in £200, and two sureties of £100 each.

The prisoner was taken before a local magistrate and remanded.”

[On 24th January 1881, Joseph Billingham appeared at the assizes charged with manslaughter, and ‘no bill’ was found.]

1881 Census

1, Lomey Town – SALUTATION INN

[1] *Henry Barber* (59), licensed victualler, born Coventry;

[2] *Phebe Barber* (61), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *Henry Barber* (28), son, barman, born Rowley Regis:

Birmingham Daily Post 28/5/1881

“Yesterday, at the Dudley County Court, before Sir Rupert Kettle, judge, a comic vocalist named Lindon and his wife, sued a publican named *Barber* of the SALUTATION INN, Cradley Heath, for £4, balance of wages under an agreement. Mr. Stokes was for the plaintiffs, and Mr. Tinsley for the defendant.

The agreement between the parties was that the plaintiffs were to perform ‘two turns’ each evening in the defendant’s saloon, and the salary was to be £8 for a fortnight. At the end of a week defendant asked the plaintiffs to do ‘three turns’ per evening, but, as he did this in an offensive manner, Mr. and Mrs. Lindon declined. Then he refused to let them sing, and the plaintiffs presented themselves the next night.

His Honour gave a verdict for the full amount claimed, and the costs.”

The Era 2/7/1881 - Advert

“Victoria Grimsby. One of the great features of the Entertainment is the Wonderfully Trained Pigeons of Mr. and Mrs. Pietro Carle, and these Two Performers are also First-class Duettists, their Comic Sketches Nightly provoking applause and laughter.’ – *Grimsby News*, June 24th.

Address, SALUTATION HOTEL, Cradley Heath, Staffordshire.”

The Era 1/7/1882

“SALUTATION Music Hall, Proprietor, Mr. *Barber*.

Mr. Alex Day (comic vocalist and cornet payer) is here this week.”

The Era 2/12/1882 - Advert

“Wanted, for Monday next and onwards, Novelties and Artistes of every Description (excepting Gymnasts). Terms moderate, as Hall is small.

Address, *H. Barber*, SALUTATION Music Hall, Cradley Heath, near Brierley Hill.”

Dudley and District News 27/1/1883

“An inquest was held at the Guest Hospital on Wednesday afternoon before E. P. Jobson, Esq, (deputy coroner), on view of the body of Elijah Smith, aged 28 years, late of Cradley Heath. The deceased was the son of Charles Smith, warehouseman, of Flash Road, Oldbury. He was employed as pianist at the SALUTATION INN, Cradley Heath. According to the evidence of *Henry Barber*, the manager, it seems that the deceased played the piano in the concert hall connected with the house. He was subject to fits, and was rather addicted to drink. To witness’s knowledge the deceased had three twopenny-worths of rum to drink on the night of Thursday, the 18th inst. He had been drinking freely some short time previously.

By the foreman: He was not sober, but was able to take care of himself.

Deceased’s father stated that he did not know that his son had been subject to fits, he had never seen him in one.

Henry Hingley, bricklayer, of High Street, Five Ways, stated that on Thursday night he and his wife were proceeding home, and he thought he saw two men coming towards him. They were between the SALUTATION INN and Smith’s lodgings. One passed by him shortly afterwards, and as they proceeded they saw deceased in the gutter, lying with his head about nine inches or a foot from the curb. Witness’s wife looked at him and thought he was dead or in a fit. She bathed his face and temples with the water out of the gutter, and he shortly recovered consciousness. A policeman was sent for, and he was taken home.

In answer to the foreman witness stated that he knew the second man who passed him; he was a member of the Salvation Army, and a very quiet man. He (witness) did not see any struggle, neither did he hear any shouting.

PC Mountford said that when he was taking the deceased home, he said, ‘What’s the matter?’ and the deceased replied, ‘It’s all right.’ He had seen the deceased an hour or two previously, and he appeared the worse for drink. He believed deceased was subject to fits. He had no occasion to suspect foul play.

Dr. Muriel, house surgeon, stated that the deceased was admitted into the hospital at about twelve o’clock on Monday, suffering from a scalp wound. In answer to interrogations he said he had fallen down on the pavement on the previous Thursday in a fit. He was wandering in his mind at times, and he died on Tuesday morning at eight o’clock. Witness attributed his death to delirium tremens brought about in a great degree by a blow. Deceased had previously told witness that he had not been drinking.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

The Era 5/4/1884 - Advert

“Wanted, for Easter Monday, and onwards, Novelties and Talent of every Description (Gymnasts excepted). Terms must be low, as Hall is small.

Address, *H. Barber*, SALUTATION Music Hall, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 31/1/1885

“Richard Hotchkiss, miner, Netherton, was charged with being drunk at Cradley Heath on the 24th inst. Defendant went to the SALUTATION INN, Cradley Heath, and a police officer had to be sent to eject him. Defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs.”

County Express 20/6/1885

“Abel Homer, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, was charged with committing a breach of the peace on the 13th inst. Defendant was fighting with another man outside the SALUTATION INN, Lomey Town, and when spoken to by Police-constable Tytherley, threatened to split the officer’s head open, and said he would be locked up for it. Inspector Walters said defendant had been previously convicted for assaulting the police.

Defendant: Oh no; it warnt me, in was Cain Homer.

Mr. Hayes (Magistrate’s Clerk): Then Cain wasn’t Abel. (Laughter.)

Defendant, having been reminded of the exact date of the previous conviction, said, ‘Oh, he had forgotten that.’

The Bench bound defendant over in his own recognisance to keep the peace for three months.”

County Express 24/7/1886

“Henry *Barber*, barman, was charged with being drunk and disorderly at the SALUTATION INN, Cradley Heath, and he was further charged with using threats to his father who keeps the public house. A policeman who was called to defendant between eleven and twelve o’clock on the night of the 19th inst, deposed to the drunk and disorderly conduct of the defendant, and *Henry Barber*, senior, spoke to the threats. Defendant, he said, threatened to kill them and burn the house down.

Defendant now pleaded that he was excited, and had had some beer, but said the threats were not intended to be carried out.

For being drunk he was fined 5s and costs, and he was ordered to be bound over in his own surety of £10 to keep the peace for six months on the charge of threats.”

County Express 6/11/1886

“Henry *Barber*, jun (35), clerk, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, was charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the licensed premises of his father, *Henry Barber*, SALUTATION INN, on the 1st inst. Prosecutor said the defendant had been drunk for a week, and roaming about the street like a madman. On Monday night he came into the house drunk and refused to quit. The defendant would not work.

Defendant pleaded guilty, and was fined £1 and 7s costs, with the alternative of one month’s imprisonment, this being his third appearance this year.”

The Era 14/5/1887 - Advert

“Wanted Engagement, May 23rd, by Emmeline Carr, Characteristic and Guitarist.

Address, SALUTATION, Cradley Heath. Diorama or Concert Party for Tour.”

Birmingham Mail 16/11/1887

“At the Old Hill Police Court today, before Messrs. J. H. Smith and W. Bassano, Henry *Barber*, clerk of Cradley Heath, was charged with being drunk upon the premises of *Henry Barber*, sen, landlord of the SALUTATION INN, Cradley Heath. Prosecutor stated that on the 10th inst his son entered his house drunk. Defendant had been a teetotaler for months, but had recently broken out again. The Bench said that they considered defendant was a proper person to take the pledge. A fine of 9s 6d, including costs, was imposed.”

Henry Barber died in the 2nd quarter of 1888.

County Advertiser 23/6/1888

“Henry *Barber*, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, was charged with being drunk on licensed premises known as the SALUTATION INN, Lomey Town. PC Hayward proved the case, and defendant was fined 10s and costs, or one month.”

Dudley Mercury 20/10/1888

“Henry *Barber*, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, was charged with being drunk and disorderly on the licensed premises of *Phoebe Barber*, the SALUTATION INN, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, on the 10th inst. Police-constable Wallace stated that he saw the defendant drunk on the licensed premises twice on the same night. The Bench said the defendant had been previously convicted, and he would now be fined 40s and costs.”

Dudley Mercury 5/10/1889- Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant, at once.

Apply, SALUTATION INN, Cradley Heath.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/10/1889

“Yesterday Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the SALUTATION INN, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, touching the death of a male child, the son of William Harback, of Lomey Town, who died on Sunday last. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes. The Coroner reprimanded the midwife who attended the mother for neglect at the birth of the child.”

1891 Census

1, Lomey Town – SALUTATION INN

- [1] *Oliver J. Deeming* (24), licensed victualler, born Polesworth, Warwickshire;
- [2] *Mary E. Deeming* (22), wife, born Brierley Hill;
- [3] *Lizzie B. Deeming* (1), daughter, born Brierley Hill;
- [4] *Alice Davis* (14), general servant, born Brierley Hill;
- [5] *Lydia Shakespear* (14), general servant, born Brierley Hill:

County Express 24/10/1891 - Advert

“To be Let, with immediate possession, that well-known Old-licensed House, the SALUTATION INN, Cradley Heath. Apply, Delph Brewery, Brierley Hill.”

County Advertiser 16/12/1893 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant.
Apply, Mrs. *Deeming*, SALUTATION INN, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 4/1/1896

“Club Anniversaries.

On Wednesday evening Mr. *O. J. Deeming*, of the SALUTATION INN, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, entertained about fifty of his customers to a supper. Mr. Alf Guest was voted to the chair. The health of the host and hostess having been drunk, the rest of the evening was devoted to songs and recitations, which were given by Messrs. G. Clarke, E. Barber, W. Plant, S. Hodgkiss, Reid, Fletcher, and Mallen. Messrs. Woodhall and Reid accompanied.”

County Advertiser 31/3/1900

“Edward Worton, Cradley Heath, was charged with refusing to quit licensed premises when requested on the 19th inst. *Henry Fisher*, landlord of the SALUTATION INN, Rowley Regis, stated that defendant came into his house on the 19th inst, and commenced to insult the customers. Defendant became very abusive, and witness requested him to leave, but twice defendant refused to do so. Witness eventually put defendant out. Defendant was fined 10s including costs.”

County Express 27/10/1900

“Arthur Forrest, Cradley Road, Cradley Heath, was charged with being drunk and disorderly on the 21st inst. Police-sergeant Pitcher said he was called to eject the defendant from the SALUTATION INN, and after doing that, defendant created a disturbance on the Five Ways. Defendant was fined 20s.”

1901 Census

Lomey Town

- [1] *Alexander C. Aldridge* (37), innkeeper, born Liverpool;
- [2] *Maud Aldridge* (27), wife, born Chepstow, Monmouthshire;
- [3] *Dorothy Aldridge* (5), daughter, born Chepstow, Monmouthshire:

County Advertiser 19/4/1902 - Advert

“Preliminary.
SALUTATION INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath.
E. O. Nightingale will Sell by Auction, as above, on Thursday, 1st May, 1902, at Eleven am.
Cart Horses, Carts, Phaeton, Cart Harness, &c, belonging to the late Mr. Henry Barber.
Full particulars next week.
Auctioneer’s Offices: Cradley Heath and Blackheath.”

County Advertiser 24/10/1903

“John Burgess, jun, of Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, was charged with being disorderly upon the licensed premises of the SALUTATION INN, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, and also with assaulting the landlord, *John Hill*, on the 13th inst. He was also charged, together with *Hill*, by the police for committing a breach of the peace on the same date. *Hill* alleged that on the night in question, Burgess visited his house and behaved in a disorderly manner. He refused to leave when requested to do so, and whilst witness was ejecting him he struck him a violent blow on the nose causing it to bleed. Burgess denied the offence and alleged that the landlord attacked him first. Police-constable Foulkes stated that when he was called to the spot he found the men fighting in front of the public house, *Hill* having his jacket and hat off. The Bench eventually bound both Burgess and *Hill* over to keep the peace for three months, in their own recognisances of £5, and dismissed the other two cases against Burgess.”

When the RAILWAY HOTEL had a fire in April 1905, the two children of the landlord were brought across the road to the SALUTATION INN for safety.

Benoni Buttery – see also BELL and BULLS HEAD.

County Advertiser 8/6/1907

“The quarterly licensing sessions for the Old Hill Petty Sessional Division were held at the Police Court on Wednesday..... An application was made for permission to make structural alterations to the SALUTATION INN, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, kept by *Lorenzo St. Claire Dorse*. It was explained by Mr. Pritchard (architect) that it would effect a great improvement. It would not increase the licensing area.

After the plans had been inspected by the Bench, Mr. Pearson said there were a large number of houses in the vicinity of the public house, which was in a dilapidated state. They preferred the application to be made at the annual Licensing Sessions.”

Tipton Herald 9/1/1909

“A convivial party was held at the SALUTATION INN on Saturday evening, in honour of the 30th anniversary of the birth of the landlord, Mr. *Lorenzo St. Clair Dorse*.....”

Plans for the alteration of the counter were approved in February 1909.

Tipton Herald 13/3/1909

“In order to celebrate the marriage of Mr. Joseph Hall, of Gorsty Hill, a number of the ‘brother sufferers’ on Friday evening met at the SALUTATION INN, Lomey Town, and partook of a rabbit supper, which had been nicely prepared by the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. *Lorenzo St. Claire Dorse*. After the meal Mr. S. Williams was chosen as chairman, and a convivial time was spent. During the evening Mr. *Dorse*, on behalf of the company, presented Mr. Hall with a handsome spirit cabinet, and wished him a bright and prosperous future. Short congratulatory speeches were also made by Messrs. S. Williams, J. Finlay, and H. Burrup. On the suggestion of Mr. G. J. Smith, a hearty vote of thanks was afforded the chairman, Mr. *Dorse* for making the presentation, and the host and hostess for their catering. The harmony was supplied by The Two Macs.”

Tipton Herald 26/6/1909

“Their numerous friends in Cradley Heath will regret to hear of the death of the nine-year-old son of Mr. Joseph Westwood, of Compton Road. On Monday the lad was playing on the scaffold of some buildings in course of erection, when he over-balanced himself and fell 20 feet to the ground. He was picked up by his mother, but he died shortly after, notwithstanding what the doctor could do for him.

The Deputy Coroner, Mr. W. L. Lewis, held an inquest into the circumstances attending the sad occurrence, at the SALUTATION INN, Lomey Town, on Thursday morning.

Joseph Westwood, a chain manufacturer, said the deceased was his son. He was ten years of age. He last saw him alive on Monday morning, and when he returned home he was dead. He was told he had been playing round the building and had fallen off a scaffold about 20ft high. There was no one in charge of the boy. He did not know that his boy was in the habit of going up the scaffold; he was like other boys, and would climb.

A nine-year-old playmate of the deceased named Donald Vaughan, of Whitehall Road, said that on Monday at 7.30 in the evening he saw the boy Westwood playing on the scaffold and picking chips up. He was walking along a plank. He stooped and over-balanced himself, and as he was falling turned over and fell on his back. There was no sudden noise to startle him.

Answering Mr. Pateshall: There was no ladder; the boy had to climb up a pole.

Mr. Westwood (recalled): A doctor was called in, and he said the brain was lacerated. No bones were broken.

The Coroner said it was unfortunate no one was in charge of him. Still, as boys they had all done the same.

One of the jury asked if it was not customary to board such buildings round.

The foreman: Oh, no.

The Coroner: We could not expect that.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

On the suggestion of Mr. Pateshall, the jury passed a vote of sympathy with the parents of the boy.

The Coroner extended the sympathy of the jury to Mr. Westwood.”

County Express 14/5/1910

“A meeting to form a fanciers’ club for Cradley Heath was held last week, Mr. Harry Grove presiding. Mr. Frederick Harper was appointed president, Mr. *L. St. Clair Dorse* treasurer, and Mr. Harry Willetts hon. secretary. The name of the society will be The Cradley Heath and District Homing Society, and the headquarters were fixed at the SALUTATION, Lomey Town.”

County Express 4/3/1911 - Advert

“Cradley Heath District Homing Society.

Headquarters: SALUTATION INN, Lomey Town.

The First General Meeting of the above Society will be held on Wednesday, March 8th, at 7.30pm, for the propose of arranging dates and race points, when all persons wishing to become members are earnestly requested to attend.

Radius: Two miles from the club house. All Races to be flown Wednesdays.

Any further information can be obtained from the Host (Mr. *L. S. Dorse*) at the Headquarters, or the Secretary (Mr. A. J. Pearson), 71, Cradley Road, Cradley Heath.”

1911 Census

1, Lomey Town – SALUTATION INN

- [1] *Lorenzo St. Clair Dorse* (33), licensed victualler, born Cradley Heath;
- [2] Sarah Dorse (37), wife, married 12 years, born Cradley Heath;
- [3] Ewart Dorse (9), son, school, born Cradley Heath;
- [4] Edgar Dorse (25), brother, fitter, born Cradley Heath;
- [5] Ann Tibbetts (18), niece, born Cradley Heath:

County Express 3/6/1911

“Old Cradley Heath. Chat with Mr. Thomas Hingley Parsons, sexton at St. Luke’s Church for Forty Years.....

Though in his 81st year, Mr. Parsons is wonderfully virile and active, the keenness of his intellect and memory is unabated, and he willingly discoursed upon the Cradley Heath of his younger days.....

In those days, he added, the inhabitants of the district were not quarter so many as they are now, and the only public houses were the HOLLY BUSH, High Street; Bannister’s Newtown; ‘Benny Fiddler’s’; SALUTATION, Lomey Town; BEEHIVE, Graingers Lane; and QUEENS HEAD, Corngreaves Road.”

Frederick George Hickman – see also HOLLY BUSH.

1939 Register

Lower High Street – SALUTATION INN

- [1] *George Pugh*, date of birth 23/11/1877, licensed tenant, married;
- [2] Martha Pugh, dob 19/7/1896, unpaid domestic duties, married:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/3/1942

“When *George Pugh*, licensee of the SALUTATION INN, Cradley Heath, was fined £10, with £14 costs, at Old Hill yesterday, for selling beer after closing time, he pleaded that the beer, found on the counter by the police, had been left by customers, who would not drink it because it was from the bottom of the barrel, or who had had to rush out to catch buses. Eight customers were fined £1 each.”

It closed on 27th June 1956, on the opening of the HUNTSMAN.

SHOULDER OF MUTTON

1, (122), (124), Halesowen Street, (Market Place), (Birmingham Road), (Rowley Road), BLACKHEATH

OWNERS

James Payne

Showells Brewery Ltd. (leased) [1879], [1896]

Ind Coope and Allsopp (leased) (acquired on 7th July 1935)

Ansells Ltd. [1978]

Holt, Plant and Deakin (acquired in 1988)

Burtonwood

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

[Mike Westwood](#) (leased) [2023]

LICENSEES

James Payne [1854] – **1879**);

Robert James (**1879**);

Thomas Miller (**1879 – 1891**);

David Miller [1887]

Thomas H Miller [1891]

Miss Sarah Ann Miller (**1891 – [1896]**)

Thomas B. Hadley [1901]

Mrs. Sarah Ann Hadley [1904] – **1905**);

Josiah Hill (**1905 – 1924**);

Thomas ‘Tom’ Horton (**1924 – 1938**);

William Henry Slack Brackle (**1938 – 1939**);

Benjamin James Kilvert (**1939 – 1948**);

Geoffrey Arthur Poole (1948 – 1951);
Norman Francis Mills (1951 – 1957);
William Harper (1957 – 1959);
John Frederick Hodson (1959);
Thomas Albert Rathbone (1959 – 1961);
Brian Henry Ireland (1961 – 1963);
William Watson Brown (1963 – 1966);
Ronald Haycock (1966 – []
W Clarke (1970 – []
Victor Sylvester Jones [1985]
Steve Smith (1988 – []
Roy Price (1989 – []
Jane Oare (1989 – 1990)
Roy Price [1998]
Emma Maria Palmer [2002]
Harvey Baines and Ranjit Shokar (2009 – []
Paul Warwick [2016] – [2019]

NOTES

Rowley Road [1871]
Birmingham Road [1881]
124, Halesowen Street [1891]
Market Place [1904], [1924]
122, Halesowen Street [1911]
1, Halesowen Street [1939]

It was Grade II listed.

[Black Country Bugle 1/9/2021](#)

[Article by Steve James](#)

“SHOULDER OF MUTTON, Blackheath allegedly haunted by three ghosts, including a crying baby and howling dog.”

[Worcestershire Chronicle 20/9/1854](#)

“Unjust Weights and Measures. No less than 52 delinquents of this description were today fined as follows.....
Rowley Regis..... *James Payne*, one quart and four pints, 5s.”

[Brierley Hill Advertiser 18/4/1857](#)

“An inquest was held on Monday last, before G. H. Hinchcliffe, Esq, at the house of Mr. *James Payne*, SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, on the body of William Randle, who was found drowned in the waters of the Birmingham Canal, near this place, on the previous Friday.

The deceased is by occupation a waggoner, and had been missing since Tuesday night. His brother and a man named Mogg were passing along the footpath of the canal, and saw a cap similar to the one worn by the deceased, floating on the surface. Through this circumstance the canal was at once dragged, and the dead body brought up. A verdict of Found Drowned was returned.”

[Birmingham Journal 16/9/1857](#)

“In last Saturday’s *Journal* we gave account of an explosion which occurred on Thursday morning, at the colliery of Messrs. W. Mills and Son, at Windmill End, two miles from Dudley, and by which seven lives were sacrificed. Since then another man, John Dainty, who, it may be remembered, was partially buried in the pit for upwards of sixteen hours, has succumbed to the injuries he then sustained. The poor fellow underwent much suffering while under ground, in consequence of being well nigh suffocated. When recovered he complained of cold, and gradually sinking expired on Friday afternoon. The man Daniel Chink, whose body had not been recovered at the time our last report was written, was found about seven o’clock on Friday evening, not far from the bottom of the shaft, where he had been buried from the Thursday morning under an immense heap of earth brought from the roof by the force of the explosion. Life was, of course, quite extinct, and the body, which was dreadfully crushed, was fast decomposing. Of the other five or six persons injured the case of the young man Samuel Siveter, who lived with his mother in a hut not far from the scene of the occurrence, seems to be the most serious. He was not burnt by the explosion itself, but being one of the four or five men who were about to ascend the shaft, was buried beneath the earth and coals at the bottom, which forced him against a number of hot bricks that had previously formed the ventilating furnace. Here he endured the most intense suffering, and a deep hole was burnt into his side. He has been attended by Messrs. Fereday and Timmins, of Dudley, and his recovery is hardly probable. He was somewhat better on Saturday, and he then told a gentleman who visited the house, that just prior to the explosion he saw Abraham Sherwood and William Timmins go into the ‘crop’ side of the mine, where, as we have before stated, the explosion took place, with a lighted candle; the doggy of the pit, George French, being at that time nearer still to the crop. If this be true, and so far as we can ascertain there is no reason to doubt it, the cause of the dire event is explained. Still, it must be remembered

that the butty, Francis Griffiths, had only a few minutes previously cautioned the men against going unguardedly into that part of the work, and that it is to be presumed, from a safety lamp having been found near French, that the latter had taken it with him to avoid the possibility of an explosion. Under such circumstances, it can scarcely be credited that Sherwood and Timmins would have the hardihood to take a lighted candle into the most dangerous part of the mine, as alleged. These three – French, Sherwood, and Timmins – were the only persons burnt by the explosion; the other five deceased being at the time at a distance of about two hundred yards from them at the bottom of the upcast shaft. They were buried beneath a mass of coals.

On Friday and Saturday last the Government Inspector of Mines, Lionel Brough, Esq, was at the spot, and descended the pit in company with one or two officials. The force of the explosion was of such a nature as to render the workings a complete wreck. Mr. Brough made an examination, and although he attended one of the inquests on Saturday afternoon, he will not present his official report until Monday next, the 21st instant, to which day one of the inquests, viz, that on the doggy, George French, which is to be made the principal enquiry, has been adjourned.

As we said on Saturday, the bodies of the deceased lie in three different parishes, and come under the jurisdiction of three Coroners – G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, R. Docker, Esq, and W. Robinson, Esq.

The inquest on George French was held on Saturday afternoon at the house of Mr. *J. Payne*, the SHOULDER OF MUTTON public house, at Blackheath, near Rowley. The Coroner then said that the investigation into the circumstances of the explosion would no doubt occupy a considerable time. It was his intention to receive sufficient evidence to enable him to order the burial of the bodies, and he should then adjourn to afford time to the Government Inspector to examine the pit, and give an opinion as to the cause.

William Walker, the banksman at the pit, was the only witness examined. He said he went to the pit about six o'clock on the morning of the explosion (Thursday). The men descended the pit as usual, and commenced working. At about twenty minutes past eight o'clock he heard an explosion, and a great deal of smoke, but no fire came out of the shaft. One of the butties named James Williams, and a man named John Burton, went down the shaft shortly afterwards. George French was brought up the pit in an hour or two quite dead. The men were at work on the day previous to the explosion; but some of them came up at twelve o'clock as they had not work to go on with. Francis Griffiths and James Griffiths were the two other butties; Mr. Aston was the ground bailiff. He could not say when Mr. Aston was down the pit before the explosion. The witness saw the bodies of Joseph Griffiths and Darby brought up. The safety lamps were generally kept down the pit. It was the doggy's (French's) duty to try them every morning before the men commenced working.

By a Juror: The men only worked a quarter on Wednesday; but some remained down.

The Juryman: To cut some coals, eh? (The Juryman shook his head at the witness in a significant manner.)

The witness further said he did not know whether any safety lamp was kept in the engine house or not. He saw some safety lamps taken down after the explosion; but, in reply to a Juror who questioned him somewhat closely on the point, could not say whether they were new ones or not. The same Juryman told the Coroner that on the very morning of the explosion 'poor French told him there was no lamp about the pit fit to go near a body of sulphur.' The Juryman went on to say what kind of a master Mr. Mills was; and he and another Juryman expressed very strong and decided opinion on this point, which, however, at present we do not feel justified in publishing. The Coroner stopped the discussion, which had become rather animated, by telling the Jury they must first hear the evidence before they expressed an opinion on the case. The enquiry was then adjourned until Monday, the 21st instant, at three o'clock.

By this unhappy event six wives have been made widows and twenty-three children orphans."

[Other inquests were held at the CROSS GUNS, West Bromwich, the COCK, Rowley, the FOX HUNT, Old Hill, the GATE HANGS WELL, Darby Hand and the CROSS GUNS, Oldbury.]

[At the adjourned inquest on George French the jury returned a verdict 'That the deceased came by his death by an explosion of sulphur, which had accumulated in the pit, but what fired it there is no evidence to show. They at the same time are of opinion that the managers of the pit are exceedingly blameable for not having carried out Mr. Brough's suggestion for gate-road air.']

James Payne, beer retailer, Blackheath. [1861]

He was also a butcher. [1860], [1864], [1865], [1868], [1870], [1872], [1873]

1861 Census

Black Heath

[1] *James Payne* (32), butcher and beer shop, born Rowley;

[2] *Mary Payne* (32), wife, born Worcester;

[3] *John Payne* (7), son, born Rowley;

[4] *Sarah Payne* (5), daughter, born Rowley;

[5] *Alfred Payne* (4), son, born Rowley;

[6] *Charles Payne* (2), son, born Rowley;

[7] *William Payne* (2), son, born Rowley;

[8] *Harriet Andrews* (19), servant, born Worcester;

[9] *Eagin Woodhouse* (16), servant, born Harborne:

Birmingham Daily Post 13/10/1864 - Advert

"Butcher. Wanted, a Youth, to Live in the House. Must be able to Dress a Sheep.

Apply to *James Payne*, SHOULDER OF MUTTON, Black Heath."

Stourbridge Observer 22/10/1864

“An inquest was held on Friday last, at the SHOULDER OF MUTTON, before Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, on the body of Emma Hackett, aged six months.

Henry Duncalfe, surgeon, West Bromwich, deposed to having received the Coroner’s precept to make a post mortem examination; that he had found the body in a very emaciated state, but every organ of the body healthy. The stomach contained half a teaspoonful of fluid, but there was no trace of poison. There was no doubt in his mind that deceased had died from want of nutrition, and it was clear that she could not have had any food for nearly two days before death; but if she had been purged, it is possible that if she had food within two days all traces of it would have disappeared.

Jane Hoddy swore that she lodged with Miss Matilda Hackett, the mother of deceased, who was living apart from her husband. She had known deceased six weeks, and she had been very delicate. Mr. Phillips, who had been attending her, pronounced her to be in decline; so she had heard Mrs. Hackett say. Mrs. Hackett went from home on Monday morning week, and never returned till the following Wednesday night. Witness attended the deceased. She took a quantity of bread and milk. Up to Friday she had not been purged. She was taken much worse on Saturday, and no doctor was sent for. Deceased died on Sunday morning.

Matilda Hackett identified the body as being that of her daughter, Emma, and proved her death. She at first denied that any woman had been in her house on the Sunday before deceased died, but on the Coroner pressing the question, she said that there had been some woman there.

Sarah Edwards swore that on Wednesday last she heard Mrs. Hackett had gone from home, and her child Emma was dead. She also heard they would let no person see it. She went to the house and found two women there. They said Matilda had gone to Dudley. They said Emma was in bed. She went upstairs and on removing the bed clothes she found the child lying in its own filth, and must have been in that state a long time. She had not been purged. One of the women said she had taken more care of the deceased than the mother would have done if she had been in the house, for she had given her her own breast, which the mother would not have done.

Thomas Bevington, Police-constable, deposed that on Monday he had received information that Hackett’s child had been poisoned, whereupon he went to Mr. Phillips and told him what he had heard. He said reports must not be attended to, but he did not give a certificate. The case caused much talk in the neighbourhood, and an inquest was much desired. Consequently he reported the whole of the facts to the Coroner. On Sunday before the death, there had been several prostitutes in the house.

The Coroner, in addressing the jury, stated that all the evidence had been laid before them that could be obtained, and upon that evidence their duty would be to find a verdict; but at the same time he must caution them against placing too much reliance on the mother’s evidence, considering the unsatisfactory manner in which she had tendered it.

The foreman said the jury returned a verdict that deceased had died from exhaustion, produced through want of nourishment; and they were of opinion that the mother’s conduct had been most inhuman, but that the evidence, in their opinion, was not quite sufficient to warrant them in committing her for manslaughter.

Matilda Hackett was called in, and severely admonished by the Coroner, who informed her that in as much as the deceased was the fourth child she had lost under similar circumstances, he considered it his duty to cause a strict watch to be kept on her movements, at the same time informing her that she had very narrowly escaped a verdict of manslaughter. In his opinion she had been guilty of very disgraceful conduct.”

County Advertiser 12/8/1865 - Advert

“Wanted, a strong youth, about 16 or 18, who can dress a sheep.
Apply to Mr. *James Payne*, SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, Black Heath.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/10/1867

“Friendly Societies in Staffordshire.

Loyal Lodge of Free Givers’ Friendly Society, SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, Black Heath, Rowley Regis; established 1857; dissolved by members, March, 1867; number of members, 14; funds, £27.”

Birmingham Daily Post 27/2/1868 - Advert

“For Sale, 4-horse horizontal Engine and Boiler, with Fittings.
Mr. *James Payne*, Butcher, Black Heath near Rowley.”

1871 Census

Rowley Road

- [1] *James Payne* (42), licensed victualler and butcher, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Mary Payne* (42), wife, born Halesowen;
- [3] *John Payne* (17), son, butcher (apprentice), born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Sarah J. Payne* (15), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Alfred J. Payne* (14), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *William H. Payne* (12), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *Charles E. Payne* (12), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] *James Payne* (9), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [9] *Ellen Payne* (6), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [10] *Frederick Payne* (1), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [11] *Hannah Good* (22), domestic servant, born Halesowen:

Stourbridge Observer 15/11/1873

“John Hughes was charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, when requested. Police-sergeant Baldwin said he was sent for to the above house, to put the defendant out. He was drunk and refused to go. Fined 1s and costs.”

Stourbridge Observer 6/12/1873

“On Monday night a crowded meeting was held at the SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, consisting of the operatives in the rivet trade, to consider the conditions offered by the masters. Mr. Cashmore presided.

Mr. Juggins, General Secretary of the National Amalgamated Association was at once called upon to give the result of his interview with the Masters' Secretary. Mr. Juggins then conveyed to the men the terms agreed to by the masters, which were as follows.

‘That the men do commence work on Monday next, and continue to do so until December 13th 1873, at the old rate of wages, and after that date the masters agree to pay an advance of 10%, and pledge themselves to continue the same until March next. After that date, any alteration to be agreed to by the masters and men.’

Mr. Juggins advised the men to accept those terms, as the best that could be got at present.

The following resolution was passed, ‘That the Secretary of the Rivet Makers' Society do negotiate at once with the general secretary of the National Amalgamated Association of Nut and Bolt Makers, with a view to speedily form a branch of that society.’

A vote of thanks was unanimously passed to Mr. Juggins for bringing the dispute to a close re-establishing a friendly feeling, and averting a strike.”

County Advertiser 17/1/1874 - Advert

“Wanted, a Servant for a public house, about 18 or 20 years of age.
Apply to *James Payne*, SHOULDER OF MUTTON, Blackheath.”

County Advertiser 25/3/1876

“Samuel Priest was charged with being disorderly and refusing to quit the SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, Blackheath, when ordered to do so by the landlord, *James Payne*, on the 13th inst.

The landlord and Police-constable Walters proved the case, and defendant, who had been five times previously convicted, was fined 20s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/3/1878

“The rivet trade in the districts of Rowley, Blackheath, and Old Hill still continues in a most unsettled state, in consequence of the difficulty that has arisen with regard to the breach of contract on the part of the masters and out-workers, particulars of which were reported in Friday's *Post*. Since the dispute arose several of the masters have refused to give out work excepting at the reduced price already accepted by a large number of the out-workers. This the men have refused to accept; consequently a large number of the workmen have been without employment during the last few days. The opinion prevalent in the district is that if the masters persist in demanding the reduction of 10 per cent of which intimation has already been given, a strike is inevitable. It is thought, however, that the men, if necessary, will accept the reduction for the present, until after the expiration of the agreement in May, when a general strike in the trade as regarded as a certainty. There is a strong feeling amongst the men that the course taken recently by the masters is only an attempt to bring about a general reduction in the price of wages, by first reducing the price paid to out-workers, knowing that the in-workers would soon be compelled to accept a reduction also. A meeting of the masters was held on Friday night, at the SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, Blackheath, when Mr. I. Cashmore was present on behalf of the workmen. After discussing the question of the present difficulty at some length, it was unanimously decided by the masters present that if the men in the Old Hill district continued working at their present reduced price they (the masters) would insist upon a similar reduction throughout the whole of the district. Mr. Cashmore was informed of the decision, which he promised to lay before the men for their consideration.”

County Advertiser 15/3/1879 - Advert

“Important Clearing-Out Sale at the SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, Black Heath, Rowley.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. R. J. Cooper, on Monday, the 17th of March, 1879, the whole of the Valuable Public House Effects, Brewing Utensils, Fixtures, &c, &c, comprising Four-pull Beer Machine, with Piping and Taps complete; Six Tap Spirit Fountain, &c; Liquor Stone Barrels, large quantity of Jugs, Cups, Glasses, &c; quantity of Hogshead and other Barrels, 165-Gallon Copper Boiler (nearly new); 80-Gallon Iron Boiler, Brewing Utensils, the whole of the valuable Fixtures, including Windows, Doors, Screens, Stair Cases, Cupboards, Grates, Seating around Room, Chimney Pieces, &c; large handsome Lamp, and other things too numerous to mention in catalogues, by order of Mr. Walter Showell, of the Crosswell's Brewery, Langley, who is making extensive alterations at the above Inn.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.

Auctioneer's Offices, Oldbury.”

County Advertiser 9/8/1879

“Moses Martin, no occupation, and James Yardley, chainmaker, both of Cradley Heath, were brought up charged with unlawfully assaulting Matthew Evans, and stealing from him a gold watch, silver chain, and 6s in money. Mr. W. S. Hayes appeared to prosecute.

Prosecutor, who is an engineer, of Old Hill, gave evidence that on the night of the 14th June he was at the DUKE WILLIAM INN,

Old Hill, and left scarcely sober. In Powke Lane he met three men and a woman. The woman and one of the men walked on, and one of the others then knocked him down, and while one held his mouth the other searched his pockets and took his watch and chain along with some silver. After taking the articles the men went away. He overheard one say, 'Let's go back and kill the b—'; but the other saying, 'No, don't let's kill him,' they ran away. Subsequently he went to Walsall to try and recover his watch from Yardley, having received certain information which led him to think that he was one of the men. Yardley admitted that he was one of the two who robbed him. He was in custody, and witness afterwards saw him along with Martin, who also was in the hands of the police. In Yardley's presence Martin said he (Yardley) broke the chain and stole the watch. Yardley then asserted that Martin wanted to stab prosecutor, and he prevented it. Yardley offered to let him (prosecutor) have the watch back for 50s; but contradicting himself afterwards he said he had sold it to 'Yeddy.' The watch was worth £16.

Harry Dodds, a forgerman, Cradley Heath, said that on the day in question he was at the SHOULDER OF MUTTON, Blackheath, in company with Elizabeth Prosser, who lived close to the prisoner Martin. Martin and Yardley were also with them. They left about eleven o'clock, and went down Powke Lane, where witness saw Evans lying in the road. The two prisoners lifted prosecutor up as he and Prosser walked on, and shortly afterwards they (prisoners) ran by him without speaking.

Elizabeth Prosser gave evidence similar to that of the foregoing witness, and said that the prisoner Martin admitted to her that he took prosecutor's money. She had never been in his company before the night in question. It was a dark night, and when the two prisoners stopped behind with prosecutor she could not see what was going on.

Police-constable Salt spoke to arresting Martin on the 1st ult, and to receiving Yardley from the custody of the Walsall police. When charged with the robbery Martin made a statement to the effect that as he and Yardley were walking home they found prosecutor lying drunk by the roadside, and picked him up. Yardley broke the watch chain while he (Martin) stole the watch and money. With 3s 6d of the money he fetched a pair of boots out of pawn, part he gave to Yardley, and 6d to Harry Dodds that he (Dodds) should not 'round' on them. Yardley told witness he saved prosecutor's life, for Martin asked him for a knife that he might stab him, when he asked him to take back the watch to prosecutor. He (Yardley) had none of the money. At this point Martin turned to Yardley and said, 'Why don't you tell the truth? You know you broke the chain, and I took his watch and money while you held his arm.'

At the conclusion of the case against them, the prisoners were asked in the usual way if they had any statement to make. Yardley said that he and Martin saw Evans in the road, and he said to Martin, 'Let's help him up.' Martin then went to Evans and they wrestled together for some time, at last falling against a wall. Martin said, 'I've got hold of his chain,' and added, 'He don't wear a chain without a watch.' Afterwards Martin joined him (Yardley) down the lane, and showed him the watch. He said to Martin, 'Why don't you take it back? I'll have nothing to do with it.' Martin said, 'I'll sooner stab him than I'll take it back.'

Martin had no statement to make, and this completing the case, both prisoners were committed to the Assizes for trial. Bail was refused."

[At Stafford, Martin pleaded guilty; and the jury convicted Yardley. Martin, who had been previously convicted, was sentenced to twelve months' hard labour, with three years' police supervision; and Yardley to three months' hard labour.]

1881 Census

Birmingham Road – SHOULDER OF MUTTON

[1] *Thomas Miller* (48), licensed victualler, born Stourhouse, Gloucestershire;

[2] *Ann Miller* (46), wife, born Arlingham, Gloucestershire;

[3] *Thomas H. Miller* (17), son, clerk, born Birmingham;

[4] *Sarah A. Miller* (14), daughter, born Birmingham;

[5] *Elizabeth M. Miller* (12), daughter, born Kidderminster;

[6] *Ellen E. Miller* (7), daughter, born Kidderminster;

[7] *Annie Cheshire* (17), domestic servant, born Birmingham:

Evening Express 21/4/1881

"Joseph Clift, miner, Blackheath, was charged with being drunk and disorderly and assaulting Police-constable Frost.

On the 13th inst the prisoner was ordered out of the SHOULDER OF MUTTON public house, Blackheath, but refused to go, and struck the waiter. Police-constable Frost was called in, and, after ejecting the prisoner, advised him to go home. Instead of doing so he took hold of the officer, struck him, then threw him on his head, and illused him whilst he was on the ground.

The Bench characterised the assault as a bad one, and sentenced the prisoner, who had three times been before the Bench for minor offences, to three months' hard labour."

County Express 29/4/1882

"Ann Perry, married woman, Blackheath, was charged with stealing a mackerel, the property of Benjamin Bird, fishmonger, Blackheath, on the 19th inst.

The woman had been bargaining with the prosecutor's daughter, Elizabeth Bird, for a mackerel which lay upon the shop window, but ultimately she got possession of it, and walked away. The witness followed her, and encountered her coming out of the SHOULDER OF MUTTON public house, where she had left her prize. Here an altercation took place. The prosecutor's daughter said she would forgive the prisoner if she would restore the mackerel, and the prisoner replied with foul language and abuse. At last a policeman was sent for, and she was taken into custody.

Henry Westwood, a collier, said he saw the woman take the mackerel and run into the public house with it.

Thomas Miller, the landlord of the SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, said the prisoner came hurriedly into his house and left it without saying anything. Immediately afterwards Miss Bird brought her back, and a mackerel was found under a seat in the shop.

Mr. Cooksey, who defended, had no facts for a defence. He could only give a flat denial to the allegations of the prosecution. The Bench sent the prisoner to gaol for three months.”

County Express 24/6/1882 - Advert

“Long Lane, Blackheath, near Rowley Regis.

Mr. Thomas Cooksey has received instructions to Offer by Public Auction, at the house of Mr. *Miller*, SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, Blackheath, on Monday, the 26th day of June, 1882.

All that Piece or Parcel of Land, situate in Long Lane, in the parish of Halesowen, having a frontage of 10 yards and 6 inches to Long Lane.....”

County Express 20/1/1883

“On Thursday a meeting of the men formerly employed at the Granville Colliery, Old Hill, belonging to Messrs. Swindell and Collis, was held at the SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, Blackheath.

Mr. Breakwell said it would be remembered that on the 10th inst a number of the men were summoned before the magistrates at Old Hill, but the summonses were withdrawn, and an arrangement come to whereby the men were to return to work on the following day. In accordance with this arrangement, about fifty-five of the men presented themselves at the pit on the following Thursday morning, when they found their places filled with fresh men, and they were told to ‘go home, and stop until they were sent for.’ He had waited upon the manager, and in reply to his question as to when it would be likely that the services of the men would be required, he was told by the manager, ‘Never.’ After some discussion, a resolution condemning the action of Messrs. Swindell and Collis, in refusing the men employment, was unanimously carried, and it was also resolved ‘That steps be taken to recover from Messrs. Swindell and Collis a fortnight’s wages for each man in lieu of notice.’ The miners employed at the other collieries in the district are raising a fund, in order that the men who are now thrown out of work may each receive 10s per week.”

County Advertiser 11/8/1883

“A well attended meeting of miners was held last night at the SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, Blackheath, for the purpose of considering the claims of the men in the North Staffordshire districts, who are now on strike against a reduction of wages. Mr. William Snead, of North Staffordshire, presided, and pointed out that the miners there had been out on strike thirteen weeks, and yet they were as firm as ever in resisting the proposed reduction of ten per cent in their wages, and were resolved to continue the strike until the employers concede the old rate of wage.

Mr. William Pickard, of Lancashire (miners’ agent), explained the causes of the strike.

Mr. William Winwood (miners’ agent) Blackheath, called upon the men to support to the utmost their fellow workmen in the North Staffordshire districts.

A resolution was passed pledging the meeting to support to its utmost the men in North Staffordshire on strike.”

Dudley and District News 29/9/1883

“John Bateman, collier, Blackheath, was summoned for committing a breach of the peace by fighting. On the 15th inst PS Hand visited the SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, Blackheath, where defendant was fighting with another man named Brooks. He pleaded guilty, and was bound over to keep the peace for six months, himself in £10, and two sureties of £5 each.”

Dudley and District News 23/8/1884

“The Miners Strike....

On Tuesday night a large meeting of miners was held at the SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, Blackheath. A working miner presided, and after a short speech called upon Mr. Winwood to address the meeting, after which the following resolutions were unanimously passed: ‘That we continue to ‘play on’ until our employers concede the old rate of wages,’ ‘That we do our utmost to make the coming demonstration a grand success.’”

West Bromwich Weekly News 29/2/1887

“On Monday night the fortnightly representative meeting of the Old Hill and District Miners’ Protection Society was held at the SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, Blackheath. After the delegates from the various lodges in the district had given their reports on the wages question, resolutions were unanimously passed.

(1) in favour of a pit-set conference being immediately called to obtain the opinion of the miners as to the advisability of asking for an advance of wages, and

(2) in favour of an effort to raise funds for the miners on strike against a 12½ per cent reduction in Northumberland.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 16/4/1887

“James Hill, of Blackheath, was charged with being drunk and disorderly on the 12th inst. He was further charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of *David Miller*.

Sergeant Salt stated that defendant was outside the SHOULDER OF MUTTON, Blackheath, and he would be locked up, refusing to go away.

The landlord stated that defendant was refused ale and was forbidden the house, but he abused them, and refused to go.

Mr. Bassano said he had a very bad record against him, and he would be fined 10s and costs in each case, or 14 days.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 11/6/1887

“A meeting of rivet makers was held at the SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, yesterday, Mr. J. Bennett presiding. The Chairman

said there was no time being lost in getting the strike settled. He was sorry that some men had not the courage to abide by their decision. The price they were demanding was only a slight increase, and their main object was to put all the masters on a level. The masters had not fulfilled the promises held out to them. They were trying to obtain rivets from other districts, chiefly in Halesowen, but he was glad to find that the operatives in the district had refused to supply them and were willing to come out on strike with them. They had issued appeals to the public for support in order that they might gain their object. Mr. J. Cashmore said that in the Halesowen districts they had met with great success as well as at Old Hill, the operatives having agreed to demand the same price. The operatives in those districts had been making rivets under the prices at Black Heath for a long time, and now they could see the error of their ways, and were willing to demand the same list. The gas rivet makers had also been at work, in the same district cheaper than at Black Heath.”

County Advertiser 1/10/1887

“On Monday a large meeting of miners employed at the Rowley Hall Colliery was held at the SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, Blackheath, with reference to a dispute which has arisen between the masters and men at the above colliery. A miner presided, and stated that the men brought out their tools on Saturday last, in consequence of an attempt to enforce a reduction upon them. He said their employers gave them notice of a reduction of one halfpenny per ton 14 days ago, and they had met to determine what action should be taken with regard to the proposal. It was explained that the men had submitted to various reductions without notice until 1½d per ton had been taken off bottom coal, 1d off slack, and 8½d per yard off gateroads and stalls. In consequence of this course being taken by the employers, the men had given them a counter notice for the yardage and tonnage to be restored which had been taken off.

Mr. B. Winwood, miners’ agent, addressed the meeting, pointing out the necessity for a closer combination amongst working men, and the federation of trades for their protection against the attacks of their employers.

It was resolved to remain out on strike until the whole of the tonnage and yardage rates were paid to them as formerly.”

Dudley Mercury 12/10/1889

“Thomas Siviter and William Siviter, both of Blackheath, were charged with being disorderly on the licensed premises of *Thomas Miller*, the SHOULDER OF MUTTON, Old Hill, on the 6th inst.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/10/1890 - Died

“On the 15th inst, at the SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, Blackheath, Staffordshire, aged 58, *Thomas Miller*. At rest.”

1891 Census

124, Halesowen Street – SHOULDER OF MUTTON

[1] *Thomas H. Miller* (27), gun wadding manager and licensed victualler, born Birmingham;

[2] *Sarah A. Miller* (24), sister, barmaid, born Birmingham;

[3] *Elizabeth M. Miller* (22), sister, born Kidderminster;

[4] *Ellen E. Miller* (17), sister, dressmaker, born Kidderminster:

County Advertiser 18/4/1891

“Mr. Tanfield applied for the transfer of the license of the SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, Black Heath, to Miss *Miller*, in succession to her late father. Mr. Bassano said the Bench did not like to grant licenses to young women. Mr. Tanfield said the applicant had managed the house during the illness her father recently deceased, and there had been no complaint then. The license was granted on condition that the applicant should be assisted by her brother.”

County Advertiser 18/4/1891

“On Thursday night a meeting of miners was held at the SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, Blackheath, when an address on the Paris Conference was given by Mr. B. Winwood (miners’ agent). In the course of his remarks Mr. Winwood said they could now boast of 700,000 union men. He now felt sure that they would secure the eight-hours working-day if the men would only be loyal to their leaders. Every Parliament throughout Europe was to be petitioned about the eight-hours’ proposal. There was not much chance of the English eight-hours’ bill coming on at present. The Home Secretary was opposed to the bill. On the day the bill was to come on in Parliament there was a needless debate on the Welsh Liquor Traffic Bill, so that the eight-hours’ bill should not come on. (Shame.) All the capitalists wanted to do was to kick the bill out of creation. A resolution was passed approving of the action taken by the delegates at the congress with regard to the formation of an international miners’ federation and the eight-hours question.”

County Advertiser 19/9/1891

“A meeting of the miners employed at Rowley Station Colliery was held at the SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, Blackheath, on Thursday night. Mr. B. Winwood (agent) gave a report of an interview with the manager of the above-named colliery, with regard to a proposal made on behalf of the men to sever their connection with the Employers’ Liability Corporation with a view to joining the Miners’ Permanent Relief Society. A resolution was passed unanimously in favour of joining the Miners’ Permanent Relief Society, and of the balance of the Pelsall Fund now in Chancery being applied for the benefit of the society and the Mining Accident Fund.”

County Advertiser 22/9/1894

“A mass meeting of the men employed at the Rowley Station Colliery who are out on strike was held on Wednesday at the

SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, Blackheath. Mr. B. Winwood (miners' agent) presided, and stated that the position of the strike was unchanged. He had seen the manager of the colliery with reference to other matters, but on neither side was the present dispute mentioned. He had tried reasonably to meet the employers, and had had also used his influence with the men. It now resolved itself into a question of the strongest battalions winning. (Hear, hear.) They should not tell how long the contest would last, but he mentioned that some of the employers in that district were very much annoyed at the action taken by the Rowley Station Colliery officials. (Hear, hear.) It was a consolation to know that the men had the sympathy of some of the masters in their struggle. Should the strike continue, he proposed to issue an appeal to the other collieries in the neighbourhood for support. (Hear, hear.) They were told the average selling price of coal was 6s per ton. How could that be when at the present time the public were paying 10s, 12s, and 13s per ton for coal? (Hear, hear.) The rate of wages at the Station Colliery was the lowest paid in the locality, and even if the men's demands were conceded, they would still be below the district rate of wages. (Hear, hear.) It was unanimously resolved to continue the strike and also to appeal to the public and the miners in the district for support.

Yesterday, a meeting of miners employed at the Cakemore Colliery, Rowley, who are out on strike was held at the SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, Blackheath. Mr. B. Winwood (agent) said he visited the colliery twice on Thursday with the view of ascertaining the reason why the men were not allowed to resume work upon the terms agreed between him and the manager at a previous interview, but he failed to see the officials or obtain any explanation as to the action of the employers in drawing the horses out of the mine, and refusing to allow the men to return to work.

It was decided to continue the strike, and the men were requested when they went to the pit to receive the wages due to them to endeavour to obtain some information as to why the colliery had been closed.

Yesterday an appeal was issued to the miners and the public by Mr. B. Winwood, on behalf of the men employed at the Rowley Station Colliery."

County Advertiser 13/10/1894

"Mr. Winwood announced at a meeting of miners, at the SHOULDER OF MUTTON, Blackheath, yesterday, that the directors of the Rowley Station Colliery had refused to accept the terms of settlement suggested by the men. He also stated that the vicar of Blackheath would address the men on Monday, and that he had received a donation from the Pelsall Miners' Association of £10 towards the relief fund. (Applause.)"

County Advertiser 18/4/1896

"On Monday morning a meeting of miners was held at the SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, Blackheath, under the presidency of Mr. J. Parkes. The meeting was called in consequence of about 100 men and boys, employed at Messrs. W. Bassano and Sons' Rowley Hall Colliery, leaving their employment. The men's grievances are that they have been accustomed to work on Saturday afternoons until four o'clock, and they wish to work later on other days and to do away with the overwork on Saturday afternoons. It is stated that they were formerly paid 6s for yardage, and that they had been reduced to 2s 6d. There was also a further dispute as to the weighing of coal. Mr. B. Winwood, miners' agent, addressed the meeting, and advised the men to return to work, and join the Union, and then they would be able to get their wages raised. The men, however, refused to take his advice, stating that they were determined to put a stop to the present state of things. They decided to strike until some alteration was made."

County Advertiser 27/6/1896 - Advert

"To Brewers. SHOULDER OF MUTTON, Blackheath.

Cotton and Chappell are instructed by the Trustees of the late Mr. *James Payne* and others to Sell by Auction, on the Premises as above, on Wednesday, July 8th, 1896, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to Conditions then to be produced.

Lot 1. All that Important and Valuable Freehold Fully-Licensed Public House, known as the SHOULDER OF MUTTON, very prominently situated in Halesowen Street, at the Corner of Birmingham Road, and the junction of several thoroughfares, now let on a repairing lease to Messrs. Walter Showell and Son, which lease expires at Christmas, 1899.

The Premises have a good Corner Frontage, and include spacious Yards, with covered entrance; Stabling, Coach-houses, easily convertible into shopping; Hay and Corn Stores, let to Mr. Sturman; together with a Dwelling House and Shop adjoining, let to Mr. Dunn, the whole producing the low annual rental of £70.

The House, which is in good repair, comprises Four Bed Rooms, large Club Room with Spirit Room at end, Smoke Room, well-lighted Spirit Vaults and Bar, Snug, with side and front entrances, small Club Room, Sitting Room, Cooking and Back Kitchen, Two large Cellars, and usual Out-offices.

The House commands the chief trade of a very populous and extensive district, which is daily growing, and as the Property has been held by the vendor's family for upwards of 50 years, deserves special attention of Brewers and Publicans....."

County Express 4/9/1897

"A meeting of miners was held at the SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, on Wednesday night. A miner presided. Mr. B. Winwood (miners' agent) spoke of the Compensation Act. There were a number of things which were not satisfactory about it, one being the contracting out clause, which he said was repugnant to him. It made his blood boil within him to have to sign a document in 1880, which prohibited him claiming compensation if he were injured, or his wife getting anything if he were killed. That was the condition of affairs generally in the Black Country. There were places, however, to be found where the men had a struggle for eight weeks rather than submit to the dictation of the masters who wished them to sign out of the Act. If the men read the reports of the debate, he thought they would be more careful who they gave their vote to in future elections. He was not blaming the House of Commons; he was blaming the men who sent the representatives there to make laws either for or against them. There were a lot of colliery owners in the House of Commons, and they were everlastingly on guard and watching their interests. Those people, as soon as the bill was introduced by the present Home Secretary, raised a howl against it. They said the bill was revolu-

tionary, that it was a communistic bill, that it was a robbing bill, that the men would get hurt purposely, or words tantamount to that. But he was pleased to think that at any rate the Government acknowledged the principle the working men had been fighting and advocating for for many years, and recognised the principle of the responsibility of the masters. Mr. Winwood ridiculed the idea that the men would get hurt purposely. He did not consider the time limit was quite right, and did not think an injured man should have to wait any time before receiving benefit. The masters organised and the men should organise. He should like to see them properly organised once more, and earning a respectable livelihood. When they saw the masters trying to crush unionism the more determined should the men be to go forward, and try to make the union stronger than ever. A resolution was passed 'that while this meeting approves of the general trend of the Act, it cannot accept as satisfactory certain clauses which are against the interests of the miners, and with the object in view of obtaining to the full the benefit of the measure we hereby agree to strengthen our organisation as early as possible.' Votes of thanks to the chairman, Mr. Winwood, and the Press terminated the proceedings."

County Advertiser 7/5/1898

"Local Miners and the South Wales Dispute.

On Tuesday night a largely attended meeting of miners, in connection with the Old Hill and District Branch of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, was held at the SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, Blackheath, with reference to the dispute on the South Wales and Monmouthshire coal trade.....

A resolution in favour of making collections at the pits in the district was carried unanimously owing to the gigantic proportions of the contest numberless poor wives and children are in a starving condition....."

County Advertiser 29/10/1898

"On Tuesday night a meeting in connection with the Old Hill and District Branch of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, was held at the SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, Blackheath. Mr. B. Winwood (miners' agent) presided over a good attendance, and he was supported by Councillor A. Stanley (of the Cannock Chase Miners' Association), and Mr. S. Dyas.

The Chairman moved the following resolution: 'That seeing miners' wages can be increased, and their general rights protected better by and through federated action, and with a view of giving more support to the Miners' Federation of Great Britain this meeting hereby urges upon all those outside the local organisation the necessity of joining such an association immediately.' He remarked that there seemed to be a great deal of misunderstanding amongst the miners in that district, respecting the advance of 2½ per cent they recently received. Some believed that it would only remain in force until next January, but the agreement arrived at by the Conciliation Board was that an advance of 2½ per cent should be conceded until next January, and then the Board would meet for the purpose of deciding whether a further increase should be conceded, and not to make any reduction. He considered that the miners' wages in that district were much lower than the men were entitled to, but he was of opinion that if the men would only strengthen their organisation and show a bold front they would be able to get a further increase in January next.

Mr. S. Dyas seconded the resolution.

Mr. Albert Stanley addressed the meeting, and said some of the miners were making the advance they had just received look ridiculous, but he thought that if they looked at it from a different standpoint there was a vast lot of difference in having an advance rather than having it taken off. They had a guarantee of 30 per cent for two years, and there was every reason to believe from the state of the trade that a further increase would be demanded at the end of the present year. He urged upon them the necessity of organisation, and said that although it was an old question it was none the less important. There were only about one out of every three miners in the Union, and he contended that the other two who were not in any organisation had no right to receive any benefit obtained for them by the Federation. (Hear, hear.)

The resolution was carried, and a vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Stanley.

On Thursday a meeting was held at the ROYAL EXCHANGE INN, Old Hill, at which a similar resolution was passed. Mr. Winwood presided, and Councillor A. Stanley addressed the meeting."

Birmingham Daily Post 29/8/1900

"The miners employed at the Rowley Station Colliery, numbering about 200 men and lads, declined to resume work on Monday in consequence of a few non-union men refusing to join the Miners' Federation of Great Britain. Subsequently a meeting was held at the SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, Blackheath. Mr. B. Winwood (agent) addressed the gathering, and expressed his regret that the men had made such a mistake as to cease work without having first either informed the colliery officials of their intention – who, he felt sure, would have listened to them – of himself before causing the pit to be idle, or get the permission of the society to give in their proper notices to cease work unless the non-unionists agreed to join the association. He advised them to return to their employment at once, and suggested that some way might be found to induce the outsiders to join the Federation in the near future.

Afterwards Mr. Winwood had an interview with the managers of the colliery on the subject, was informed that whilst it was their wish for all the men to be associated with the Federation, yet if the miners did not return to their work on Tuesday morning summonses would be issued against them. Acting on the advice of Mr. Winwood, the men resumed their work yesterday."

1901 Census

Halesowen Street

[1] *Thomas B. Hadley* (35), licensed victualler, born Causeway Green;

[2] *Sarah Hadley* (34), wife, born Birmingham;

[3] *Hilda Hadley* (2), daughter, born Blackheath;

[4] *Robert C. Hadley* (10 months), son, born Blackheath;

[5] *Flora Williams* (21), domestic servant, born Blackheath:

County Advertiser 17/8/1901

“A number of stallmen employed at the Cakemore Colliery, Blackheath, belonging to Messrs. J. S. Pitt and Co., have gone out on strike in consequence of a dispute respecting the wages. On Tuesday evening a meeting of the men was held at the SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, Blackheath. Mr. B. Winwood (miners’ agent) addressed the meeting, and explained that three weeks ago the employers gave notice to this section of the workmen to leave their employment; but before the notices expired the men were approached as to whether they were willing to submit to a reduction in wages. The men asked what the amount of reduction was, and they were told that they wanted to take off 15 per cent, or equivalent to that which had been put on; also to reduce the tonnage of slack and yardage of stall work. After some discussion with the manager the men, who had been receiving 6s for yardage, expressed themselves willing to submit to a reduction of 1s 6d providing the employers would not take the 15 per cent off. This the employers had declined to agree to, and the men turned out on strike. He had since had a meeting with the employers and the managers, and they offered to pay the men day work at the rate of 6s 8d per day, but this he pointed out was considerably below the district rate of wages paid for that work. The reduction averaged about 40 per cent. The men considered the offer, but eventually decided to refuse it and continue the strike.”

Tipton Herald 28/2/1903

“On Wednesday evening a largely attended meeting under the auspices of the Old Hill and District Branch of the Miners’ Federation of Great Britain was held at the SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, Blackheath, for the purpose of considering the recent Denaby and Cadeby main evictions. Mr. B. Winwood (miners’ agent) presided. A deputation from the Denaby and Cadeby main miners also addressed the meeting.

A resolution was passed deciding to give the miners all the assistance possible.”

Staffordshire Sentinel 16/4/1904

“On Thursday, a meeting of the miners in the Rowley, Blackheath and Old Hill districts who have been thrown out of employment in consequence of the stoppages of the Rowley Hall and Yew Tree Collieries was held at the SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, Blackheath. Mr. B. Winwood (miners’ agent), who presided, pointed out that the men had now been out of work for twenty weeks. He regretted the prospects of a resumption of work at both collieries were slight. Efforts were being made to put the Rowley Hall Colliery into proper working order, but the inrush of water was so great that some time would elapse before it could be restarted. He also mentioned that the miners employed at the Witley Colliery, Hales Owen, and the Top Gaune Pit, Old Hill, were at present under notice, this being attributed to the shortness of mining area and slackness of trade. Altogether the outlook of the coal trade in that district was a very gloomy one, and there was but little improvement through the whole of the South Staffordshire mining area.”

County Advertiser 23/3/1907

“On Thursday morning the dead body of the illegitimate child of Hannah Tibbetts (23), a domestic servant, residing at Lye Cross, Oakham, Rowley, was found underneath a copper in the kitchen at the SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, Market Place, Blackheath, where Tibbetts was employed. The young woman gave birth to the child during the night, and the discovery was made by the landlord of the public house, *Josiah Hill*. Police-sergeant Bentley was called in, and he has communicated the facts of the case to the Coroner (Mr. G. C. Lewis). The woman, who was been removed to her home, is in a serious condition, and has been charged with concealment of the birth.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/3/1907

“Some very sensational evidence was on Saturday given at the inquest held by Mr. G. C. Lewis (county coroner) at Blackheath, concerning the death of the illegitimate female child of Hannah Tibbetts (23), a domestic servant, whose parents reside at Oakham, Rowley Regis. The body had been found in the furnace beneath a ‘copper’ or washing pan.

Josiah Hill, landlord of the SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, stated that Tibbetts had been in his employ about sixteen months. Recently she had complained of being unwell, and early on the morning of March 21 her condition was such that he sent for a woman to attend her. Subsequently he saw her throwing paraffin oil on to some ignited wood in a furnace hole under a copper, and he told her she would set herself on fire, and ordered her to go away. She replied she wanted some hot water. Suspecting there was something wrong, he extinguished the flames and made an inspection. He saw the charred body of a child. Tibbetts then began to cry, and said to witness, ‘You will not say anything?’

Hill then sent for Dr. McQuin and Police-sergeant Bentley. Tibbetts stated that if she had a knife she would cut her throat. The sergeant described the discovery of the body, and stated that when he charged Tibbetts with attempting to conceal the birth of her illegitimate child she made no reply.

Dr. McQuin described the body as being badly charred, and said here was a gash in the throat. The post mortem examination showed one of the lungs to be badly burnt. He was of opinion that the child had had an independent existence, and death was due to suffocation and shock. He could not say that death was due to burning. He thought he should be justified in saying that the child was asphyxiated.

The Coroner said there was no doubt that the child was born alive, and that it had died from suffocation. There were no external marks of strangulation, and under the circumstances he did not think the jury would be justified in returning a criminal verdict. The jury returned an Open Verdict.”

County Advertiser 27/4/1907

“At the Rowley Police Court, on Wednesday – before Messrs. G. H. Holcroft, R. Priest, and A. C. Lowe – Hannah Tibbetts (23), a

domestic servant, of Portway Road, Rowley, was charged with concealing the birth of her illegitimate child on the 21st of March. Mr. R. Bate appeared to defend.

Joseph [sic] *Hill*, landlord of the SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, Market Place, Blackheath, stated that prisoner was in his employ for sixteen months. On the morning of the 21st March prisoner became ill, and he call in a neighbour to attend to her. Subsequently he found her standing near a fire, which had been made under a furnace in the scullery. When the fire had been extinguished witness discovered the dead body of a child. He spoke to defendant on the matter, and she commenced to cry. Afterwards she asked him not to say anything about it.

Dr. McQueen stated that the child's body was badly charred. A post-mortem examination showed that the child had had a separate existence, and death was due to suffocation. He could not say whether death took place prior to the child being burnt or after.

Police-sergeant Bentley deposed to arresting prisoner, who made no reply when charged with the offence.

Prisoner, who reserved her defence, was committed for trial at the next Staffordshire Assizes, bail being allowed, herself in £20, and two sureties of £20 each."

[On July 11th 1907, at the Staffordshire Assizes, Hannah Tibbetts, appeared charged with 'On the 21st of March 1907, at Rowley Regis, being then delivered of a certain female child, unlawfully, by a secret disposition of the dead body of the said child, did endeavour to conceal the birth thereof.' She was found not guilty and discharged.]

County Express 16/1/1909

"Dividend Clubs..... SHOULDER OF MUTTON (Blackheath).

Upwards of 50 assembled to the supper at which the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. *Josiah Hill*, catered admirably. Subsequently Mr. Hartley was voted to the chair. The secretary (Mr. E. W. Holloway) reported that in spite of the fact that the year's expenditure had been heavy, they had paid a dividend of 7s 2d per member. The following contributed to the evening's entertainment: Messrs. Jack Judge, James Richards, Golding, Parkes, George Hill, W. Holloway, and Davis. Votes of thanks were accorded."

Tipton Herald 20/3/1909

"On Wednesday evening the miners' agent, Mr. B. Winwood, addressed a well-attended meeting of miners in the clubroom at the SHOULDER OF MUTTON on questions respecting work and wages."

1911 Census

122, Halesowen Street

[1] *Josiah Hill* (49), publican, born Quinton;

[2] Mary Hill (49), wife, married 30 years, assisting in the business, born Hockley, Staffordshire;

[3] George Hill (29), son, fitter, boiler works, born Quinton;

[4] Arthur Hill (19), son, traveller, brewery firm, born Warley;

[5] May Hill (11), daughter, school, born Langley Green;

[6] Alice Cooper (19), domestic servant, born Blackheath:

County Express 9/12/1911

"At a meeting on Tuesday, of Old Hill and Highley Miners' Protection Society, held at the SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, Blackheath, Mr. B. Winwood (agent) reported that he had written to fourteen local firms asking if they would favour a joint conference with the men's representatives upon the minimum wage question. Eight had replied in the affirmative, and he had forwarded their names to the firm who had first suggested this step, and who had replied that they would communicate with the employers on the matter. Those who had not replied were among the smallest employers, and employed mostly clay workers."

Birmingham Mail 2/1/1914 - Advert

"Bar General Wanted, January 5-14

J. Hill, SHOULDER OF MUTTON, Black Heath."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/3/1915

"A mass meeting of miners was held at the SHOULDER OF MUTTON, Blackheath, to consider the effect the present crisis is having upon miners generally. The Agent, Mr. S. Edwards, reviewed the situation and outlined the national movement. Out of a membership of 2,000 over 420 had enlisted. At the beginning of the war the masters made certain offers to the men who joined the colours, but in some instances the pledges had not been kept.

It was all right for the men to be patriotic, but the masters must be patriotic too, and straight as well. The miners wanted an advance in the rates of pay. The pikemen in the thick coal ought to have 7s 6d a day and the loaders 6s.

The meeting decided to support the action of the officials, and agreed that a uniform subscription of 6d a week to be paid by the members."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/10/1915

"Casualty Lists Mediterranean Force.....

Trooper *G. Hill*, of the Worcestershire Regiment, son of Mr. *J. Hill*, SHOULDER OF MUTTON INN, Blackheath, has been wounded in the knee, and is now in hospital at Cairo."

Tom Horton was married to Mary Ann.

County Clock Lodge (No.4973) of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes met here. [1935]

1939 Register

1, Halesowen Street

[1] *James B. Kilvert*, date of birth 6/9/1889, licensed victualler, married;

[2] *Eliza J. Kilvert*, dob 22/9/1888, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Blanch V. M. (Kilvert) Parkes*, dob 4/4/1896, book keeper, leather goods, single;

[4] *Benjamin H. Kilvert*, dob 15/5/1918, audit assistant, A.R.P. Wolverhampton, single:

It had a darts team. [1948]

Sandwell Evening Mail 10/5/1986

“Rock Week Ahead.....

Today Goats Don't Shave, SHOULDER OF MUTTON, Blackheath.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 10/3/1988

“Oldbury-based brewery Holt, Plant and Deakin is to open three more pubs in the Black Country bringing its mini-empire to 26. The PLOUGH AND HARROW at Norton, Stourbridge, and the OLD PRIORY, Dudley town centre have been acquired by Holts and are temporarily closed for extensive restoration work.

The SHOULDER OF MUTTON in Blackheath town centre has also been acquired, and will close on March 17 for refurbishment. All three pubs are being restored in Holts' traditional style, and are due to re-open in mid-summer.”

It opened as a Holt, Plant and Deakin pub on 30th June 1988.

Sandwell Evening Mail 7/7/1988

“Black Country Wench of the Year Heather Gaskell added a touch of tradition as a Blackheath town centre pub re-opened after a £110,000 facelift. Heather, aged 21, from Sedgley, donned period costume for the launch of the SHOULDER OF MUTTON in Halesowen Street yesterday.

The SHOULDER OF MUTTON is the 27th pub to be opened by Oldbury-based brewers Holt, Plant and Deakin – the third in the last month. The pub has been closed for 14 weeks while Holt's installed three Victorian open fires and a Victorian gas lamp to remind customers of their heritage.

Heather joined mine hosts *Steve* and *Sharon Smith*, who are taking over their first pub. *Steve* is Black Country born and bred, having lived all his life in Rowley Regis, and has fulfilled a lifelong dream by taking over behind a bar.”

Black Country Bugle Annual 1989

'Pub of the Month' Selection

“The SHOULDER OF MUTTON at Blackheath, recently re-opened its doors to the public under the Holt, Plant and Deakin banner. Expert and careful refurbishment has restored this well-known tavern's late-Victorian image on a grand scale and the customers are flocking in. Holts happy knack of selecting the right house to restore is also reflected in the brewery's choice of licensees – in this case, *Steve* and *Sharon Smith*.....

When plans to add another public house to the Blackheath scene were first initiated, it is said that *Enoch Eley* [a local butcher] only agreed to sell his portion of the necessary ground if he was accorded the right to provide it with a name. Appropriately, he chose the SHOULDER OF MUTTON.....”

Roy Price was married to *Jean*.

Sandwell Evening Mail 16/6/1990

“There are plenty of spirits in the SHOULDER OF MUTTON, Blackheath – and not just those in the optics! The pub is thought to be haunted by at least three ghosts – including a baby and a dog. Landlady *Jane Oare* and her family have heard the sound of an infant crying, especially down near the snug end, and a boy who was bottling up the other day heard it. Footsteps are also heard in the children's bedroom, which is the coldest room in the building, says *Jane*, but the oddest spook has to that of the howling hound. *Jane* said, ‘My little girl, *Amy*, aged three, had me and the cleaner in fits when she said this dog had bitten her in the pub and we laughed. But the dinner-time barmaid said she, too, had heard a dog barking and could smell it. It was really weird.’ The ghosts could be long-established residents because the pub, in Halesowen Street, might date back two centuries and was once a slaughterhouse – although *Jane* thinks a workhouse would have more suited the spirits. Holt, Plant and Deakin took it over two years ago and completely refurbished it, adding their own old-world style, with lots of bric-a-brac, pictures and open fires.

The three previous separate rooms, a pool room, smoke room and bar were knocked into one big lounge bar and there's an upstairs function room. The back of the building looks like an old-fashioned street, complete with lamp post, lanterns and benches. It also has lots of chimneys, some of which are still in use.

The beer is traditional Holts Ales, bitter and mild and together with the atmosphere, is the main reason for its popularity, being very much a locals' local.....

Manager *Jane*, aged 27, who has two other daughters, *Lucy*, five and 10-year-old *Emily*, has kept the SHOULDER OF MUTTON for the past 14 months. Before that she kept the Rainbow in South Staffs and has been doing relief work since she was 18 as her parents also kept a pub in Penkridge. But, despite enjoying the business, *Jane* is leaving soon – to take up law. She's got a

place at college in Wolverhampton to do an access course for 12 months for mature students, before hopefully going on to study law.....”

Sandwell Evening Mail 28/3/1991

“Beer drinkers at a Wednesfield pub are certain of a warm welcome after their local won a prize for the best cosy fire in the area. The PHEASANT INN in Wood End Road won the contest run by Black Country brewery Holt, Plant and Deakin. Licensee Mr. John Nicholls and his wife Diana won £400 in cash and solid fuel.

Runners-up in the competition to find the most welcoming fire were the BEECH TREE, Rowley Regis, and the SHOULDER OF MUTTON at Blackheath.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 5/2/1991 - Advert

“Christie & Co. The Vanguard Lease.....

SHOULDER OF MUTTON, Rowley Regis, West Midlands.

Traditional town public house. Comprises bar, function room (50) and fitted kitchen. 3 bedroomed owners accommodation.

Asking rental – offers in the region of £20,000 Leasehold.

Premium offers in excess of £30,000.”

Closed

It reopened on 8th July 2009 after a £50,000 renovation.

Ranjit Shokar = Ranjit Shocker

Dudley News 7/7/2009

“Two Black Country entrepreneurs who have been friends since schooldays have joined forces to restore the 150-year-old SHOULDER OF MUTTON public house in Blackheath.

Once a magnet for the local community and renowned for its old English bar games such as ‘shove ha’penny’ and bar skittles, the pub has been taken over by new landlord *Harvey Baines* and *Ranjit Shocker* who have spent around £50,000 on a new makeover. The restoration has been spearheaded by *Harvey* who knew the Grade II listed pub in Birmingham Road when it was a popular watering hole and was saddened when it became rundown and finally closed four months ago. The 33-year-old, who met *Ranjit* while a student at Hall Green College, Birmingham, graduated from London’s South Bank University in business information technology and has gained wide experience in the family business which has included pub management, leisure and property development overseas. He hopes the former regulars will return and plans to offer a mixture of traditional English and Indian snacks as well as local guest beers.

Harvey’s business partner *Ranjit*, well known locally for his involvement in building new homes as well as his interest in the rented sector, said he hoped the pub would become a venue for wedding receptions, parties, dancing and various other activities as it had been in the past.

The pair also hope that eventually the pub will have a brew of beer that is particularly associated with the SHOULDER OF MUTTON. The first pint at the newly restored pub will be pulled by the Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Geoff Lewis, accompanied by his wife, Beryl on July 8 and Black Country comedian, Tommy Munden, will produce lots of laughs with his ‘Aynock and Ali’ routine.”

Halesowen News 27/10/2011 - Death Notices

“*Royston Price*. Former Licensee of the SHOULDER OF MUTTON, Blackheath. Passed away 21st October 2011, aged 76 years. He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service will take place on Monday 31st October at Rowley Regis Crematorium at 10.45am. Family flowers only, if desired donations in lieu of flowers for Cancer Research UK.”

[2023]

SIR ROBERT PEEL

1, (2), Rowley Village, (Birmingham Road), (Lillipot), (Lilley Pot Row), ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

Jeremiah Laister

William Taylor

William Butler and Co. Ltd. (acquired on 13th May 1898)

Thomas B. Williams and Lizzie Bate (acquired on 1st March 1939)

Ansells Ltd. (acquired on 15th June 1946)

Pubmaster

Punch Taverns

LICENSEES

Timothy Lowe [1855]
James Slim [] – 1857);
George Churchill (1857 – 1858);
Daniel Bowater (1858 – 1880);
Mrs. Rosanna Bowater (1880 – [1889]
William Taylor [1891] – [1896]
Sarah Taylor []
William Evans (1898 – [1900]
Mrs. Elizabeth Bishop [1901] – [1904]
Ellen Bishop [1906]
Walter Willetts [1908] – 1925);
Thomas Wyle (1925 – 1926);
William Thomas Bodley (1926 – 1940);
John Thomas ‘Tom’ Davenport (1940 – 1963)
Ronald Phillpotts (1963 – 1965);
Frank Verdun Davenport (1965 – 1966);
Eric George Albert Munyard (1966 – 1967);
Brian Edward Taylor (1967);
Ronald Bennett (1967);
Patrick Henry Chance (1967 – 1968);
Wyndham Gill (1968);
Sydney Collett (1968);
Thomas Victor Buckingham (1968 – 1969);
Colin John Goucher (1969);
Gerald George Haldron (1969 – 1970);
John Edward Merry (1970);
Marian Simon (1970 – 1971);
Aubrey Kitchener Poole (1971 – 1983);
Maureen Courtney (1983 – 1984);
Mrs. Evelyn May Harvey (1984 – [1997]
Valerie Harris [2002] – [2003]
Glynis Bates [2007]
Paula Round [2013] – [2017] manager

NOTES

2, The Village [1881]
1+2, The Village [1891]
2, Rowley Village [1901] , [1911], [1932]
1, Rowley Village [1940]

It was reputedly haunted.

It was the headquarters of the Rowley Regis and Blackheath Horticultural Society.

It was a home brew house.

London Gazette 26/6/1857

“Whereas a Petition of *George Churchill*, now and for these six months past, living at Lillyport, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, carrying on business as a Licensed Victualler and Publican, and also a Charter Master, under the employ of Messrs. Mills and Higgs, and for five years before that period, living in Yew Tree-lane, in the said parish of Rowley Regis, carrying on business also as a Licensed Victualler and Publican, and also being a Charter Master and Butty Collier, and for three years before that period, living in Powke-lane, in the said parish of Rowley, working as a Charter Master only, an insolvent debtor having been sued in the County Court of Worcestershire, at Dudley, and an interim order for protection from process having been given to the said *George Churchill*, under the provision of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *George Churchill* is hereby required to appear before the said Court, on the 10th day of July 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 *George Churchill*, 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.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/8/1857

“At a sitting of the County Court on Friday, Mr. Serjeant Clarke disposed of the following cases.....

George Churchill, licensed victualler and publican of Lilly-pot, Rowley, came up on his first adjourned examination, supported by Mr. Smith, and opposed by Mr. Wright, of the firm of Hayes and Wright, Oldbury. The petition was dismissed with a view to make an arrangement with creditors.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/11/1857 - Advert

“Insolvent Debtors to be heard before the Judge of the County Court of Worcestershire, holden at Worcester, at the Guildhall, Worcester aforesaid, on Wednesday, the ninth day of December, 1857, at the hour of ten in the morning precisely.....

George Churchill, late of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, out of business; previously of the same place, Licensed Victualler, Butty Collier, and Chartermaster.”

George Churchill – see also YEW TREE.

1861 Census

Rowley Village – SIR ROBERT PEEL

[1] *Daniel Bowater* (28), victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Rose Hannah Bowater* (27), wife, born Bilston;

[3] Ann Maria Cole (24), house servant, born Rowley Regis:

Daniel Bowater, retailer of beer, Rowley. [1862]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/2/1870

“Complaints are being made by the common nailmakers that some of the masters are deviating from the list which was agreed to, after a long and disastrous strike, on September 15th last year. The men employed by Messrs. Perry and Brookes, of Lye Waste, have, it appears, decided to strike in consequence of a reduction in their payment of 3d per bundle. To consider the advisability of supporting these men on strike a meeting of delegates from various nailmaking districts was held on Tuesday evening at Mr. *D. Bowater*'s, SIR ROBERT PEEL INN, Rowley, when Mr. John Price, chairman of the Amalgamated Nailmakers' Association, presided. After considerable discussion, during which a determination was expressed to maintain the 'list of September, 1869,' the following resolution was passed unanimously: The committee of the Amalgamated Nailmakers' Association are under the painful necessity of putting the spike nailmakers in the employ of Messrs. Perry and Brookes on strike, and are resolved to maintain them until the aforesaid firm pay the net list price of September 15th, 1869.”

1871 Census

Rowley Village, Lillipot

[1] *Daniel Bowater* (38), victualler and butcher, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Rossannah Bowater* (38), wife, born Horseley Heath;

[3] Phoebe Southwick (19), niece, visitor, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 18/11/1871 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Land, Residences, Malshouses, Public House, & Cottages, at Cradley Heath and Rowley.

Messrs. Oates, Perrens, and Wooldridge are favoured with instructions from the Trustees of the Will of the late Jeremiah Laister, deceased, to Sell by Auction, at the house of Mr. W. H. Nock, the FOUR WAYS INN, Cradley Heath, on Wednesday, the 6th day of December, 1871, at Five o'clock in the Afternoon, subject to conditions then to be read, the following valuable and extensive Freehold Properties, in the undermentioned or such other lots as shall be decided upon at the time of Sale.

Lot 1. A Freehold Public House, the SIR ROBERT PEEL, situate in Lilley Pot Row, or Telegraph Street, Rowley, together with the Brewhouse, Stable, Yard, Piggeries, an excellent Well of Water, and Premises, occupied by Mr. *Daniel Bowater*; and also the Tenement, Nail Shop, and Premises, occupied by Edward Foster.....”

County Advertiser 18/5/1872

“William [sic] *Bowater*, of the SIR ROBERT PEEL INN, Blackheath, was charged with having unlawfully permitted drunkenness in his house on the 29th of April.

Mr. Underwood, schoolmaster, was called to give evidence for the prosecution. The witness said that before giving evidence he must demand his fees for attendance at the Court. The Clerk said the fees due to him amounted 3s, being at the rate of 1s 6d per day.

Mr. Underwood: Then I will make the Clerk a present of it. But I shall reuse to be sworn until my proper fee is paid.

The Clerk: The legal fee is 1s 6d per day.

Witness: Do you wish me make believe that that is all I am entitled to?

The Clerk: I cannot make you believe anything. All I say is that that is the legal fee, and all that you can claim.

Mr. Mills said that this case arose out of evidence which had been given at a coroner's inquest. There was no doubt that the person upon whom the inquest was held lost his life through having got intoxicated at the defendant's house. If the witness would not give evidence he must ask the Bench to dismiss the case.

Mr. Underwood said he saw the deceased on the road, but he did not see him drinking at the defendant's public house. When he saw the man in the road he was in a state of intoxication, and his attention was called to him by another man, when he saw the deceased was being run over. This occurred on the 29th of April, at Rowley Regis. A boy was in company with the intoxicated man. Mr. Superintendent Mills questioned the witness respecting the evidence which had been given at the inquest.

In reply Mr. Underwood said that he drew the attention of the landlord to the fact that the deceased was unfit to take care of the horses which were yoked to the vehicle of which he had the charge; but he did not see the man drinking in the house, as he (witness) was never in the house at all.

Superintendent Mills informed the Bench that the evidence of the witness, as now given, was very different to his evidence as given before the Coroner.

The case was dismissed."

County Express 20/3/1875

"Joseph Hackett was charged with being disorderly on licensed premises. Defendant pleaded guilty.

Daniel Bowater said he was landlord of the SIR ROBERT PEEL INN, Blackheath, and on the 13th inst defendant was in his house. He requested him to leave, which he refused to do. He pushed witness on to the fire, and some hot water fell on him. He used some very bad language. Defendant was not drunk.

Fined 10s and the costs; or, in default, of payment, fourteen days' imprisonment with hard labour."

Daniel Bowater died in the 2nd quarter of 1880 and was buried at St. Giles Church, Rowley.

Dudley and District News 7/8/1880

"The full license of the SIR ROBERT PEEL INN, at Rowley, was transferred from the executors of the late *Daniel Bowater* to *Rosanna Bowater*, his wife."

AND

Dudley Herald 7/8/1880

"Old Hill. The Bench granted the following transfers.....

from Thomas Dixon and William Jukes, executors of *Daniel Bowater*, licensed victualler, late of Rowley, the SIR ROBERT PEEL, Rowley, to *Rosannah Bowater*, Rowley."

1881 Census

2, The Village – SIR ROBERT PEEL INN

[1] *Rosannah Bowater* (47), licensed victualler, born Haden Cross;

[2] Jane Mulletts (17), domestic servant, born Darby Hand:

Rosannah Bowater died on 20th November 1889 and was buried at St. Giles Church, Rowley.

Dudley Mercury 23/11/1889

"The South Staffordshire Coroner, Mr. Edwin Hooper, held an inquest at the BEE HIVE INN, Hawes Hill, Rowley, touching the death of *Rosannah Bowater* (56), landlady of the SIR ROBERT PEEL INN, Rowley Village, who had died from the effects of severe burns received on the 20th inst.

Harriet Robinson, domestic servant, stated that at eleven o'clock on Wednesday morning the deceased sat down at a table, near to the kitchen fire, for the purpose of writing in a book the quantity of wines and spirits received that morning. Whilst witness was in one of the bed rooms she heard the deceased cry out that she was on fire. She ran into the kitchen and found her mistress enveloped in flames. Witness shouted, and deceased ran into the yard, which increased the flames. A neighbour came to her assistance, and threw a hearthrug over her, and eventually the flames were extinguished. Her cotton dress was entirely destroyed, as was also most of her underlinen. Her injuries extended from head to foot, and Dr. Beasley, who was sent for, upon seeing her, said that she could not possibly live.

Edward Southwick, contractor, said the deceased was his sister, and had been a widow for some years. He saw her shortly after the accident, and she told him that whilst she was writing a cinder fell out of the fire on to her dress, and in a few minutes she was in flames. She died on Wednesday night shortly after ten o'clock.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

County Express 21/12/1889 - Advert

"SIR ROBERT PEEL INN, Birmingham Road, Rowley Regis.

To Publicans, Brokers, Furniture Dealers, and Others.

Mr. W. Hackett has received instructions to Sell by Auction, on Monday, December 30th, 1889, without Reserve, the whole of the Household Furniture, Brewing Plant, Public House Fixtures, and other Effects, as above, comprising massive Brass and Iron Bedsteads, Spring and Straw Mattresses, Feather Beds, pair of Mahogany Duchesse Dressing Tables, Toilet Glasses, Birch Night Chair, Mahogany Towel Rails, Cane-seated and other Chairs, Mahogany Chest of Drawers, Dressing Chest, Mahogany Horse-hair-seated Sofa, Mahogany Horsehair-seated Chairs, Mahogany Corner Cupboard, Eight-day Clocks, Toilet Ware, Tea and Dinner Ware, Fenders, Fire-irons, and the whole of the Excellent Brewing Plant, comprising nearly-new 140-gallon Copper Brewing Boiler, Cast-iron Boiler, nearly new; 12-bushel Oak Mash Tub, large Cooler, Copper-bottom Wort Sieve, Mash Rules, Round Tubs, Collecting Tubs, Hogshead and Half-hogshead Barrels, excellent Four-pull Beer Machine, with piping and taps, all complete; and other things too numerous to mention, which will appear in Catalogues to be had from the Place of Sale or the Auction-

eer.

Sale to commence at 10.30am prompt.

Auctioneer's Offices: 78, High Street, Blackheath, near Dudley, and 393 Oldbury Road, West Smethwick."

County Advertiser 4/1/1890

"Curious experiences sometimes befall the broker. His lot in life is one that takes him into many fresh scenes and amongst many strange faces, and in his time he plays many parts. One of these singular adventures happened to Mr. R. T. Webster, of the Lye, who is a member of the Stourbridge Board of Guardians, and also carries on the trade of a broker. The affair in question occurred at Rowley, on Monday, when a large 'find' of money was made. A great deal of excitement ensued, and it is said that the matter has cleared up a family mystery. It appears that the sale was being conducted at the SIR ROBERT PEEL INN, Rowley, by Mr. William Hackett, auctioneer, of the effects which belonged to the late Mrs. *Bowater*, who some time ago was burned to death. There had been an impression that a considerable sum of money had been saved by the deceased, and some unpleasant suspicions, it is stated, arose amongst the relatives. These, however, were dispelled on Monday. A pair of duchesse dressing tables were purchased by Mr. Samuel Hill, of Wordsley, and Mr. R. T. Webster assisted to remove them. While preparing to carry a portion of the framework downstairs, a small woollen bag fell on the floor, and on examination it was found to contain £50. Mrs. *Bowater*'s niece exclaimed, 'That's the money that was lost; give it me.' Mr. Webster declined, however, to do this, and placed the framework on some bedsteads, when another bag dropped out. This was taken charge of by the niece, and it was subsequently found to contain £199. Within a few minutes after Mr. Webster had discovered the money he was surrounded by a crowd of excited people, one and another of whom clamoured at him to give up the money. The crowd grew more excited every minute, but the more threatening became the aspect of those who pressed him for the money, the more stubbornly did he refuse to give it up until he knew the right person to give it to. At length he learned who the executor was, and gave up the money he had found. The other bag containing the £199, we understand, was also given up to the executor. There is no doubt that Mr. Webster was subjected to a good deal of annoyance because he would not give up the money when first asked, and that he was placed in an awkward position, if not one of some danger. One of his fellow-brokers remarked to him, referring to when he saw the crowd round him, 'Webster, I wouldn't have been in your position for a ten pound note.' It is fortunate, perhaps, that the money in the first instance did fall into the hands of Mr. Webster, who had the courage to hold it until he knew who was the proper person to receive it."

1891 Census

1+2, The Village

- [1] *William Taylor* (59), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Sarah Taylor* (57), wife, born Amblecote;
- [3] *Thomas G. Taylor* (26), son, pattern maker, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *John Taylor* (24), son, brewer, (journeyman), born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Sarah Taylor* (19), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Ellen Taylor* (16), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *Sarah A. Hughes* (26), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

Dudley Herald 27/8/1898 - Advert

"On Tuesday Next. To Publicans and others. SIR ROBERT PEEL INN, Rowley.

Notice of Unreserved Sale by Auction of the nearly New Excellent Brewing Plant.

Comprising 250-Gallon Copper, Oval Mash Tub, Gun Metal Stop Cocks, Pair Coolers, Lead Piping, Pine Square, 120, 60, and 54-Gallon Cooper-made Casks, and other useful Effects, which Alfred W. Dando has received instructions from Messrs. W. Butler and Co. Limited, to Sell by Auction, upon the Premises as above, on Tuesday Next, August 30, 1898, at 3 o'clock in the Afternoon sharp.

Further particulars may be obtained at the Offices of the Auctioneer, Priory Street, Dudley."

William Evans was the son of *John Evans* of the NEW INN, Churchbridge, Oldbury.

John Evans founded the Churchbridge Brewery. His sons *Joseph* and *William* subsequently ran it.

County Advertiser 22/12/1900

"On Monday morning, Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest at the SIR ROBERT PEEL INN, Rowley Village, concerning the death of *Fanny Parkes* (5), whose parents reside at Rowley Village, and who died on the 13th inst from the effects of burns sustained on the 15th of November. The evidence showed that on the latter date the mother left deceased alone in the house whilst she went to a neighbour's. Upon returning she discovered her daughter in the garden, with her clothing in flames. These were extinguished by a neighbour named *Hutton*. Dr. *Beasley* was called in. The child progressed satisfactorily until the 8th inst, when bronchitis set in, death taking place on the 13th inst.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned by the jury."

1901 Census

2, Rowley Village

- [1] *Elizabeth Bishop* (34), widow, publican, born Haselor, Warwickshire;
- [2] *Catherine Alice Bishop* (10), daughter, born Worcester;
- [3] *William Richard Henry Bishop* (8), son, born Worcester;
- [4] *Jane Priest* (15), general servant, born Blackheath:

County Advertiser 20/4/1901

“John Skitt, Siviter’s Lane, Rowley, was charged with refusing to quit the SIR ROBERT PEEL INN, Rowley, on the 3rd inst; with assaulting Mrs. *Bishop*, manageress; and also with doing damage to dishes and furniture to the extent of 10s. Mr. H. S. Chapman, of Birmingham prosecuted.

Mrs. *Bishop*, manageress, said that at 10-15pm on the 3rd inst the defendant came to the house and commenced using obscene language. He was drunk, and refused to go, and became very violent. He struck witness and knocked her on the fender, upset the table on which were a large number of glasses and crocks and broke a chair. Witness asked him to go a dozen times, but he refused, and remained on the premises for half an hour. The damage done was more than she was claiming.

Defendant, who did not appear, was fined 10s and costs for refusing to quit, 20s and costs for the assault, and 6d and costs for malicious injury, and 10s damage.”

Elizabeth Bishop – see also BUSH, Tipton.

County Advertiser 3/10/1903

“An unusual application was made by *Elizabeth Bishop*, the landlady of the SIR ROBERT PEEL INN, Birmingham Road, Rowley. The license of the house had by some means been mislaid or lost, and she applied to the magistrates for a certified copy of it. This was granted.”

County Advertiser 6/10/1906

“An extraordinary incident was related in connection with an application made by James Winfield, an ex-sergeant of the Staffordshire police force, for the transfer of the license of the SIR ROBERT PEEL INN, Birmingham Road, Rowley, from *Ellen Bishop*. Superintendent Johnson stated that Winfield entered into possession of the house on Tuesday last, and already a report had been received against him for permitting drunkenness, and he therefore opposed the application.

Winfield said it was unfortunate, as the man who was alleged to be drunk was in the house when he entered it, and directly he knew of his being there he ordered him to leave.

Mr. Pritchard, of Bilston, on behalf of the owners of the house, said under the circumstances he could not consent to the transfer taking place.

Superintendent Johnson said the unfortunate part of the matter was that if it was proved that an offence had been committed Mrs. *Bishop*, the present holder of the license, who had left the premises, would be held to be responsible.

Winfield said it was a serious matter for him.

The magistrates decided, under the circumstances, to defer the consideration of the application for a week.”

County Advertiser 27/10/1906

“*Elizabeth Bishop*, licensee of the SIR ROBERT PEEL INN, Birmingham Road, Rowley, was charged with permitting drunkenness upon her licensed premises, on the 2nd October. Mr J. W. Clulow prosecuted, and Mr. Pritchard, of Bilston, defended. Mr. W. Lees, of Sedgley, watched the case on behalf of ex-sergeant James Winfield, who was in charge of the house at the time.

Mr. Clulow stated that at three o’clock on the afternoon of October 2nd Police-sergeant Bentley was on duty in the locality of the public house serving some summonses when he saw a man named Thomas Parkes, residing at Blackheath, coming along the road from the direction of the public house. He was in a helpless state of drunkenness and fell down. The officer went to the public house where he saw a man named James Winfield, an ex-sergeant in the Staffordshire police force. It appeared that the licensee had early that morning made arrangements for leaving the premises, and she put in charge the man Winfield. She went out of the house about ten o’clock when the man Parkes was there. He remained there for about five hours until he got into that helpless state of drunkenness. Winfield was in charge of the house, but Mrs. *Bishop* was responsible for the conduct of the premises. They did not press for a heavy penalty, but they wished publicans to understand that they could not do this kind of thing. The practice of putting irresponsible persons in charge of houses was becoming a common one, and licensees must be taught that they were responsible for the conduct of house until they were transferred. Evidence was given in support of this statement by Police-sergeant Bentley.

Mr. Pritchard admitted the offence, but contended that it was committed whilst Winfield had charge of the house. He thought it would be inflicting a hardship upon the defendant if she was convicted for an offence she knew nothing about. Under the circumstances the Bench allowed the case to be withdrawn on payment of costs, £2 11s 6d.

Thomas Parkes, of Blackheath, was fined 10s, including costs, for being drunk upon the premises.”

1911 Census

2, Rowley Village

[1] *Walter Willetts* (39), licensed victualler, dealer, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Clara Jane Willetts (38), wife, married 17 years, assisting in the business, born Halesowen;

[3] Reginald Willetts (15), son, blacksmith’s striker, born Halesowen;

[4] Herbert Walter Willetts (13), son, butcher’s errand boy, born Halesowen;

[5] Mary Willetts (11), daughter, born Halesowen;

[6] Clara Willetts (8), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[7] Lawson Joseph Willetts (4), son, born Rowley Regis;

[8] Emma Downing (21), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 31/8/1912

“At Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, *Walter Willetts*, licensee of the SIR ROBERT PEEL INN, Birmingham Road, Blackheath, was summoned for permitting drunkenness upon his licensed premises, and also for supplying a drunken person on the 5th inst. Mr. J. W. Clulow prosecuted, and Mr. S. Vernon defended.

Mr. Clulow stated that at 3.15 on the afternoon in question, PC Mann was passing the house, when he saw a man named Weston in the yard at the rear of the premises in a drunken condition. The officer went into the house and found Weston drinking from a glass. The attention of the landlady was called to it, and she admitted that the man had been served with a pint of ale. Weston was ejected from the house, and his conduct outside was so bad that he was locked up.

PC Mann and Sergt. Brough gave evidence in support of this statement.

Mr. Vernon pleaded guilty to supplying Weston, and urged that there was nothing in the man’s conduct or manner to suggest that he was drunk when he entered the house. The man had been drinking parsnip wine which had an effect upon him. Cases often occurred in the district where men although under the influence of drink, often pulled themselves together, walked straight, and even spoke properly when questioned by publicans, and it was only when, perhaps, an argument arose amongst the customers, that their condition was discovered. He submitted that it was one of those accidents which happened in the best regulated public houses, and that the landlady had been deceived by the man’s appearance.

In reply to the Bench, Supt. Johnson said *Willetts* had held a license in the division for twelve years without a single complaint. The Chairman said they had considered the defendant’s good record as a publican, and under the circumstances would only impose a fine of 20s and costs, amounting in all to £3 16s 6d.”

Dudley Chronicle 8/2/1913

“The annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held at Old Hill on Wednesday.....

Walter Willetts, a licensee who had been fined for selling drink to a drunken person, appeared to answer an objection to the renewal of his license.

Superintendent Johnson said applicant was still in possession, and had conducted the house well since the conviction.

The Bench renewed the license, and cautioned the applicant.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 31/1/1933

“In consequence of a collision between a motor-car and a motor-cycle at the Queslett – Chester roads crossing at Streetly on 27 December, a case was heard at Rushall Court yesterday.

William Thomas Bodley, of the SIR ROBERT PEEL INN, Rowley Regis, was fined 40s and £2 8s special costs for driving a car without proper care, and William George Thomas, of Chelsfield, Kent, a labourer employed by Kent County Council, 20s and 20s special costs for driving a motor-cycle without a third party insurance policy.

A summons against Thomas for driving without proper care was dismissed.

As the result of the accident the cycle pillion passenger, Miss Alice Archer, of Oakengates, was seriously injured and taken to Sutton Coldfield Hospital.

Bodley, who was represented by Mr. McGregor Clarkson, barrister, declared, when asked who was to blame for the collision, said that it was ‘a pure accident’ on a greasy road.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/4/1938

“References to a man’s visits to public houses before committing suicide were made at an inquest at Old Hill yesterday on Thomas Mansell, aged 56, 63, Mackmillan Road, Blackheath, a refuse collector, employed by Rowley Regis Town Council.

The widow, Elizabeth Mansell, stated that her husband returned from work at mid-day on Saturday and left at one o’clock to have a drink at the SIR ROBERT PEEL INN. He returned at 1.35 and he had had a few drinks. He afterwards went out for a walk, and said he should be back at eight o’clock.

William Dunn, licensee of the BRITANNIA INN, Rowley, stated that at 2.50 Mansell called at his house and asked for a gallon of beer, but he refused to serve him. He was too much over the mark.

Walter Watts, landlord of the KINGS ARMS INN, Rowley, said that at about three o’clock Mansell asked for a gallon of beer, but he refused to supply it. Witness said he would not describe the man as drunk, but he had had enough.

Other evidence showed that Mansell’s coat, waistcoat, and cardigan were found by the side of Rowley Hall pool at 4.30.

A verdict that Mansell committed Suicide while the Balance of his Mind was Disturbed was returned.”

1939 Register

1, Rowley Village – ROBERT PEEL INN

[1] *William Thomas Bodley*, date of birth 15/4/1873, licensee, married;

[2] Ruth Bodley, dob 4/09/1889, unpaid domestic duties, married:

After his first wife died in 1950, *John Thomas Davenport* married Bertha Aldridge in 1951.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/12/1953

“*John Thomas Davenport*, licensee of the SIR ROBERT PEEL at Rowley Village, Blackheath, who faced three summonses here for serving beer after hours and one for obstructing the police, said the beer was served to customers before 10pm.

Police-sergeant James said that when he went into the bar at 10.50pm on November 11, there were three customers with pint glasses of beer in front of them. The beer still had a head on it and looked as though it had just been pulled.

He told *Davenport* not to touch the beer, but the defendant took one of the glasses and poured it away. The exhibits in two

'squash' bottles were from the other two glasses.

The beer still had a head on it.

Davenport said, 'Just because the beer had a top on it, it doesn't mean it had just been pulled. The beer always retains its strength.'

A barman, a cleaner and *Davenport's* wife gave evidence that he did not serve any beer after 10pm.

Davenport was fined £5 on each of the first three charges, £1 on the fourth and ordered to pay 15gns costs.

The three customers were fined £2 each with £1 15s costs each for consuming beer after 10 o'clock."

Sports Argus 9/4/1960

"Round The Dartboards.....

Rowley Regis League have just ended a great struggle for their championship. In the end ROBERT PEEL triumphed by two points over BRICKHOUSE....."

Tipton Herald 24/9/1960

"It was announced during the presentation of the Harry Griffiths Memorial Darts Cup at the WHEATSHEAF, Windmill End, Netherton, on Thursday of last week that the £25 which had been raised by the competition would be given to St. Peter's Church, Netherton.

A team from the SIR ROBERT PEEL, Blackheath, won the Memorial Cup which was presented by Mr. Richard Griffiths, the son of Mr. Harry Griffiths. Each member of the team – Messrs. G. Harvey, D. Harvey, L. Turner and R. Churchill – received a canteen of cutlery.

Messrs. H. Davies, J. Johnson, N. Lester and C. Law, the 'C' team of the RED LION, Chapel Street, Netherton, won the J. E. Parkes runners-up cup which was presented by the donor. They each received a dinner service The presentations, other than those of the cups, were made by Mrs. D. C. Pardoe, of the OLD SWAN INN, Netherton Mrs. Pardoe said she was delighted at the success of the competition and of the efficient way in which it had been run. She also noted with interest that several young people had entered for it....."

A team from here took part in the Rowley Regis Darts League. [1960/61], [1965/66]

Frank Verdun Davenport was married to Floss.

See also CROWN, GATE HANGS WELL, and LOYAL WASHINGTON (Netherton), and HAMMER, and SMILING MAN (Dudley).

Sandwell Evening Mail 26/9/1986

"Four charities have been given a welcome cash boost thanks to a sponsored walk and other efforts by regulars at a Rowley Regis public house. More than 20 drinking pals at the SIR ROBERT PEEL public house in Rowley Regis and nine children walked seven miles to and from the BARLEY MOW in City Road, Tividale, and helped raise more than £1,000.

A cheque for £454 from the walk – £183 raised alone by Mr. Sidney Blakemore of Mincing Lane, Rowley Regis – was presented to Birmingham Children's Hospital, £182 to Harefield heart hospital and £40 handed over to help physically handicapped people in Smethwick.

Patients at Wolverhampton's Compton Hall Hospice meanwhile, will benefit from further presentations of £335 from the walk, £130 from a bottle collection at the pub and £75 raised by a sponsored slim by barmaid Mrs. Dorothy Jukes.

One of the walk marshals, Mrs. Diane Nock, said, 'It was a very enjoyable day. It was nice to see so much money raised for such worthwhile causes.'"

Sandwell Evening Mail 3/2/1989

"Rowley Regis and Blackheath Horticultural and Allotment Holders' Association holds its annual meeting at the SIR ROBERT PEEL pub, Rowley Regis, next Tuesday."

Sandwell Evening Mail 17/11/1990

"Customers at a Rowley Regis pub have proved they have hearts of gold by raising more than £15,000 for charity in six years.

Regulars at the SIR ROBERT PEEL in Rowley Village have raised a record £3,350 in the last twelve months. Now local charities are set to share in a bumper pay-out which maintains the pub's great fund-raising reputation over the years.

The delighted licensee, Mrs. *Evelyn Harvey*, said, 'A lot of the credit has to go to one of our customers, Sid Blakemore, who never stops badgering people for money for charity. I have been here for six years, and this latest figure is the most that has ever been raised in a year. The customers are so generous.'

The cash was raised through raffles, a harvest festival, jumble sales and other events.

Organisations which have benefitted are the Compton Hospice at Wolverhampton, the Birmingham Children's Hospital, the Smethwick Club for the Physically Handicapped, Rowley Regis Sons of Rest and the Rowley Physically Handicapped Club.

Other sums will go to the Regis Lodge Old People's Home in Blackheath, the Licensed Victuallers' Association national homes and the blind."

Sandwell Evening Mail 15/2/1991

"Gulf servicemen are in for a sweet surprise thanks to pub and supermarket customers. The SIR ROBERT PEEL, Rowley Regis, and Safeway's in Bearwood raised £186 for parcels of biscuits, sweets, coffee and tea."

Sandwell Evening Mail 21/11/1991

“Charities in the Black Country are to receive £1,850 – thanks to the regulars at the ROBERT PEEL pub in Rowley Village.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 15/5/1993

“A disabled Smethwick woman has been given a new lease of life thanks to kind-hearted regulars at a Rowley Regis pub who raised £700 to buy her a wheelchair. Customers of the SIR ROBERT PEEL in Rowley Village raised the money to help Mrs. Margaret Walker of Londonderry Lane, Smethwick. Their fundraising efforts were made after Margaret, 40, who is paralysed from the waist down, told friends her wheelchair had tipped over three times. She said, ‘It was a wonderful thing for the regulars from the pub to do for me. Although I already have a wheelchair from social services it is not very good and keeps tipping over.’ Regulars at the SIR ROBERT PEEL raised the cash in many ways including boot sales, a sponsored silence and one person even gave up drink for six weeks.”

Evelyn Harvey was married to Don.

Halesowen News 25/7/2011

“A football club is holding a family fun day at a Rowley Regis pub. There will be attractions including face painting and a bouncy castle at the event being staged by Paschendale FC at the SIR ROBERT PEEL on Saturday August 20. The fun kicks off at noon. There will also be a barbecue and Wii sports and darts competitions as well as raffles. The day aims to raise money for the football team which is based at Britannia Park in Halesowen and will end with an eight round quiz.”

Halesowen News 18/4/2012

“Three Rowley Regis friends are recovering after kayaking the length of the River Severn to raise cash for a inspirational blind local girl. John Daniels, Lee Bates and John Fanthom paddled 179 miles over five gruelling days to help raise £5,000 for a new braille computer for five-year-old Mia Daniels. Lisa Teague, Mia’s auntie, helped organise a celebration at the SIR ROBERT PEEL pub on Friday to mark the end of the challenge. She said, ‘The lads worked really hard and paddled extra fast to complete the trip in a grand total of five days instead of seven. The family would like to say a big thank you to Pips Novelty Cakes who made the lads a well done cake and to Helen Hoskin and the Birmingham Canoe club who gave all the lads their training.’ The next fundraising event for Mia is a family fun day at the SIR ROBERT PEEL pub on May Bank Holiday Monday.”

Dudley News 19/6/2014

“Sandwell Sea Cadets are holding a fun day at a Blackheath pub to raise funds for the unit. A barbecue, games and raffle will be held at the SIR ROBERT PEEL, Birmingham Road, on Saturday July 12 from 1pm.”

Halesowen News 22/7/2015

“A family fun day is being staged by Blackheath Royal British Legion on Saturday to raise funds for the branch. The fourth annual event will be at the SIR ROBERT PEEL pub, Rowley Village, starting at 1pm. Attractions will include a prize tombola, barbecue, bouncy castle and live music from a local Ukulele group later in the afternoon.”

Halesowen News 19/7/2017

“A weekend of music and entertainment is to be held in Rowley Regis to support an appeal to fund a wheelchair for a young girl. The SIR ROBERT PEEL pub will host the August bank holiday events as part of efforts to raise £4,000 to purchase a bespoke body moulded wheelchair for 10-year-old Amelia Westwood. Amelia suffers from cerebral palsy and epilepsy and needs the chair to help her travel more comfortably. Performances will take place at the pub between August 25-27 and these include live music from Ivy Road, a Roy Chubby Brown tribute act, Les Harris as Pub Landlord Al Murray and Terry Whitehouse as Mrs. Brown. Organisers said they are looking for more acts to get in touch and perform on the day. Mr. Harris said, ‘Music is medicine for Amelia as she loves coming to the pub with her parents to enjoy the live shows. Unfortunately, she has problems sitting too long and gets uncomfortable so she needs the specially moulded chair to help her. We have organised this fun weekend to help boost the wheelchair fund.’”

Halesowen News 14/7/2021

“A Rowley Regis pub looks set to be offering B&B after plans were given the thumbs up by planners. The SIR ROBERT PEEL pub on Rowley Village will offer bed and breakfast alongside its current operation after a proposal was granted permission. The first floor of the pub will be converted into five bedrooms with en-suites. Plans show three double bedrooms, one single bedroom and one family room on the first floor of the pub. The space is home to an office and function room at the moment. Sandwell Council planners granted permission for the scheme from Mr. P Brar, of Penn, on July 7.”

[2021]

SPRINGFIELDS

Springfield, ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Letitia Woodhouse [] – **1855**);
Joseph White (**1855** – [1861]
John Mills [1862]
John Woodhouse [1864] – [1865]
Daniel Mason [] – **1874**);
John Tranter (**1874** – []

NOTES

SPRINGFIELD HOUSE [1860], [1864]
SPRING HOUSE [1862], [1864], [1865]
SPRING FIELDS INN [1874]

John Woodhouse was also a bricklayer. [1864], [1865]

[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 2nd.

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 6th 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.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/12/1864

“The inquiry into the death of William Slater, one of the eight deceased who lost their lives at the colliery of Messrs. Nock, at Withemore, near Dudley, on the 16th ultimo, was held on Friday, before Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, at the SPRINGFIELD HOUSE INN, Rowley Regis.....

The Coroner, in summing up, observed that the question the Jury had to consider was whether the accident had occurred from mismanagement in consequence of the machinery of the pit having been out of gear, or whether it was in consequence of the oscillation of the chain, caused by the men getting in at the bottom of the pit. They would also have to consider whether or not proper precaution had been taken at the colliery in its working. If they found that death had arisen from the negligence of any person connected with the colliery, and that he was culpably negligent, they would, no doubt, have to return a verdict of manslaughter against such person or persons. At the same time they must be quite certain in their own minds about the matter, and if any doubt existed give the party criminated the benefit of the doubt. There was a doubt as upon whom the responsibility rested. It must rest on some one. It would not do for the colliery proprietor to say that no one was responsible, for if no other person was responsible, the colliery proprietor was.

The Jury deliberated for about three-quarters of an hour, and ultimately found a verdict to the effect that Edwin Nock had been guilty of great neglect in not employing some one as colliery manager, which was, in fact, a verdict of manslaughter.”

[At Staffordshire Lent Assizes Edwin Nock was found not guilty.]

Check ROYAL OAK.

SPRING MEADOW

255, (244), (212), Halesowen Road / Spring Meadow Road, OLD HILL

OWNERS

Atkinsons Ltd.

Julia Hanson and Son Ltd.

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

Punch Taverns

Star (Heineken UK) (acquired on 5th March 2018)

LICENSEES

Joseph Pearson [1890]

Mary Ann Guest [1893]

William Foley [1897] – [1899]

Giles Bloomer [1901]

Samuel Boddis [1901] – [1910]

Frederick Cobourne [1911] – [1912]

George Johnson [1919] – **1920**);

Bert Adrian Slim (**1920**);

Thomas Johnson (**1920 – 1923**);

Jesse Woodhall (**1923 – 1930**);

William George Hayward (**1930**);

George Sperring (**1930 – 1956**);

Eric Taylor (**1956 – 1958**);

Jack Harris (**1958 – 1960**);

William Walker (**1960** – [1965]

Yvonne Gray [] – **2000**)

Andrew Michael Penk [2002]

Justene Victoria Allbutt [2005] – [2007]

[Samantha Angela Jones](#) []

NOTES

212, Halesowen Road [1901]
244, Halesowen Road [1911], [1939], [1940]
255, Halesowen Road [1990], [2018]

SPRING MEADOW HOUSE [1970s]

It had an ante '69 beerhouse license.

County Advertiser 27/9/1890

“Adjourned Licensing Session at Old Hill.....

Joseph Pearson, of the SPRING MEADOW INN, Old Hill, made an application for a wine license. Mr. Waldron appeared on his behalf. He knew there was a feeling growing up amongst magistrates against the granting of wine licenses, unless there was a strong case made out. The house was well conducted.

Miss Pearson was called and made a statement. In answer to questions by the police, she said that wines were sold at the GEORGE HOTEL, eighty yards away, and that there were other houses in the street.

Mr. Bassano said there were more houses than were necessary, and they would be taking a step in the wrong direction if they granted the application; therefore they should refuse it.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/5/1893

“Yesterday, at Old Hill Police Court – before Messrs. W. Bassano, J. H. Smith, and B. Hingley, MP – Samuel John Cooper, of Blythe Bridge, Longton, was charged with obtaining, by means of false pretences, £2 13s 3d from *Mary Ann Guest*, SPRING MEADOW INN, Old Hill, in September last.

Inspector Bishop stated that at present he was not prepared to go on with the charge, and asked for a remand. He explained that the prisoner’s modus operandi had been to insert an advertisement in some daily papers, which read as follows: ‘Earthenware crates of seconds, £2 each; special crates, best useful good, £3. Write for lists, Earle Works Pottery, Longton, Staffordshire.’ Tradesmen in the district had forwarded money for goods to the prisoner from £1 up to £30, and waited in the expectation of receiving the goods, which, however, never arrived. They had communicated with prisoner on the subject, but did not receive any reply. A few days ago witness received a warrant for prisoner’s arrest, and went to Longton, where he arrested him on the platform of the railway station. In reply to the charge, prisoner said it was all through being ill; but afterwards, on the way to Old Hill, he said it was just what he expected, as he had got himself into a terrible hole. Witness and prisoner went to the post office, where two registered letters were handed to the prisoner. One contained a complaint similar to the one he had mentioned, and the other contained two sovereigns and 5s worth of stamps in payment for some goods. Witness went to various places where prisoner said he carried on business, but found nothing excepting a few pieces of earthenware to indicate that he carried on any such business. Prisoner was remanded for a week, bail being refused.”

Birmingham Daily Post 15/6/1893

“At the Old Hill Police Court, yesterday – before Messrs. W. Bassano, J. H. Smith, and J. Walker – Walter Watson, alias Samuel John Cooper, of Longton, was charged with obtaining, by means of false pretences, £2 13s 3d, from *Mary Ann Guest*, of Old Hill; £3 from John Lenton, of Netherton; £3 from John Astbury, of Cannock; £2 from Sarah Jane Harper, of Dudley; £2 from Leith Almond, of Dewsbury; £6 from Alexander Wallace, of Ayrshire; £3 from A. Lancaster, of Birmingham; £8 15s from H. Durant, of London; £3 15s from Mary Ann Burnham, of Northampton; £8 5s from Henry Nickless, Old Hill; and £1 10s from Mr. Bullchamber, London. Albert Tunnickliffe and Elizabeth Bradshaw, of Stoke-on-Trent, were charged with aiding and abetting in the offence. Mr. G. H. Hunt, of Hanley, appeared for Watson, and Mr. Wright defended Tunnickliffe.

Mary Ann Guest, of Spring Meadow, said on December 21, she saw an advertisement in one of the daily papers to the following effect: ‘Earthenware crates of seconds, £2 each. Special crates useful goods, £3. Write for lists, Earle Works Pottery, Longton, Staffordshire.’ In consequence she wrote to the works, asking for a price list, and in reply she received the printed list produced. Witness sent an order for some goods and enclosed a postal order for £2 13s 3d in payment of them. By return of post witness received a receipt for the money signed on behalf of the Earle Works Pottery Company with the initials ‘A. T.’ She had never received the goods or any part of them. She had made several applications for the goods, but up to the present she had not received them.

John Lenton, licensed victualler, of Halesowen Road, Netherton, and other witnesses gave similar evidence.

The prisoner Bradshaw said she had nothing to do with it; she was only the servant.

Watson and Tunnickliffe were further charged with obtaining by means of false pretences £34 2s 6d from persons in different parts of the country.

Evidence having been given by persons who had forwarded money for goods, Albert Charles Woolley, assistant superintendent at the Longton Post Office, identified the handwriting of all the prisoners.

Samuel Ashcroft, accountant to the Manchester and Liverpool Branch Bank at Longton, said Cooper had an account with the bank, which was closed in March last owing to the way in which it was carried on.

Arthur Lander Harber, printer of Longton, said in December last the prisoner Tunnickliffe gave him an order to print circulars similar to the one produced, but he could not say in whose handwriting the original copy was in.

Inspector Bishop said he arrested Watson at Longton station, as he alighted from a train. In reply to the charge, prisoner said, 'This is all through being ill. It is nothing more than I expected. It is Tunncliffe who has got me into this; he used to come and see me, and give me a pound or two when I wanted it; he has had the money.' When near the post office witness asked prisoner where the Earle Works were. Prisoner replied, 'It is no good you going up there; there is nothing there only some papers and old stuff. I have done no advertising since long before Christmas, and am trying to send the customers their goods. I stopped all advertisements so that I could keep orders out. I have not a penny in the world. That is my wife's business; I am managing it for her.' Witness then took prisoner to the post office, where he received two registered letters – one from a Mrs. Butt, of Malvern, which contained two sovereigns and 4s 6d in stamps; the other letter was from Mr. Hardy, of Leicester, complaining about the non-delivery of his goods. Witness, accompanied by Superintendent Evans, visited the Earle Works, and there he failed to find any signs of any manufacture whatever, and the place appeared to be deserted. On the 3rd inst witness arrested Tunncliffe at Stoke. To the charge he made no reply. On the following Sunday Tunncliffe made a confession, in which he said he should be a better witness than a prisoner. As regarded the charge of conspiracy against him, he said he did not know what papers to advertise in. When Watson was taken ill he asked him to look after his business, and also to see after the back orders. Whatever he had done in the matter had been done at the request of Watson, and he had paid all moneys into the bank. When he told Watson that he had received letters of complaint Watson said, 'They cannot hurt me; it is a bona fide business.' Witness received the female prisoner into custody that morning.

In reply to the bench witness said he communicated with 200 persons, and had received eighty-seven complaints. Forty-five persons had sent the prisoner Watson money and received goods; thirteen persons had not received either money or goods.

At this point the Court adjourned until ten o'clock this morning."

[The prisoners were eventually committed to the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions. On 27th June 1893, Walter Watson (36), potter; Albert Tunncliffe (32), clerk, and Elizabeth Achaan Bradshaw (28), barmaid, were charged with conspiracy to defraud, and found guilty. Watson and Tunncliffe were sentenced to five years' penal servitude, and the case against Bradshaw was dismissed.]

County Advertiser 18/12/1897

"William Humphries, chainmaker, of High Street, Quarry Bank, was charged with drunkenness and refusing to quit the licensed premises of the SPRING MEADOW HOUSE, and also with allowing his dog to be at large unmuzzled. *William Foley*, landlord of the SPRING MEADOW HOUSE, stated that on the 19th of November, he requested defendant who was drunk to leave the house but he refused to do so. He became very violent, kicked the piano and tore one of the customers hat up. He also tried to set his dog on witness and pulled its muzzle off.

Inspector Given gave evidence.

Defendant was fined 5s and costs for drunkenness, 10s and costs for refusing to quit, and 1s and costs for allowing his dog to be at large unmuzzled. The total was £1 17s 6d."

County Advertiser 21/1/1899 - Advert

"Old Hill. Important Sale of Valuable Freehold Property.

E. H. Boilstone has been instructed by Mr. E. H. Westwood, to Sell by Auction, at the House of Mr. *Wm. Foley*, SPRING MEADOW INN, Old Hill, on Tuesday, January 31st, 1899, at Six for Seven o'clock in the Evening....."

County Advertiser 28/10/1899 - Advert

"Wanted, General, suitable for Public-house.

Apply, Mrs. *Foley*, SPRING MEADOW INN, Old Hill."

County Advertiser 11/8/1900

"Local Miners and the Wages Question.

On Saturday evening the members of the lodge held at the SPRING MEADOW HOUSE, Old Hill, celebrated their first anniversary, when a large number sat down to an excellent supper. Afterwards a miner presided, and an address was delivered by Mr. B. Winwood (miners' agent) upon the wages question. He remarked that the miners might do worse by not accepting the settlement suggested at the conference in London the previous week, as the terms, if agreed upon by both sides, meant a 15 per cent increase in their wages, and by their acceptance they would of course reach the maximum point of 60 per cent above the 1888 prices. The increase had to be paid in three instalments of 5 per cent each, in October, January, and February next, and he was bound to confess that he did not think the maximum would be obtained as quickly under the existing arrangements as it would be should the recommendations of the recent conference be adopted. He also pointed out that the way in which the advance was to be conceded would not be so likely to injure the coal trade or affect prices as though the whole of the 15 per cent were granted at once. He thought the miners could venture to feel pleased with such results from their united efforts, and urged them to stick to their combination. Resolutions in support of the Federation and organisation was passed, and the meeting also endorsed the opinions of Mr. Winwood with regard to the wages question."

County Express 26/1/1901

"*Giles Bloomer*, landlord of the SPRING MEADOW beerhouse, Old Hill, was charged with permitting drunkenness. Mr. McCardle (instructed by Messrs. Redfern and Co.) defended.

Inspector Given said at 5.15pm on the 9th he visited the defendant's house and found a man named Thomas Norwood sitting on a bench in the front room with a pint cup half full of ale in front of him. Norwood drank the ale and went towards the doorway staggering, and he eventually fell. Defendant expressed his sorrow, and said he did not think Norwood was so bad, and he hoped

the inspector would overlook it. He had been killing a pig or two, and Norwood had been helping him, and had not had beyond his share of drink, and one other pint. Police-constable Plant also gave evidence.

Mr. McCardle, for the defence, suggested it was necessary that the prosecution should prove the man Norwood was drunk within the knowledge of the defendant, and that the defendant actually permitted him to remain in his house knowing he was drunk. He submitted that the evidence did not show anything about Norwood's state to attract the defendant's attention. The pig killing began at 2 o'clock and lasted till 5. The share of drink Norwood had during that time would not be more than 1½ pints, and only a pint afterwards, so that in all he had only 2½ pints. From what he knew of miners, this was not their capacity of drinking. Defendant had only recently gone into the public house, and, having invested all his savings in it, it was hardly likely he would run the risk of having a drunken man on his premises.

The defendant, his wife, Henry Millard, and George Jackson gave evidence, and caused some amusement by their answers as to the pig killing.

Defendant was fined £5 and costs."

AND

"Thomas Norwood, Spring Meadow, Old Hill, was fined 10s and costs for being drunk on licensed premises."

1901 Census

212, Halesowen Road – SPRING MEADOW INN

[1] *Samuel Boddis* (24), vermin trap maker and innkeeper, born Wolverhampton;

[2] Florence Rose Boddis (26), wife, born Wednesfield;

[3] Gertie Saffley (19), sister-in-law, unmarried, barmaid, born Wednesfield:

County Express 21/12/1901

"Joseph Johnson, of 27, Spring Meadow, Old Hill, pleaded guilty to a charge of refusing to quit the SPRING MEADOW TAV-ERN, Old Hill, on December 14th, and also to a charge of assaulting the landlord, *Samuel Boddis*. According to the landlord, Johnson went into the house in a drunken condition, and upon being asked to leave refused to do so. The landlord went to eject him when Johnson struck him in the mouth. Upon the landlord threatening to send for the police the defendant left the house. There was a further charge against the defendant of being drunk and disorderly on the same date. PC Gratage proved this offence. For refusing to quit defendant was fined 10s and costs, for the assault 1s and costs, and for being drunk and disorderly was ordered to pay the costs."

County Advertiser 19/1/1907

"The appeal recently issued by the miners' agent (Mr. B. Winwood) has had the effect of materially strengthening the organisation in Old Hill, Blackheath, Rowley Regis, and Halesowen districts. As a result it has been found necessary to start a new lodge at the DUKE WILLIAM INN, Old Hill, and also to revive an old society at the SPRING MEADOW INN, Old Hill, whilst there is some talk of a movement in Halesowen for the formation of a new lodge. The whole of the miners are receiving an advance of 5 per cent in their wages, conceded by the masters when the terms for the re-establishment of the Conciliation Board were discussed."

1911 Census

244, Halesowen Road – SPRING MEADOW INN

[1] *Fred Cobourne* (44), public house manager, born Quarry Bank;

[2] Clara Jane Cobourne (43), wife, married 3 years, born Cradley;

[3] James Bertram Cobourne (1), son, born Quarry Bank:

Frederick Cobourne, beer retailer, 244, Halesowen Road. [1912]

Evening Despatch 20/7/1914

"The members of the Old Hill Branch of the National Federation of Miners had their annual dinner on Saturday, the club rooms at the DUKE WILLIAM, High Street; the SPRING MEADOW, Halesowen Road; and the KINGS HEAD, Elbow Street, being used for the occasion....."

Jesse Woodhall = Jesse Woodall

See also HORSE SHOE.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/9/1929 - Advert

"By Order of Messrs. Atkinsons Brewery Limited and Messrs. Peter Walker & Co. Limited.

In The Black Country Industrial Area, and Embracing Properties in Staffordshire and Worcestershire.

Important Sale In Separate Lots, of 45 Freehold Licensed Houses, some with adjoining properties, and including 36 Fully-licensed Houses, 8 On-Beer Houses and 1 Off-License, situate in.....

Old Hill and Cradley.....

SPRING MEADOW, Old Hill.....

Boswell & Tomlins, FAI, in conjunction with William Fowler, Bewlay & Co., Will submit the above for Sale by Public Auction, in 45 Lots (subject to Conditions of Sale), at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, on Monday, October 14, 1929, Commencing at 3.30 pm Promptly.

Printed particulars may be obtained from the Solicitors, Messrs. Redfern and Co., 25, Colmore Row, Birmingham; or from the

Auctioneers, Messrs. Boswell and Tomlins, FIA, 88 and 89, Darlington Street, Wolverhampton (Tel. No.1116 (two lines), Telegrams 'Auctions'), and Messrs. William Fowler, Bewlay and Co., 59, Temple Row, Birmingham (Tel. Midland 6120)."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/10/1929

"An important sale of freehold licensed premises in the Black Country was held at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, yesterday, when Messrs. Boswell and Tomlins, Wolverhampton, and Messrs. William Fowler, Bewlay and Co., Birmingham, offered 45 lots, the vendors of which were Messrs. Atkinsons Brewery Ltd, and Messrs. Peter Walker and Co. Ltd.

Of the 45 lots which were situate at West Bromwich, Tipton, Dudley, Brierley Hill, Old Hill, and Stourbridge, 32 were sold at the sale, and these realised over £80,000.....

SPRING MEADOW, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, was sold for £3,300."

Dudley Herald 27/6/1931

"George Sperring licensee of the SPRING MEADOW, Old Hill was fined £5 with £3 3s costs for suffering gambling on his licensed premises.....

They [the Bench] did so hoping that he would in future conduct his house in such a way that never again could such a charge be brought against him. They were of the opinion that if he honoured their faith in him his license would be renewed at the end of the licensing year."

1939 Register

244, Halesowen Road

[1] *George Sperring*, date of birth 13/5/1902, licensed victualler, married, AFS Rowley Regis;

[2] Doris Sperring, dob 22/4/1905, unpaid domestic duties, married;

A publican's license was granted on 2nd February 1949.

It was transferred to a full license on 27th April 1949.

Birmingham Daily Post 30/6/1955

"As a fire engine from the Old Hill section of Staffordshire fire brigade was answering a call to an outbreak at the works of B. Priest and Co., Old Hill last night, it collided with the corner of a public house at the junction of Halesowen Road and Spring Meadow Road. Halesowen Road was partially blocked for some time. Another engine went to the fire which was quickly extinguished."

Sandwell Evening Mail 22/8/1991

"A sponsored darts marathon will take place on Saturday at the SPRING MEADOW, Halesowen Road, Old Hill. Eight players are taking part. Money will go to Mascot – Make a Sick Child's Dream Come True."

Medda Villans (Aston Villa fan club) was based here. [2005]

Halesowen News 21/8/2012

"A Cradley Heath dad who suffered a stroke aged just 38 has raised £800 for two organisations which helped him back to health. Richard Plant held a retro music night at the SPRING MEADOW pub in Old Hill to raise cash for Rowley Regis Hospital and The Stroke Association. The father of one was driving down the M6 last September when he suffered a stroke."

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.

Express & Star 12/7/2018

"A woman was taken to hospital after a fire broke out in the home above a Black Country pub. Crews from Haden Cross Fire rushed to the SPRING MEADOW pub, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, just before 7pm yesterday. The blaze started in the front bedroom upstairs with customers rushing up to tackle it with fire extinguishers as it spread.

Dramatic footage posted to social media by firefighters on the scene shows the extent of the damage left behind – with walls charred and multiple rooms of the living quarter devastated by the fire.

Three people were treated on the scene for smoke inhalation and a woman was sent to Russells Hall Hospital but was later released – with crews also working to rescue a cat from the fire. In their online post Haden Cross Fire also urged members of the public to close doors in a bid to limit the damage and spread of fire.

Haden Cross Fire watch commander Justin Bayliss, 39, whose colleague crew commander Andrew Pincher was on the scene responding, said, 'It was last night around 7pm just before the football kicked off. Three people were treated on scene for smoke inhalation. A couple of people in the bar went up with fire extinguishers. One lady went to hospital but was released and a cat was rescued. Crews were there around two and a half hours. The downstairs has remained relatively intact with just a bit of water damage. I think it has been put down as accidental. We went back just to check on the pub itself. The incident has been closed.'"

[2018]

Closed [2019]

Halesowen News 14/6/2021

“The driver of a car which slammed into a wall at an Old Hill pub ran off. The car crashed into the wall of the SPRING MEADOW pub on Spring Meadow, off Halesowen Road. Police and firefighters were at the scene at 8pm on Friday (June 11). Two crews from Haden Cross Fire Station went to the incident at the pub, which has been closed for a number of years.....”

It reopened on 17th September 2021 following restoration.

[2021]

STORK

Four Ways, CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

LICENSEES

John Simons [] – 1866);

NOTES

County Advertiser 13/10/1866 - Advert

“STORK INN, Four Ways, Cradley Heath.

Neat Household Furniture, Eight-Day Spring Clock, &c.

Mr. Chandler will Sell by Auction, on Monday Next, October 15th, 1866, at Eleven o'clock, the useful Household Furniture, consisting of Tent and Iron French Bedsteads, Wool Mattresses, Bed Clothing, Beds, Wash Stands, Dressing Tables, Toilet Glasses, Maple-painted Chest of Drawers, Windsor Chairs, Square, Centre, and other Tables, Mahogany Sofa, Kitchen Screen, large Double Cupboard, Eight-day Spring Clock, Kitchen Requisites, and Effects of Mr. *J. Simons*, at the STORK INN, Four Ways, Cradley Heath, being surplus Goods not taken to by the in-coming Tenant.”

County Advertiser 13/10/1866 - Notice

“Notice to Debtors and Creditors.

All Persons having any Claims or Demands on the Estate of the late *John Simons*, of the STORK INN, Four Ways, Cradley Heath, in the County of Stafford, Beer Retailer, Deceased, are requested to transmit the full particulars thereof to me forthwith. And all Persons who are Indebted to the said Estate are required to pay the amount of their respective Debts to me on or before the 29th day of October, 1866, otherwise legal proceedings will be instituted for the recovery thereof, without further notice.

Dated this 11th day of October, 1866.

Alfred Chandler, Auctioneer, Cradley Heath, 11th October, 1866.”

SWAN

25, (17), (23) Providence Street / Foxoak Street, (Union Street), CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

George Burford [1882], [1887]

Alfred Aston Snr. [1893]

Alfred Aston Jnr.

Thomas Oliver Ltd, West Bromwich [1920]

William Butler and Co. Ltd. (acquired on 24th April 1945)

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

Stanley John ‘Stan’ Owen (acquired c.1979)

Holdens Brewery (leased from 1983)

LICENSEES

Joseph Bagley [1868]
William Hadley [] – 1869);
Alphonso Shaw (1869 – 1873);
Richard Burford (1873 – 1875);
Alfred Aston Snr. (1875 – 1928);
Alfred Aston Jnr. (1928);
Harold W Jasper (1928 – 1963);
Brian John Bevan (1963 – 1965);
Arthur Sutton (1965 – 1966);
John Howard Bridgens (1966 – 1968);
Joan Billingham (1968);
Eric John Spooner (1968 – 1976);
Clark Edward Stevens (1976 – 1978);
Elizabeth Law (1978);
Stan Owen (1980 – 1982);
Ted Lloyd (1982 – []
Carl Kneeshaw [1983] – 1988);
Ashton Eric Greenwood (1988);
John Nicholls (1990 – [1994]
Mrs. Shirley Bishop (1997 – [1998]
Gary Steven Mole [2007]
Paul Mole [2013] – [2014]
Simon Giles [2015]
Matt Howl [2018]

NOTES

17, Providence Street [1881], [1891], [1901], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1924], [1932]
23, Providence Street [1896]
25, Providence Street [1939], [1940], [1983], [1997]

It was known locally as “Jaspers”.

It had a beerhouse license.

It was a home brew house.

County Advertiser 30/1/1869 - Advert

“William Hadley, SWAN INN, Newtown, Cradley Heath, begs to inform the Creditors of *Joseph Bagley*, who formerly occupied the said house, that he paid him for stock and fixtures, according to the valuation, on December 14th, 1868, and that he has no claim on him whatever.”

Alphonso Shaw = Alphens Shaw = Alphonsus Shaw = Alfred Shaw

1871 Census

Union Street – SWAN INN

- [1] *Alphens Shaw* (41), beer seller, born Kingswinford;
- [2] Jane Shaw (38), wife, born Kingswinford;
- [3] Harry Shaw (16), son, anchor smith’s striker, born Kingswinford;
- [4] George Shaw (15), son, labourer at furnace, born Kingswinford;
- [5] Sarah Shaw (12), daughter, scholar, born Kingswinford;
- [6] Margaret Shaw (10), daughter, scholar, born Kingswinford;
- [7] Elizabeth Shaw (8), daughter, scholar, born Kingswinford;

County Advertiser 12/8/1871 - Advert

“Stolen or Strayed, a Black and Tan Dog, with a white mark on his breast.
Anyone returning him to the WHITE SWAN, Cradley Heath, will be rewarded for their trouble

Alfred Aston = Alfred Austin

County Express 16/10/1875 - Advert

“Providence Street, Cradley Heath.

Mr. T. Homer will Sell by Auction, on Tuesday Next, October 19th 1875, Seven Pairs of Smiths’ Bellows, Six Sets of Chain Makers’ Tools, Five Water Boshes, and Fire Irons, Vices, Anvils, Tongs, Harness, &c, &c, (under distraint for rent), removed for convenience of Sale to the SWAN INN, Providence Street, Cradley Heath.
Sale to commence at 11 o’clock.”

County Advertiser 29/1/1876

“James Mansell was charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the SWAN INN, Cradley Heath, on the 17th inst, and further with damaging a shirt and a pane of glass.

Alfred Aston, landlord of the above inn, said defendant came to his house, on the 17th, drunk, and behaved in a very disorderly manner. He refused to supply him with ale, and ordered him out of the house, but he refused to go. He then attempted to eject him, and defendant broke a pane of glass and tore his shirt, the damage amounting to 4s 4d.

Defendant was fined 5s and costs on the first charge, and ordered to pay the damages and costs in the latter.”

County Express 26/2/1876

“*Alfred Aston*, landlord of the SWAN INN, Providence Street, Cradley Heath, was charged with having sold a quantity of ale after 11 o’clock on the night of the 15th inst.

Police-constable Cooper said that on the night in question, about 11-15, he was on duty near to the back door of the defendant’s house in company with Police-constable Styles, and he saw a man carrying a can of ale. He accosted the man, and on tasting the ale, found it was fresh and appeared to having been recently filled. In the meantime defendant came up and in answer to a question put to him, said that he had filled the ale a considerable time before, but the man had been holding a conversation with him in the brewhouse, and that accounted for his presence at that time. Witness, on going into the house, found two men there. One was drunk and very abusive. Witness observed that it was after 11 o’clock when the person entered the house for the ale.

Police-constable Styles gave similar evidence.

The Bench cautioned defendant and inflicted a fine of 5s and costs.”

Dudley Herald 22/7/1876

“*Alfred Aston*, landlord of the SWAN INN, Cradley Heath, was charged with having in his possession on the 4th May, 12lbs of sugar, not being for the necessary or ordinary use of his family, he not being licensed to brew with sugar. Mr. Hayes appeared for the defendant, who pleaded guilty.

Mr. Hayes addressed the magistrates for the defence, and said that although his client had pleaded guilty to the charge, the sugar was really for the use of his family.

Mr. Hingley said he would like to know how it was the defendant was summoned if that was the case.

Mr. Perry, solicitor, Stourbridge, who prosecuted in behalf of the Excise authorities, stated that it was on account of the sugar being found on the top of a cask in the cellar.

Mr. Brain, supervisor of Excise, corroborated this statement, and added that there were also a number of paper bags in the cellar which had also contained sugar.

The Magistrates refused to make any recommendation that the fine should be reduced, and fined the defendant in the mitigated penalty of £50.”

1881 Census

17, Providence Street – SWAN INN

[1] *Alfred Aston* (35), cooper and publican, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Emma J. Aston (35), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Laura Aston (10), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Alfred Aston* (7), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Ellen Aston (5), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Francis J. Aston (3), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[7] William T. T. Aston (1), son, born Rowley Regis;

[8] Thomas S. Tromans (71), father-in-law, widower, boot and shoe maker, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 15/10/1881

“On Wednesday last Mr. E. Hooper held an inquest at the SWAN INN, Providence Street, Cradley Heath, on the body of William Thomas Tromans *Aston*, aged 2 years, the son of the landlord.

On the 24th ult the boy’s mother had taken a pan of boiling water from the fire, and set it down on the kitchen floor. The boy, who was playing in the kitchen at the time, fell backwards over it, and was so badly scalded that he died on the 9th inst. He was attended by Dr. Standish.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Dudley and District News 6/5/1882 - Advert

“To Coopers. Wanted, a good Dry Cask Maker.

Apply, *Alfred Aston*, Cooper, &c, Cradley Heath.”

Dudley and District News 13/5/1882

“Nehemiah Stafford, Pear Street, Old Hill, cooper, was summoned by *Alfred Aston*, Cradley Heath, cooper, to recover the sum of £1 5s 6d for money advanced on work and 10s for loss sustained in lieu of 14 days’ notice.

Complainant said defendant had drawn the first amount in various sums at different times.

Defendant said he had been working for the complainant but during the past year he had not had a fortnights work. The money was lent him when he was out of work and because complainant had no work he told him that he might go and look for work.

The Bench ordered defendant to pay £1 5s 6d in two months.”

County Express 2/9/1882 - Notice

“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 or Division of Rowley Regis, and to whom it may concern.

I, *Alfred Aston*, Beerhouse Keeper, now residing at the SWAN, Cradley Heath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, do Hereby Give Notice that it is my intention to apply, at the Adjourned General Annual Licensing Meeting, for the Division of Rowley Regis, to be holden at the Public Office, at Old Hill, in the said County, on the 27th day of September instant, for a Seven Days’ License to hold an Excise License to sell Beer and Cider by Retail, to be consumed on and off the premises, situate at Cradley Heath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis aforesaid, in pursuance of the Act 11, George IV, and 1Wm. IV, Cap. 64, and Acts amending the same, of which said premises one George Burford is the owner, and the same are of the annual value by law required, and are now in my own occupation.

Given under my hand this 1st day of September, 1882. *Alfred Aston*.

Witness: Frank Harris, Clerk to Mr. John Wright, Solicitor, Cradley Heath.”

Dudley and District News 30/9/1882

“Old Hill Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. Oldershaw, Blackheath, applied on behalf of Thomas Hadley, the proprietor of the HANDEL HOTEL, Blackheath, for a six days’ license to be altered to a seven days’. Mr. J. Wright, Cradley Heath, made a similar application on behalf of *Alfred Aston*, of Providence Street, Cradley Heath. Mr. Wright explained that the application was made really in the interests of the landlord of the premises to which the license was attached. Some time ago it was a seven days’ license; but, without the sanction of the landlord, it was reduced to a six days’, which had materially lessened the value of the property. Both applications were refused.”

Dudley and District News 6/1/1883

“A complimentary supper in honour of the return of Mr. C. S. Cave as a member of the Rowley School Board was given on Thursday evening at the house of Mr. *Alfred Aston*, SWAN INN, Providence Street, Cradley Heath. Between twenty and thirty gentlemen sat down to an excellent supper, served in a manner which reflected great credit upon the host and hostess.....”

Dudley and District News 8/3/1884

“*Alfred Aston*, of the SWAN INN, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 23rd of February. The case was dismissed.”

County Express 15/3/1884

“William Wright, Cradley Heath, was charged with being drunk on the premises of *Alfred Aston*, the SWAN INN, Cradley Heath, on the 23rd ult. Police-constable Tytherley and another officer visited the premises about ten o’clock at night, and found the defendant very drunk. A fine of 1s and costs was imposed.”

County Advertiser 3/4/1886 - Advert

“Rowley Regis Local Board Election, 1886.

The following Gentlemen, who are all Liberals and thoroughly interested in the Working Classes, have been Nominated as Candidates to represent Rowley Regis at the Board of Guardians, and ask the Ratepayers and Owners to Record their Votes in their favour.

Geo. Wood, Tividale, Brick Manufacturer; Benj. Hadley, Blackheath, Gentleman; David Willetts, Cradley Heath, Nail and Chain Manufacturer; *Alfred Aston*, Cradley Heath, Cooper and Brewer.

Nominated by Mr. Geo. Green, Esq.

Do Not Allow the Tories to Tamper with your Voting Papers.”

Birmingham Daily Post 1/9/1886

“Yesterday an inquest was held at the SWAN INN, Cradley Heath, before Mr. Hooper, coroner, on the body of Maud Ella Watts (3), who was found drowned in a well at the back of her parent’s premises, on Friday last.

Sarah Ann Watts, mother of deceased, stated that her daughter left home at about 9.30am, and as she did not return at dinner-time, and not being able to ascertain her whereabouts she and her husband sounded the well, and found the body of her child at the bottom.

The Coroner said he did not think in the whole of his experience he had met such a case of gross neglect, for the well was quite level with the ground, and in his opinion, it was a regular ‘death trap.’ He severely censured the parents for not having had the well covered over, saying that they had from their neglect largely contributed to the death of the child, and it was his duty to en-

force them to have it made safe immediately.
A verdict of Accidentally Drowned was returned.”

Birmingham Mail 28/9/1887

“Old Hill Adjourned Licensing Sessions.

At the Old Hill Police Court today, before Messrs. W. Holcroft and W. Bassano, Mr. Travis applied for a seven days’ license, on behalf of Mr. *Aston*, of the SWAN INN, Cradley Heath. He pointed out that the house had been licensed for the sale of beer for many years, and originally had a seven days’ license instead of six, but the occupier of the house closed it on Sundays, and thus lost a very valuable privilege. He now asked the Bench to reinstate the old license. With regard to encouraging Sunday trade his client was not an advocate of it, and was quite willing to close providing that the whole of the publicans did so. It had made a material difference to applicant’s trade, being compelled to close on Sundays, as the customers that went to the house for beer on the week days were compelled to go elsewhere on the Sunday. The application was granted.”

Dudley Mercury 3/3/1888

“Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, of South Staffordshire, held an inquest at the SWAN INN, Cradley Heath, on Tuesday afternoon, touching the death of Elizabeth Weston (61), of Foxoak Street. After having her supper on Wednesday last, she was walking up stairs, and after getting about half way she fell down. She was picked up by her daughter and put to bed. Next day she complained of a pain in the side. A doctor was sent for, but in the interim she died.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

In May 1888 an inquest was held here on Esther Ann Tilley, 2½ years old, who was killed while crossing Lord Dudley’s railway at Saltwells. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned. The jury said that a man ought to be stationed at the crossing to keep children off the line.

Alfred Aston was elected to the Rowley Board of Guardians in 1889.

Birmingham Daily Post 26/3/1891

“Rowley. Appointment of Overseers. At the Old Hill Police Court, yesterday, the following were appointed overseers for the parish of Rowley for the ensuing year *Alfred Aston*.”

1891 Census

17, Providence Street

- [1] *Alfred Aston* (45), beerseller and cooper, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Eliza J. *Aston* (45), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Laura *Aston* (20), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Alfred Aston* (17), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Ellen *Aston* (15), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Francis J. *Aston* (13), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Charles Fokes (26), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 29/7/1893 - Notice

“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 or Division of Rowley Regis, in the said County, and to all whom it may concern.

I, *Alfred Aston*, Beerhouse Keeper, now residing at the SWAN INN, Cradley Heath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, do Hereby Give Notice that it is my intention to Apply, at the General Annual Licensing Meeting, for the Division of Rowley Regis, to be holden at the Public Office, at Old Hill, in the said County, on the 23rd day of August, 1893, for the Grant of a License or Certificate authorising me to apply for and hold an Excise License for the Sale by Retail at the House and Premises, situate and known as the SWAN INN, Cradley Heath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis aforesaid, of all Intoxicating Liquors to be consumed either on or off the Premises in pursuance of the Intoxicating Liquor Licensing Act, 1828, and Acts amending the same, of which said Premises I am the owner, and the same are of the annual value by law required, and are now in my own occupation. Given under my hand this 25th day of July, 1893.

Alfred Aston.”

County Advertiser 26/8/1893

“The annual licensing sessions of the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday.....

Mr. John Wright applied, on behalf of *Alfred Aston*, owner and occupier of the SWAN INN, Providence Street, for a spirit license, and in doing so pointed out that frequent applications were made to Mr. *Aston* for liquor, and he was unable to supply it. The nearest full-licensed public house was 250 yards away, and the population was thick and growing rapidly. The character of the applicant was good, and he hoped the Bench would grant the application.

Mr. *Aston* gave evidence in support of these statements, and said the house was rated at £31 a year.

A memorial against the granting of the license was presented by Mr. Goodman (magistrates’ clerk), and it was also opposed by Mr. Clift, who said the evil of drunkenness would be increased by the granting of the application.

Mr. Bassano said the Bench thought if there was a case in the parish in which an old license should be granted it was this case.

They had decided to grant it, and he would like to see all old beerhouses with full licenses, so that the power of the magistrates to

control them would be increased.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 14/10/1893

“The annual meeting of the County Licensing Committee was held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Saturday for the purpose of confirming new licenses and of hearing objections (if any). . . .

The committee confirmed licenses which had been granted to

Alfred Austin, SWAN INN, Cradley Heath (who was represented by Mr. Wright, of Cradley Heath).”

County Advertiser 28/10/1893 - Advert

“Cradley Heath.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. T. Homer, under Bill of Sale, on Monday Next, October 30th, 1893, a capital Bay Mare, about 16 hands high; set of Brass-mounted Harness, Five Sets of Chainmakers’ Tools, including Bellows, Anvils, Stakes, Swages, Oliver Tools, &c, &c; also Weighing Machine, by Avery; Chairs, Clocks, Filters, Gas Fittings, Barometer, by Fitzroy, &c.

The above are removed for convenience to Mr. *A. Aston*’s, the SWAN INN, Providence Street.

Sale at Two o’clock.”

County Advertiser 31/3/1894

“The names of *Alfred Aston* were submitted as overseers for the parish of Rowley, and the Bench gave their sanction to the election of the gentlemen named.”

Alfred Aston, beer retailer and cooper, 23, Providence Street. [1896]

County Express 10/4/1897

“An inquest was held on Wednesday, by Mr. Betham (deputy coroner) at the SWAN INN, Providence Street, upon Benjamin Woodhouse (67), chainmaker, Providence Street. Joseph Woodhouse, Copeland Place, said the deceased, who was his father, had not been in good health for the last few years. On the 31st March he fell downstairs, and died from the accident on the 3rd inst. Dr. Tibbetts, who attended the deceased, said he had concussion of the brain. Deceased had never fallen down the stairs before, but his mother had fallen down there three times. Elizabeth Woodhouse said she was attending on her father. He had a fall downstairs on the 31st March, from which he died on the 3rd inst. He was attending on her mother, who was upstairs, when she heard him fall from the top to the bottom of the stairs. Some of the jury spoke of the dangerous nature of the stairs, and the Coroner said he would request the landlord to have the same attended to. A verdict of Accidental Death was then returned.”

County Express 8/12/1900

“William Bridgwater, of Providence Street, died on Tuesday night from the results of an accident on the 5th inst, when he fell into a vat of vitriol at Messrs. Glaze’s bucket works, Foxoak Street.

It was stated the deceased went to the works in an intoxicated condition, became abusive, and was requested to leave. This he refused to do, so the police were sent for. Just as Police-constable Maisey arrived the deceased fell into a vat of vitriol and died from the injuries he received on Tuesday night. He was attended by Drs. Tibbetts and Fry.

The inquest was held yesterday by Mr. H. A. Pearson, at the SWAN INN, Providence Street, Cradley Heath.

The evidence showed that shortly after two o’clock on the 5th inst deceased returned to work in a very drunken condition, and commenced to quarrel with the workmen. Mr. Walter Glaze, the proprietor, refused to allow deceased to work, and sent for a policeman. Deceased’s brother and a man named William Bird tried to persuade him to go home, but he snatched himself away from Bird, who had got hold of him, and fell headforemost into the vat, which contained nine inches of acid, and a quantity of which deceased swallowed. He was attended by Dr. Fryer, but died on Wednesday from pneumonia following the injuries.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1901 Census

17, Providence Street

[1] *Alfred Aston* (55), brewer, born Cradley Heath;

[2] Emma J. Aston (54), wife, born Cradley Heath;

[3] *Alfred Aston* (27), son, cooper, born Cradley Heath;

[4] Ellen Aston (25), daughter, born Cradley Heath;

[5] Francis J. Aston (23), son, brewer and cooper, born Cradley Heath:

County Advertiser 6/4/1901 - Advert

“Dudley Union. Election of Guardians. Rowley Regis District.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

We desire to express our concurrence and satisfaction that a contest has been amicably avoided.

We shall always endeavour to administer the Poor Laws with equity, and to promote in every way their proper and true working. Especially shall we watch over the particular interests of our own district. Residing amongst you, we shall always esteem it a pleasure to be of service in any shape or form so far as we possibly can consistent with our duties.

We shall not hesitate to try and secure any reforms we think beneficial, provided they do not increase financial burdens.

Economy, progress, and reform is our motto, and assuring you of our best services as your representatives.

We remain, Your obedient Servants, *Alfred Aston*, John Darby, James Gill, Samuel Grove, Joseph Edward Harris.”

County Express 13/12/1902

“Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest at the SWAN INN, Cradley Heath, on Tuesday, concerning the death of Fred Warren (21), a riveter, of Silverthorne Lane, Cradley Heath, who was fatally injured while following his employment at the Cradley Boiler Works on Friday last. Mr. J. E. Ashworth (inspector of factories), was present, and Mr. Sharrocks, of Wolverhampton, watched the proceedings on behalf of the Boilermakers' Association.

Emily Warren, sister of deceased, residing at Banbury, said deceased had described to her how he met with the accident. He went to fetch his riveting machine, when a tank, which was being rolled off a trolley, struck him as he was passing, and wedged him between it and another tank. He died early on Sunday morning.

Frank Bate, a riveter, of Cradley, employed at the works, said he and some other men were engaged in moving the tank off a trolley to the ground, and a scotch was put in the way, but the tank jumped the scotch, and deceased who was near, was wedged in between this tank and another. Witness saw deceased walk out when the tank was removed, and he did not appear to be injured much. He (witness) had warned all the men to keep clear of the tank. In reply to Mr. Ashworth, witness said the tank was 5ft in diameter, and 12ft long, and weighed 27cwt.

Samuel Garret, who was inside the stationary tank, and Wesley Houston gave corroborative evidence.

Dr. DeDenne said he attended deceased before his death, and afterwards made a post mortem examination. He attributed death to peritonitis.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

AND

Banbury Advertiser 11/12/1902

“A sad accident occurred at Cradley Heath, Birmingham, on Saturday, whereby a young man named Fred Warren (21), a member of the G Company of the Banbury Detachment 2nd Volunteer Battalion, Oxfordshire L.I., lost his life. The deceased, whose mother, a widow, lives in West Street, Grimsbury, recently resided at Silverthorne Lane, Cradley Heath, and died on Sunday from the effects of injuries sustained whilst following his employment as a riveter at the Cradley Boiler Works, on the 5th inst. A tank, about twelve feet in length, and weighing 27cwt, was rolled from a trolley down a slope at the works, for the purpose of being riveted. Warning was given to several workmen, but deceased, who was a little distance away, rushed across, and in attempting to pick up a riveting machine, was caught between two tanks, his stomach being crushed. The riveting machine belonged to deceased, and he was afraid of it being smashed by the tank. After the accident deceased walked home, but complained of illness, and died on Sunday from peritonitis. An inquest was held at the SWAN INN, Cradley Heath, on Tuesday, a verdict of Accidental Death being returned. The remains were afterwards removed by rail to Banbury for internment. Much sympathy is felt to the bereaved mother and relatives, and a well-conducted young fellow, and a good Volunteer, and his death is much regretted by his comrades of all ranks. Last season he played in football teams of the Volunteer and Britannia United.

The funeral took place on Wednesday afternoon. Among the floral tributes were wreaths from members of G Company 2nd V.B.O.L.I. and the workmen of Messrs. Barrows and Co., Cherwell Works, where deceased was formerly employed.”

County Express 13/12/1902

“An inquest was held at the SWAN INN, on Tuesday morning, by Mr. A. H. Pearson (coroner) touching the death of Elizabeth Emily Edge, aged five months, infant daughter of William and Susannah Edge, of Newtown Lane, Cradley Heath, who was found dead in bed on Sunday morning. The mother of deceased child said she awoke at about four o'clock and found the child in its usual health, but on waking again at 7.30 she found the child dead.

Dr. Fryer, who was called to deceased, said death was due to convulsions.

A verdict of Natural Causes was returned.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/3/1903

“Yesterday, at Rowley Regis, the magistrates sanctioned the appointment of *Alfred Aston* as the overseers of the parish for the ensuing 12 months.”

Alfred Aston, beer retailer and cooper, 17, Providence Street. [1904]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/4/1905

“A Tipton chainmaker, named Arthur Rose, at the Old Hill Police Court, yesterday, was charged with assaulting Edward Weaver, a chainmaker, of Quarry Bank, on April 17. While he was drinking in the SWAN INN, Cradley Heath, Weaver stated that Rose accused him of having told tales to his employer. He denied the charge, and when he went outside Rose followed him and struck a blow in the side, knocking him into an ashpit. One of his ribs was fractured, and he was rendered unconscious. Rose, who denied the assault, was fined 16s 6d inclusive of costs.”

County Advertiser 26/1/1907

“The Housing Problem at Cradley Heath.....

Mr. F. Woodhouse said It was at bottom a drink problem, and when they had solved the drink problem they would solve the housing problem. He did not think it was right that they should have a publican upon the Board of Guardians.....”

County Advertiser 2/2/1907 - Correspondence

“Licensed Victuallers and Boards of Guardians.

To the Editor of the *Advertiser*.

Sir. With reference to the report of the meeting on the housing problem question in your last week's issue, no doubt I am the 'publican' referred to by Mr. F. Woodhouse, whose discourteous statement I feel it is my duty to take exception to. With regard to a 'publican' not being allowed a seat on the Board of Guardians, I have left this matter entirely to the discretion of the people of Cradley Heath, who have done me the honour of electing me to represent them for nearly twenty years. During this long term of office in that capacity, I have come to the conclusion that the public are much better served by men who are above party service or confine themselves to any one groove, than by faddists or fanatics, who are so narrow-minded and bigoted. Neither politics or anything else have influenced me in my duties, and I have always endeavoured to carry them out on purely impartial and honourable lines to benefit the people of this locality. Such remarks, to my mind, come with the utmost bad taste from Mr. Woodhouse. I should like to ask this gentleman, which is the worst evil or the most injurious to the social advancement of the poor workers – drink, or the intolerable grinding and sweating which has been the chief topic for some time. It has been freely stated that after paying the rent out of their miserable earnings some of the small chainmakers have not had an adequate sum left for their maintenance.

I am prepared to make a fair challenge to Mr. Woodhouse, and invite him to oppose me at the coming election in March next, and I should then be quite content to accept the verdict of the voters interested.

Apologising for trespassing on your valuable space, I remain, yours faithfully.

Alfred Aston, SWAN INN, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 12/9/1908

“Friendly Societies’ Parade. On Wednesday evening the committee of the above met at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Mr. W. Coley presiding over a large attendance. The following was a complete list of those boxes which contained amounts of 1s and upwards.

Mr. *A. Aston*, SWAN INN, 8s 8d.”

County Express 30/4/1910

“In celebration of the recent Liberal victories in the Urban Council and Guardians’ elections, a dinner was held in the Lomey Town schools, Cradley Heath, last evening. Mr. John Fellows, president of the Dudley borough Liberal Association, presided, and had the support of *Alfred Aston* (member of Dudley Board of Guardians).....”

County Express 10/12/1910 - Deaths

“On the 30th November, Emma Jane, wife of Mr. *Alfred Aston*, SWAN INN, Cradley Heath; aged 64 years.”

AND

County Express 10/12/1910 - Acknowledgements

“Mr. *Alfred Aston* and Family, SWAN INN, Cradley Heath, wish to Thank the many sympathisers with them in their sad bereavement.”

1911 Census

Providence Street – SWAN INN

[1] *Alfred Aston* (65), widower, brewer and cooper, born Cradley Heath;

[2] *Alfred Aston Jnr.* (37), son, brewer and cooper, born Cradley Heath;

[3] Francis John Aston (33), son, brewer and cooper, born Cradley Heath:

County Express 7/10/1911

“We regret to record the death, which took place on Saturday at his residence in Compton Road, Cradley Heath, of Mr. John Henry Morton, the lessee and proprietor of the Empire Theatre, Cradley Heath. Mr. Morton succumbed to heart failure after a short illness. In his early years Mr. Morton was an aeronaut, and his many balloon exploits made him famous in many countries

Later, Mr. Morton went on the stage, and gained some eminence as an emotional actor in travelling companies. It was almost 20 years ago when he came to Cradley Heath. He built the Empire Theatre and has managed it ever since.....

The funeral was on Wednesday

The bearers were *Alfred Aston*.....”

County Express 11/5/1912

“Many will hear with regret that Mr. *Alfred Aston*, of the SWAN HOTEL, Cradley Heath, a member of the Dudley Board of Guardians, is suffering from illness and has for two weeks been at an institution in London, where he has undergone two operations. He is now progressing favourably.”

Dudley Chronicle 20/7/1912

“On Wednesday evening a bowling match took place at the SWAN INN, Cradley Heath, between Cradley Heath and the Conservative bowling clubs, the former winning by 54 points.”

Alfred Aston Snr. was also a brewer. [1916]

Black Country Bugle

Letter from G. W. Swingler, Quarry Bank

“.....I remember when *Fred Aston* kept it – and brewed his own beer.....”

Black Country Bugle

Letter from A. Head, Cradley Heath

“.....I can remember Mr. *Aston*, he was a very nice and respectable man who always wore a celluloid shirt front and stiff collar together with a bowler hat.”

Alfred Aston Jnr. was a brewer. [1928]

Gloucester Journal 17/3/1928

“When the license of the SWAN INN, Cradley Heath, was transferred at Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, it was mentioned that the out-going licensee, Mr. *A. Aston*, had held the license for 52 years, being one of the oldest licensees in the country. He had retired from the management of the house in consequence of ill-health.”

Alfred Aston Snr. died in the 2nd quarter of 1928.

Market Harborough Advertiser 15/6/1928

“Mr. *Alfred Aston*, of Cradley Heath, Staffs, who claimed to have held a licence for one house for nearly 60 years, a period longer than any publican in England, died at the age of 83.”

The People 4/11/1928

“Mr. *Alfred Aston*, who held the license of the SWAN INN, Cradley Heath, for nearly 60 years – a record for any publican in England – left £13,054

Harold Jasper was married to Lilian.
See also HOLLY BUSH, and ANCHOR.

Jolly Jasper's Jazz Band was based here. [1930s]

1939 Register

25, Providence Street

[1] *Harold W. Jasper*, date of birth 12/6/1895, licensed victualler, married;

[2] Lilian H. Jasper, dob 29/12/1894, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] Mary (Jasper) Bartlett, dob 12/12/1924, tailor's presser, single;

[4] Cissie Jasper, dob 28/4/1927, at school, single;

[5] William T. Tromans, dob 5/6/1869, chain striker (retired), widowed:

Tipton Herald 22/9/1956

“Cradley Heath Old Age Pensioners Christmas Party Fund will be richer on October 3rd by £55. The money, which will be presented at the SWAN INN, Cradley Heath, is the net result of the newly-formed Detheridge darts competition.

All told, 34 teams from Cradley Heath and its neighbouring districts took part in the competition which was eventually won in front of a 300 crowd by the BIRD IN HAND, Cradley Heath, who beat the ANCHOR 'B' team, also of Cradley Heath.

Secretary C. Burtlett tells me next year's competition will commence some time in March and is expected to attract an even greater number of entries.”

A team from here took part in the Cradley Heath Domino League. [1960]

A team from here took part in the Cradley Heath Darts League. [1970]

A team from here took part in the *Sports Argus* Inn Quiz competition. [1974/5]

It closed in the 1970s.

It was reopened by *Stan Owen*.

Black Country Bugle (October 1980) - Pub of the Month

“.....The pub had lain empty for close on two years when *Stan [Owen]* spotted it and the idea of bringing it back to life came into his mind The SWAN had been vandalised whilst it stood empty and its interior had to be completely renovated This old pub which used to be a favourite haunt of Cradley Heath chainmakers is now one of the most popular taverns in the town Prior to the 1830s, Cradley Heath was a rural area with a scattered population. This was swiftly changed when industry boomed in the area and New Town was built to accommodate a rapidly increasing army of workers.

Chainmaking was thirsty work. New Town Lane ran from the Four Ways towards Netherton. Providence Street, where the SWAN now stands, was part of the new development containing rows of terraced cottages, with chainshops at the rear, and of course, its own pub.

The oldest pub on the site was owned and kept by the Bannisters, well known as enthusiasts for the blood sports.”

John Nicholls was married to June.

Shirley Bishop was married to Andy Bishop.

Halesowen News 20/5/2014

“A help the Heroes fundraising bid is set to strike a chord with regulars at a Cradley Heath pub. The two-day event at the SWAN – known as Jaspers – will kick-off with a karaoke and games night on Sunday (May 25). Ex-serviceman Lee Pearson, who runs the Star for a Night karaoke team, is providing their services free of charge. There will also be video horse racing and a Play Your Cards Right game for guests to enter, with the fun starting at 6pm. A raffle will also be staged with prizes donated by local businesses. On Bank Holiday Monday (May 26) there will be a pig roast and two bands playing at the Providence Street pub for most of the day. Help the Heroes co-ordinator for the West Midlands, ex-serviceman Darren Gethin said it was the first time the pub had been a venue for a fundraiser by the charity and thanked landlord *Paul Mole* for his support. He said, ‘There’ll be lots of good entertainment and we’re hoping for a big turnout to raise lots of money for the charity.’ Help The Heroes merchandise, including hoodies, t-shirts and mugs, will also be on sale.”

[2019]

Closed [2020]

Dudley News 31/3/2020

“Plans have been submitted to convert a former Cradley Heath pub into a home. Proposals have been submitted to transform the SWAN pub on Providence Street, at the junction with Foxoak Street, into a four-bedroom house. The pub, also formerly known as Jaspers, which is opposite Tesco in Cradley Heath, closed in 2018. Plans, from Mr. D. Hayer, to convert the site into a four-bedroom home with two lounges, a lobby, study and utility room have been submitted to Sandwell Council. The pub was previously offered for sale for £179,999 by Matthew Phillips Surveyors.”

SWAN

55, Rowley Village, (55, The Village), ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

Benjamin Dando [1884]
Henry Heath [1884], [1887]

LICENSEES

William Adams [1818]
Laister [1831]
Thomas Glaze [1834] – [1835]
John Adams [1841] – [1845]
Mrs. Susannah Adams [1849] – [1854]
Henry Harley [] – **1859**;
Richard Huiton* (**1859** – [])
Richard Hinton* [1861]
George Read Challinor [1862] – **1865**;
Sarah Jane Slim (**1865** – **1866**);
Thomas Adams (**1866** – [])
John Southall [1868] – **1870**;
Mrs. Phoebe Southall (**1870** – [1872])
Edmund Palmer [1873] – **1882**;
Henry Heath (**1882** – [])
Henry Banks [] – **1883**;
Benjamin Dando (**1883** – [])
Mrs. Sarah Ann Tromans [1884] – [1892]
Henry Heath [1892]
Harry Tromans [] – **1893**)
William Henry Taylor [1894] – [1911]
Samuel Tromans [1912] – [1913]

NOTES

55, Rowley Village [1881], [1891], [1901], [1904], [1908], [1911]
5, The Village [1911]

It was situated on the right hand side of Rowley Village, facing downhill.

WHITE SWAN [1856], [1861], [1864], [1864], [1865], [1866], [1871]
OLD SWAN [1899], [1900], [1904], [1908], [1912]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 11/6/1827 - Advert

"Freeholds In Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Jesse Wright, at the SWAN INN, Rowley Regis, on Friday the 15th day of June, 1827, at five o'clock in the afternoon, subject to conditions – eighteen Freehold Dwelling Houses, Shops, Gardens, and Premises, in three lots, and a piece of valuable Building Land in small lots, situate in the village of Rowley Regis, by the side of the turnpike road leading from Dudley to Blackheath.

For all further particulars apply to Mr. John Creighton, of Rowley, the Proprietor, or his Attorney, Mr. Fellowes, of Dudley."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 9/5/1831 - Advert

"Freehold Estate At Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, on Tuesday the 17th day of May, 1831, at Mr. *Laister's*, the SWAN INN, in Rowley Regis, at five o'clock in the afternoon, either together or in lots, as may be agreed upon, and subject to conditions – a very desirable Freehold Estate, situate by the side of the turnpike road at the bottom of the pleasant village of Rowley Regis.....

Mr. John Creighton, the proprietor, is now in the neighbourhood of Rowley Regis, and will be willing to treat for the disposal of the estate by private contract....."

1841 Census

Village

[1] *John Adams* (40), publican, born Staffordshire;

[2] *Susanna Adams* (40), born Staffordshire;

[3] *Anne Adams* (7), born Staffordshire:

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 12/2/1844 - Advert

"Sale on Wednesday Next. Freehold Chapel, Dwelling Houses, and Premises, situate in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Newbold, at the SWAN INN, in Rowley aforesaid, on Wednesday next, February 14, at six o'clock in the evening, in the following lots, by order of the Mortgagees, and subject to conditions then to be produced.

Lot 1. All that substantially-erected Building and Premises, situate in the centre of the Village of Rowley aforesaid, and fronting the road leading from thence to Cradley and Stourbridge, as the same is now used as a place of Worship, and is called the Wesleyan Chapel....."

John Adams was also a maltster. [1845]

Worcestershire Chronicle 9/12/1846

"Died, on Friday last, in his 60th year, Mr. *John Adams*, the respected landlord of the SWAN INN, Rowley. The deceased, on the Sunday week preceding his death, sat before a large fire warming his feet, and in doing so burned his shoe and raised a blister on the great toe, which afterwards mortified and caused his death."

1851 Census

Village

[1] *Susannah Adams* (50), widow, victualler, born Halesowen;

[2] *Ann Adams* (17), daughter, born Rowley;

[3] *Elizabeth Daniells* (55), visitor, nailor, born Rowley:

Birmingham Journal 4/7/1855

"On Monday evening last, an inquest was held at the SWAN INN, Rowley, before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, Coroner, on the body of a man named William Beddows, 27 years of age, who was killed by a quantity of coal falling upon him whilst at work in a pit at Portway Hall Colliery, Rowley Regis, on the previous Saturday. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned."

Worcestershire Chronicle 7/11/1855

"G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, held an inquest on Monday at the SWAN INN, Rowley, on Samuel Wild, aged three years, who on the 2nd instant drank some boiling water from the spout of a kettle, which so scalded his throat and stomach that death ensued. Verdict accordingly."

Birmingham Journal 19/1/1856 - Advert

“To be Let, with immediate possession, that excellent and well-frequented Old-Licensed Public House, the WHITE SWAN, situated at Rowley, with capital Malt-house attached. Coming-in moderate.
Apply, J. F. Watkins, Auctioneer, Dudley.”

*probably the same person

1861 Census

Rowley Village – WHITE SWAN

[1] *Richard Hinton* (53), victualler, born Northfield, Worcestershire;

[2] *Hannah Hinton* (46), wife, born Hunsworth, Staffordshire:

George Read Challinor was also a plumber and painter. [1864], [1865]

London Gazette 1/4/1864

“Notice is hereby given, that the following is a copy of an entry made in the book kept by the Chief Registrar of the Court of Bankruptcy for the Registration of Trust Deeds for the benefit of Creditors, Composition and Inspectorship Deeds executed by a Debtor, as required by the Bankruptcy Act, 1861

Title of Deed, whether Deed of Assignment, Composition, or Inspectorship – Composition and Release.

Date of Deed – 7th day of March, 1864.

Date of execution by Debtor – 7th day of March, 1864.

Name and description of the Debtor, as in the Deed – *George Read Challinor*, of the WHITE SWAN INN, Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, and Plumber, Painter, and Glazier.

The names and descriptions of the Trustees or other parties to the Deed, not including the Creditors – *Joseph Green*, of Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, Attorney’s Clerk, of the second part; and the creditors, of the third part.

A short statement of the nature of the Deed – A Deed, whereby, in consideration of 5s in the pound paid to all the creditors of the said debtor, as well those who should not assent thereto as those who should assent thereto, they respectively release the debtor from the debts due from him to them respectively.

When left for Registration – 1st of April, 1864 at half-past eleven o’clock.

C. H. Keene, Registrar.”

Perry’s Bankrupt Gazette 2/4//1864

“*George Read Challinor*, victualler, and plumber, painter and glazier, WHITE SWAN INN, Rowley Regis. Trustee – *Joseph Green*, attorney’s clerk, Oldbury. Composition of 5s.”

Stourbridge Observer 9/9/1865

“On Wednesday last an inquest was held at the SWAN INN, before E. Hooper Esq, District Coroner, touching the death of a female child, who was found in a field. From the evidence adduced, it appears that on Sunday night last, as a man named *Thomas Lowe* was passing down a footpath, through a field belonging to Mr. *Mallin*, farmer, and situate at Portway, he discovered the dead body of a female child. He at once communicated the discovery to Police-constable *Dawes*, who immediately proceeded to the field indicated and took charge of the body of the child.

The jury, after hearing the evidence came to the conclusion that the child was still-born; they accordingly returned a verdict to that effect.

The Coroner intimated that the Police-constable must endeavour to find out, if possible, who was the mother of the child.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/12/1865 - Advert

“WHITE SWAN INN, Rowley Regis.

To be Let, the above Old-established Public House, situated in a very important district. A very steady trade has been carried on for some years. This presents an excellent opportunity to parties desirous of entering the Public Business as a fortune would soon be realised by an enterprising party. Rent moderate.

For further particulars, apply on the Premises; or to Mr. *John Bent*, Auctioneer, 5, Union Street, Dudley.”

Birmingham Journal 20/1/1866 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale, at the WHITE SWAN INN, Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. *John Bent*, on Tuesday Next, January 23.

All the Excellent Brewing Plant, Four-pull Beer Machine, with Piping, excellent Vats, Coolers, Mash Tubs, Hogshead Casks, ½ hogshead ditto, 60 gallon Casks, 40 gallon ditto, 120-gallon Copper Boiler, 80-gallon iron ditto, together with the neat and clean Household Furniture, set four-post Bedsteads, Mattresses, Carpets, feather Beds, together with the usual Kitchen Requisites, belonging to Mrs. *Slim*, who is declining the business.

Sale to commence at Eleven o’clock.

Catalogues made be had from the Auctioneer’s Offices, 5, Union Street, Dudley.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/1/1866 - Advert

“By Mr. *John Bent*, at the WHITE SWAN INN, Rowley Regis, Tomorrow (Tuesday), at Eleven – the Brewing Plant, Household

Furniture &c.”

County Advertiser 4/4/1868

“*John Southall*, landlord of the SWAN INN, Rowley, was charged with assaulting a little girl named Mary Baker, by setting a dog on her. The case was adjourned from last week, when the girl stated that she was playing in front of the defendant’s house, and a dog belonging to defendant ran out of the house and seized her by the arm. She was thrown down, and was very severely bitten. The Bench then adjourned the case in order that a witness might be summoned who was in the defendant’s house at the time. The name of the witness was James Baines, a collier, and he deposed on Wednesday that he was in the house on the day in question. A number of children were making a noise in front of the house. This appeared to annoy defendant, who called a dog to him, and tapped it on the back, saying ‘Go out and bite ’em.’ The dog ran growling away, and in a few minutes afterwards witness heard that a girl had been badly bitten on the arm.

In reply to the charge, the defendant denied he encouraged the dog to bite the girl.

The Bench imposed a fine of 2s 6d and costs; in default of payment, fourteen days’ hard labour.

The defendant was removed declaring his intention of going to prison.”

Stourbridge Observer 20/2/1869

“At the Petty Sessions, on Wednesday last, before F. D. L. Smith and F. W. G. Barrs, Esqrs, George and John Payne were charged with assaulting *Phoebe Southall*, on the 9th inst. Mr. Lowe defended.

From the evidence of complainant it appears that George had just come out of prison, and dressed himself with blue ribbons. He then came into her house, which is a public, and knocked her down, beat and kicked her, and made use of abusive language. The reason he beat her was because she was a witness against George a short time ago.

Joyce Siviter proved seeing defendant throw stones.

Three witnesses were called for the defence.

John Payne was fined 5s and costs, in default 21 days; George Payne 1s and costs, or 14 days.”

Birmingham Daily Post 25/12/1869

“On Wednesday afternoon, Mr. Bayley, Deputy Coroner, held an inquest at the SWAN INN, Rowley, on the body of *John Southall*, aged thirty, who came by his death under the following distressing circumstances. The deceased, who was landlord of the house where the inquest was held, worked as a miner at the Tump Pit, in the colliery of Messrs. Dawes. On Monday last deceased acted as ‘cager’ and about three o’clock in the afternoon two miners went to him and said they wished to ascend. Deceased said, ‘All right; I’ll go up with you.’ Upon this a lad said to deceased, ‘Jack, I’ll ring off.’ Deceased replied, ‘No; I’ll do it myself.’ He then stepped upon the cage and gave the signal; but in reaching his waistcoat, which was hanging close to, he was thrown from the cage as it left the ground, and received a violent blow in the stomach from the edge of the cage. The blow knocked him into the ‘sump’ which was about forty yards deep, and contained some water. His body was not recovered till about two hours afterwards, and of course at that time life was quite extinct. There could be no blame attached to anyone, as the deceased fell from the top inset, and it being absolutely necessary for the sump to be left uncovered.

The Jury returned verdict of Accidental Death.

Mr. Breakwell, the miners’ agent for the district, was present during the inquiry, and explained to the Jury the peculiar nature of the accident. He said that there was not another pit in the whole district similar to it.”

County Advertiser 12/2/1870

“The following transfers were allowed.....

SWAN, Rowley, from *John Southall* (deceased) to *Phoebe Southall*.”

Stourbridge Observer 29/10/1870

“Joseph Horton, a nailer, residing at Bromley, was charged with cutting and wounding a woman named Sarah Rose.

Prosecutrix deposed that on Monday last, about eleven o’clock, she went to the SWAN INN, Rowley, for a pint of beer. She left soon after, and was proceeding down the street when the prisoner went up to her, and after some angry words stabbed her in the throat. It was a knife or something sharp that struck her. The blood spurted out, and he then knocked her down, and she became insensible. When she recovered consciousness the prisoner was upon her striking her, and she shouted, ‘Murder,’ and some one went and pulled him off her. She stated that she had kept prisoner’s company, and he was jealously minded.

William Hodgetts said he saw complainant on the ground, with prisoner lying upon her beating her. He pulled him off, but he broke from witness’s hold and attacked her a second time, when another man went up and assisted. Prisoner was given into custody, and complainant taken to a surgeon.

Mr. D. W. Phillips, surgeon, deposed that he saw complainant, and upon examination found she had a punctured wound, more than an inch in length and half an inch in depth, in the neck. The woman was greatly exhausted from loss of blood. It was a dangerous wound, and indeed ‘it was almost a miracle that she was there today to tell her tale.’ The wound was inflicted in a dangerous position, and if it had been an eighth of an inch deeper, the carotid artery would have been cut.

PC Slinn proved apprehending the prisoner.

Upon being charged in the usual manner, prisoner said, ‘I did strike her, and I shan’t say I didn’t; but I had nothing in my hand as I know of.’

He was committed to take his trial at the next Sessions.”

[There was no prosecution at the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.]

1871 Census

Rowley Village – WHITE SWAN

- [1] *Phoebe Southall* (27), widow, licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Hannah Southall (9), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Thomas Southall (7), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] John Southall (3), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Elizabeth Westwood (20), general servant, born Rowley Regis:

Stourbridge Observer 15/7/1871

“*Phoebe Southall* was charged with having her house, the SWAN INN, Rowley, open for the sale of drink during prohibited hours, on the 9th inst. Mr. Addison appeared for the defendant.

Police-sergeant Powner said on the above date, at 12.20, he was on duty, and visited defendant’s house. An officer was there before him.

On examining the house they found three men in the cellar, with a quart jug half full of ale. He asked the defendant how she accounted for it, and she said one of the men was her uncle, and his was the only jug she filled. Witness knew the men.

Cross-examined: The defendant’s uncle did not come to me and say he was sorry he had drawn her into the bother.

Mr. Addison admitted that the men were there. The one was defendant’s uncle, and he asked her to give him some drink, and she did so; and he would ask the Bench, under the circumstances, to let the case off with payment of costs. The ale was not paid for, but was given to the men.

The Bench said the object was to get hold of the men who were in the house, and fined defendant 6d and costs.”

Stourbridge Observer 1/6/1872

“At the Police Court, on Wednesday, before Messrs. F. W. G. Barrs and E. Moore and the Rev. F. J. Clarke, *Phoebe Southall*, landlady of the SWAN INN, Rowley, was charged with permitting gambling in her house, on the 13th ult.

Police-constable Johnson said he was stationed at Blackheath. On the above date at about 8.15pm he visited the defendant’s house. On going in he heard some one shaking dice. He stood at the door of the tap room some time, and saw the defendant shaking dice with a man. At that time the defendant told the man, ‘that made two pints, now.’ The dice were in a tin spill can. He saw 2d on the table, which the landlady took up and put in her pocket along with the dice. He asked her what she was doing with the dice, and she said nothing. Witness asked the man, and he refused to give it.

Joseph Hackett and Charles Cole were called for the defence, and swore that there was no gambling in the house, and there were not any dice in the place at all. The witness (Hackett) knocked the spill can over and picked it up, at the same time shaking two pieces of pipe stem in it.

The case was dismissed.”

Phoebe Southall married *Edmund Palmer* on 11th August 1872.

County Advertiser 18/10/1873

“*Edmund Palmer*, landlord of the SWAN INN, Rowley, was charged with permitting drunkenness in his house on the 6th inst. The defendant was also charged with permitting a quantity of ale to be consumed on his premises after eleven o’clock pm, and was also further charged with being drunk in his own house. Mr. Stokes defended.

Police-constable Bird said he went to the defendant’s house, at ten o’clock, on the night in question. He saw from forty to fifty young men and women in the dancing room, and also saw six men drunk in the house. The defendant was drunk. The witness also visited the house in company with Police-constable Jackson at eleven o’clock, and the same men were there drunk.

Cross-examined: Did not speak to the landlord on the first occasion. Saw the defendant bending over a man speaking to him, and his body was unsteady, and that was the reason of his swearing that the defendant was drunk. All the men were unsteady. The landlady did not tell witness that it was only five minutes past eleven o’clock. Did not tell the defendant that he should report the case.

Police-constable Jackson said that he went to the defendant’s house in company with last witness. The defendant was drunk.

There were some men drunk in the house, and they were all sitting down but the defendant, who was standing. Saw all the persons who were in the house come out into the street.

Mr. Stokes, in defence, contended that if the defendant was drunk at twenty minutes past eleven o’clock they had no right to convict him, and that the evidence was very unsatisfactory. With reference to the house being open after eleven o’clock he should prove that it was only five minutes past eleven o’clock. He contended that the evidence was not so satisfactory as to admit of convicting the defendant. Moreover Mr. Stokes submitted that in a charge of allowing ale to be consumed after eleven o’clock, it had been decided that if the ale was sold before eleven o’clock they could not convict a defendant, inasmuch as he had no power over the consumption of the ale. The charge of permitting drunkenness was dismissed, but on the charge of allowing ale to be consumed on the premise after eleven o’clock, the defendant was fined 20s and costs. The charge against the defendant for being drunk was also dismissed.

Thomas Darby, Joseph Portman, William Price, Benjamin Walker, Edward Bastable, and Henry Portman, were charged with being found in *Palmer*’s house at twenty minutes past eleven o’clock pm. Bastable, who had been previously convicted, was fined 2s 6d and costs. The other defendants paid costs.”

County Express 22/5/1880

“A meeting of miners employed at the Rowley Station Colliery, who are now on strike against a reduction, was held on Thursday

night, at the SWAN INN, Rowley.

The Chairman stated that the reduction which their employers wished them to submit to would take over 20 per cent of their wages. If they resumed work at the reduction he did not know what they should do for a living. He, therefore, urged upon the men to show their determination in resisting it. (Hear, hear.)

Another miner moved, 'That in the opinion of this meeting it is advisable to continue to resist the proposed reduction, and issue as early as possible an appeal to the public for assistance.' He thought the public should be informed of their position, and also as to the reductions they had submitted to in the past. The terms which their employers were trying to enforce upon them were something terrible, and were beyond all reason. It would take something like 8s 4d out of every £2 which the men earned. There were some other questions which he considered the public ought to be instructed upon. There was the 'stoppage' system, under cover of which tubs of coal or cobbles were only paid for at slack prices. In these cases, instead of men receiving 1s 1d for a tub of coal, they were paid 4d. In addition to this, lately 10s had been stopped off some, and 5s off others, for sending these tubs of bad stuff up the pit. Another grievance was that the men were frequently not allowed to see the coals complained of, although these deductions were made from their wages.

The resolution having been seconded by a miner, was carried unanimously."

Birmingham Daily Post 26/5/1880

"A numerously-attended meeting of the miners employed at the Rowley Station Colliery, who are now on strike against a reduction of wages, was held yesterday morning at the SWAN INN, Rowley. Mr. Thomas Griffiths and Mr. Henry Barnes attended the meeting as a deputation from the West Bromwich and District Miners' Association. A miner presided.

Mr. Thomas Griffiths said he considered the wages of the men and the prices of the tonnage for coal and slack were too low already at the pit in question, and was glad to think that the men were fully determined to continue the strike until the unreasonable notice was withdrawn. Referring to the 'stoppage system' in use at the pit, he said the under the Mines Regulations Act the employer had no right to take a tub from the men or make any deduction from their wages unless the men had seen the coals complained of, or someone else had seen them on their behalf. He considered this is a great injustice to the men. He also pointed out that the fines of 5s and 10s per man, which it had been the custom to impose upon the men for sending up inferior quality of coal, were altogether illegal. No master had a right to fine a workman unless there was an agreement between man and master to that effect. If the men working at the Rowley Station Colliery had been connected with the union they could have prevented many of the evils under which they were now suffering from coming upon them. (Hear, hear.) Similar systems had been put into operation at other collieries in the district, but they had been stopped simply because the men were connected with the union.

Mr. Henry Barnes urged upon the men the necessity of joining some union for the protection of their interests.

Mr. Griffiths stated that some of the men were members of the union, and these would receive strike pay.

The men unanimously resolved to join the Miners Association when work is resumed. It was also decided to continue the strike until the notice is withdrawn."

Birmingham Daily Post 2/6/1880

"A meeting of miners employed at the Rowley Station Colliery, who are now on strike against a reduction in wages, was held yesterday, at the SWAN INN, Rowley. It was stated that a deputation waited upon the manager, who refused to withdraw the notice. Reference was made to Mr. Wills's letter, which had appeared in the papers. A miner said the statement that the men made 6s 0½d per day, or 1s 2d above the district price, was incorrect. The men decided by resolution to go back to work daywork if the master would concede the district price of 4s 10½d per day. Unless that were done it was resolved to continue the strike."

Birmingham Daily Post 29/7/1880 - Advert

"Pianist Wanted. Apply, SWAN INN, Rowley Regis."

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 14/8/1880 - Advert

"Pianist (Female). Wanted one who can sing.

Apply, SWAN INN, Rowley Regis."

1881 Census

55, Rowley Village – SWAN INN

[1] *Edmond Palmer* (30), licensed victualler, born Oldbury;

[2] *Phoeby Palmer* (37), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *John Southall* (13), step-son, stone breaker at quarry, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Edward Palmer* (9), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[5] *Horney Palmer* (7), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[6] *William Palmer* (4), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[7] *Phoeby Palmer* (2), daughter, born Rowley Regis:

Birmingham Daily Post 18/1/1882

"Liquidations By Arrangement.

Edmund Palmer, Great Bridge Road, West Bromwich, carpenter, but late of the SWAN INN, Rowley Regis, Staffordshire, licensed victualler."

County Advertiser 15/4/1882

“*Henry Heath*, landlord of the SWAN INN, Rowley, and pig dealer, was charged under the Contagious Disease (Animals) Act with having in his possession, on the 1st inst, six pigs affected with swine fever, and with not having reported the matter to the police.

The evidence given in the case was to the effect that Police-sergeant Cooper visited defendant’s premises and found the pigs suffering from swine fever. One of the pigs was severely affected, and Cooper sent for Mr. Blakeway, veterinary surgeon, of Stourbridge; but before he arrived the animal had died. Previous to Cooper’s going to defendant’s, two pigs had died, presumably from the same complaint. These had been buried in a garden under about one foot of soil. The remaining pigs were certified to be suffering from swine fever, and they were slaughtered and buried. The two pigs which had been previously buried were disinterred and re-buried in deeper soil.

Police-inspector Walters stated that the disease had since broken out in Old Hill, and five pigs suffering from it had been killed and buried.

Defendant now pleaded ignorance of its being incumbent upon him to report the matter to the police. The evidence, however, showed that notices had been posted at various places.

The Bench considered the offence a very serious one, and fined the defendant £10 and costs.”

Dudley and District News 13/5/1882

“*Henry Heath*, SWAN INN, Rowley Regis, licensed victualler, was charged with unlawfully selling intoxicating liquors during prohibited hours on the 7th inst. Mr. Cooksey defended.

PC Styles said he was in company with PC Lightfoot concealed near the defendant’s premises, about 7.45am, and there was a nail shop opening on to defendant’s premises. A woman named Hodgetts came to the window and called defendant’s daughter, who came and she gave her a jug. She went into the house and filled it with ale and gave it to Hodgetts through the window of the nail house. The defendant was standing by the window and had a shilling in his mouth. Witness and Lightfoot then went to the nailshop, and found Hodgetts and five men drinking.

Defendant pleaded guilty.

Mr. Cooksey said when defendant filled the ale in the jug his daughter brought him she told him it was for a traveller from Oldbury.

Superintendent Wollaston said this practice of the defendant’s had been carried on several years; there was no secret of it, it was talked about everywhere. Defendant said he would not give up the practice, as he made sometimes 30s a day by such transactions. The Bench said they considered it a more serious offence than permitting drunkenness, and fined him £5 and costs.”

Evening Star 25/5/1882

“James Hodgetts, Joseph Hodgetts and Daniel Caddick, were charged with aiding and abetting the landlord of the SWAN INN, Rowley, in selling drink during prohibited hours. Adjoining the inn is a nailshop, and on Sunday the 7th instant, the defendants were seen taking drink in there, which they had got from the landlord’s daughter. Each of the defendants were fined 20s and costs, in default one month.”

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.....

Henry Heath, SWAN INN, Rowley Village, selling ale on Sunday during prohibited hours, fined £5 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 5/4/1884

“Dudley Police Court.....

Mr. Hooper appeared for a protection order on behalf of the wife of *Benjamin Dando*, who, he said, had sold his beerhouse and sailed for Australia.

Alice Dando said she was the wife of *Benjamin Dando*. He sold the beerhouse some weeks ago, and left home on Tuesday, the 25th. He had told her his intention on several occasions of going to Australia. She wished to obtain a license to brew pit beer.

John Dando said that on Friday, the 28th he saw his father at Birmingham, who had sent for him, and told him he was going to Australia. He showed him his pass, and told him he was going to sail on Wednesday, the 2nd April. The Bench granted the order.”

County Advertiser 7/8/1884 - Notice

“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 or Division of Rowley Regis, and to all whom it may concern.

I, *Sarah Tromans*, Licensed Victualler, now residing at the SWAN, Rowley, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Staf-

ford, do Hereby Give Notice that it is my intention to Apply, at the Adjourned General Annual Licensing Meeting, for the Division of Rowley Regis, to be holden at the Public Office, at Old Hill, in the said County, on the 24th day of September next ensuing, for a Seven Days' License to hold an Excise License to Sell by Retail all Intoxicating Liquors, to be consumed on and off the premises, situate at Rowley, in the Parish of Rowley Regis aforesaid, in pursuance of the Intoxicating Liquors Licensing Act, 1828, and Acts amending the same, of which said premises *Henry Heath* is the owner, and the same are of the annual value by law required, and are now in my own occupation

Given under my hand this 21st day of August, 1884.

Sarah Tromans.

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. Cooksey applied for a seven days' license on behalf of *Sarah Tromans*, SWAN INN, Rowley, the present license being a six days' one. Mr. Hooper (Dudley) opposed on the ground that there were eight other public houses within a radius of 600 yards, and the thirsty wants of a community on Sunday ought not to be so great as on week days. Mr. Bassano said the only argument in favour of the application would be to put the applicant on the same footing as her neighbours, but as it was incompatible with their duty to afford further facilities for Sunday drinking, they must refuse the application.”

County Advertiser 10/9/1887 - Notice

“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 or Division of Rowley Regis, in the said County, and to all whom it may concern.

I, *Sarah Tromans*, Licensed Victualler, the holder of a Six Days' License, now residing at the SWAN INN, Rowley, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, do Hereby Give Notice that it is my intention to Apply, at the Adjourned General Annual Licensing Meeting, for the Division of Rowley Regis, to be holden at the Public Office, at Old Hill, in the said County, on the 28th day of September inst, for the Grant of a Seven Days' License or Certificate authorising me to apply for and hold all Excise Licenses for the sale by retail at a house and premises situate at the SWAN INN, Rowley, in the Parish of Rowley Regis aforesaid, of all intoxicating liquors, to be consumed either on or off the premises, in pursuance of the Intoxicating Liquor Licensing Act, 1828, and Acts amending the same, of which said premises one *Henry Heath* is the owner, and the same are of the annual value by law required, and are now in my own occupation.

Given under my hand this 1st day of September, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty-seven.

Sarah Tromans.”

Birmingham Daily Post 24/3/1891

“Last night a largely-attended meeting of quarrymen employed at the various quarries in the Rowley and Old Hill districts was held at the SWAN INN, Rowley, Mr. T. Brookes presiding, for the purpose of considering the wages question and the advisability of forming a union among the operatives.

The Chairman said the agricultural labourers, of whose deplorable condition so much had been said, were in a better position than the men employed in getting stone in quarries. The masters were simply crushing them into the grave – (hear, hear) – but the men had resolved to resist the encroachments upon their rights and privileges as far as possible.

Several of the workmen addressed the meeting, and spoke of the deplorable condition of the stone breakers and others employed in the quarries in the locality at the present time. One operative stated that at one of the quarries the men were not allowed to know the weight of their own work; the foreman or employer put down what weight they liked, and the workman had no voice whatever in it. Another man complained of unfair deductions being made from the work, whilst a third speaker declared that the operatives could not earn more than a shilling a day in some instances. (Shame.)

After considerable discussion a resolution was passed deciding to form a quarryman's union for Rowley and the surrounding districts, and officers were elected to conduct the business of the association.”

1891 Census

55, Village

[1] *Sarah Tromans* (38), widow, licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Henry Tromans* (28), step-son, stone set maker, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *Jane Tromans* (21), step-daughter, dressmaker, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Phoebe Tromans* (18), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[5] *Edward Tromans* (16), son, stone breaker, born Rowley Regis;

[6] *David Tromans* (14), son, stone breaker, born Rowley Regis;

[7] *Ellen Tromans* (12), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[8] *Harriet Tromans* (5), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[9] *Lizzy Tromans* (3), daughter, born Rowley Regis:

Sarah Tromans married *Harry Tromans* on 10th August 1891.

Birmingham Daily Post 24/2/1893

“Marrying Her Step-son.

Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest yesterday afternoon, at Rowley, relative to the death of *Harry Tromans* (32), landlord of the SWAN INN, who died suddenly, on the 20th inst. *Sarah Ann Tromans* said before she married deceased her name was

Tromans, as she had married deceased's father. She had been married to deceased about two years, and the marriage took place at Netherton Church. The clergyman was not aware of their relationship at the time of the marriage. Deceased was taken ill on the 19th inst, and had to remain in bed all day. She did not send for a doctor until the 20th, when deceased grew worse, but before medical aid could be procured he died. Deceased had been a heavy drinker for some time. Martha Woodhouse said deceased was of drunken habits. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes."

County Advertiser 25/8/1894

"The annual licensing sessions for the parish of Rowley were held on Wednesday last.....

William Henry Taylor, of the SWAN INN, Rowley, applied for a seven days' license instead of the present license of six days.

Mr. Waldron appeared for the applicant, and stated that it was the only house in Rowley Regis that had not the seven days' license, and it had been the custom of the Bench on previous occasions to place all the license holders upon the same footing.

Mr. Bassano said the Bench thought that all persons in the same business should be placed on an equal footing, and if all was right with the applicant, they would grant the license applied for."

County Advertiser 13/5/1899

"On Thursday morning an inquest was held at the OLD SWAN INN, Rowley Regis – before Mr. H. A. Pearson – concerning the death of William Ashman (34), miner, formerly residing at Rowley Village, who was killed whilst following his employment at Rowley Hall Colliery, belonging to Messrs. W. Bassano and Sons, on Monday last. Mr. W. H. Pickering (assistant Government Inspector of Mines) was present, and Mr. I. Meacham represented the proprietors.

The widow, Mary Ashman, stated that the deceased had been employed at the colliery about two years, and earned about £2 a week. He was a very healthy man, and was a good husband. He had left six children, the youngest being seven months old. On Monday he went to work, and at three o'clock in the afternoon she was informed that he had been killed.

Isaac Stibbs stated he was working with deceased shortly before twelve on Monday morning, but while he was fetching one of the tubs several bumps occurred, causing the propping timber to give way, and a large quantity of coal fell. He saw deceased jump on to the left hand side of one of the trees, and he did not see him again after the coal fell. About sixty tubs of slack and loose earth fell upon deceased, and a man named Greenwood shouted to him. He replied, 'Do get me out, Lord help me.' Deceased was not extracted until two and a half hours later when he was found to be dead.

Dr. T. E. Mitchell, who had been called in, said deceased was dead, and they removed the body home.

In reply to Mr. Pickering, witness said the stall was examined by deceased before they started to work, and there were then no signs of the timber giving way. He thought that about five or six pieces of timber were moved by the bump.

Henry Greenwood, a pikeman, gave corroborative evidence. He said he heard deceased praying for help. He shouted to him several times and deceased said, 'Lord, have mercy upon me. It's over.' He repeated this several times, but his voice gradually grew weaker, and about five minutes after the accident it ceased all together. Deceased's body was not got out until about two and a half hours after. Whilst they were engaged in clearing away the stuff repeated falls occurred. The deceased was the best workman he had ever worked with. He was quite dead when reached.

Dr. Mitchell said the deceased was a strong, healthy man. He saw the body when it was brought up the shaft. There were no broken bones, and the cause of death was suffocation.

Mr. I. Meacham explained that if the deceased, when the fall occurred, had jumped the opposite way he would have escaped.

The Coroner said it was a distressing case for a man to be cut off in his prime of life, and their sympathies must go out to the widow and the six young children. He did not see that any person was to blame, as everything possible appeared to have been done for the safety of the men.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and the coroner and jury made special reference to the heroism displayed by the workmen in endeavouring to effect the rescue of the deceased, notwithstanding the repeated falls of coal."

1901 Census

55, Rowley Village – SWAN INN

[1] *William H. Taylor* (43), nut and bolt manufacturer's agent, born Cradley Heath;

[2] Jane Taylor (40), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Frederick L. Taylor (17), son, engine fitter, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Lucy Taylor (15), daughter, born Halesowen;

[5] Thomas Taylor (13), son, at school, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Ethel Taylor (10), daughter, at school, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 12/3/1904

"District Council Nominations Rowley Regis Rowley Ward.....

William Henry Taylor, licensed victualler, Rowley Village."

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

15th March 1905 - Ada, daughter (b. 26/1/1905) of *William Henry* and *Jane Taylor*, publican, 55, The Village.

1911 Census

55, Village

[1] *William Henry Taylor* (53), widower, bolt and rivet manufacturer's agent, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Lucy Taylor (25), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

- [3] Ethel Taylor (20), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] William Taylor (17), son, carter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Jane Taylor (13), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Sarah Taylor (11), daughter, school, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Ada Taylor (6), daughter, born Rowley Regis:

Staffordshire Sentinel 7/6/1913

“The Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910. Notice of Principal Meeting. County of Stafford.

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Principal Meeting to be held pursuant to the Licensing Rules, 1901, by the Compensation Authority for the above Area, will be held at the Shirehall, Stafford, at 10-45 o'clock am on Thursday, the 24th day of July, 1913. And Notice Is Hereby Also Given, that the Compensation Authority will at the Meeting be prepared to hear, with reference to the Renewal of the Licenses of the several Premises specified in the subjoined list, all those Persons to whom under the Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910, they are bound to give an opportunity of being heard.....

List of Licensed Premises.....

SWAN INN, Rowley Regis. Alehouse. Licensee, *Samuel Tromans*.”

Staffordshire Sentinel 24/7/1913

“The principal meeting of the County Licensing Compensation Authority was held in the Shire Hall, Stafford, today (Thursday), when 38 houses appeared in the list to be dealt with by the magistrates.....

The licenses of the SWAN INN, Rowley Regis, and the QUEENS HEAD, Old Hill, in the Rowley Regis division, were taken away.”

AND

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/7/1913

“The Staffordshire Licensing Committee, at their meeting at Stafford yesterday, had thirty-eight cases to consider, the question being whether the licenses should be withdrawn and the houses extinguished under the compensation clauses of the Licensing Acts.....

The licenses of the SWAN INN, Rowley Regis, and the QUEENS HEAD, Old Hill, were renewed.”

[It would appear that the license of the QUEENS HEAD was renewed but that of the SWAN was not.]

Closed

Demolished

SWAN

Birchfield Lane, Whiteheath Gate, WHITEHEATH

OWNERS

William Collins Hodgetts [1903]

LICENSEES

David Hadley [1834]

William Cole [1843]

Benjamin Slim [1845] – [1861]

David Hingley [] – **1903**:

NOTES

[Aris's Birmingham Gazette 9/10/1843 - Advert](#)

“Freehold Public House, Dwelling House, and Premises, at White Heath Gate, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Newbold, at the TALBOT HOTEL, in Oldbury, on Tuesday the 17th day of October inst, at seven o'clock in the evening (by direction of the Mortgagee and Trustee for sale, and subject to conditions then to be produced).

All that Messuage or Public House, called the WHITE SWAN INN, situate at White Heath Gate aforesaid, fronting the road leading from Titford to Oldbury.

The House and Premises comprise tap-room, parlour, pantry, ale and spirit cellars, two bed-rooms, Stable, good brewhouse, Garden, Skittle-alley, Pigsties, Yard, and well of excellent water, and are now in the occupation of Mr. *William Cole*.

Also all that other Messuage or Dwelling House, nearly adjoining the above Inn, with two Shops, Outbuildings, and Premises

thereto belonging, at present void, but eligibly situated and adapted for a Retail Provision and Grocer's Shop. For further particulars apply at the respective offices of Mr. Bolton, Solicitor, or of the Auctioneer, both of Dudley."

1851 Census

Whiteheath Gate

- [1] *Benjamin Slim* (57), innkeeper and dealer in iron, born Titford;
- [2] Jane Slim (49), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] James Slim (18), son, wheelwright, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Benjamin Slim (15), son, labourer, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Joseph Slim (5), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Ann Slim (13), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Jane Slim (10), daughter, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 15/10/1859

"Joseph Willetts and Richard Fereday, colliers, were charged with breaking into the cellar of Mr. Noah Parkes, landlord of the NEW INN, Whiteheath Gate, Rowley, and stealing a quantity of ale therefrom, his property. It appeared in evidence that the two prisoners in company with other men were drinking and bowling on Monday night last at the public house called the SWAN, kept by *Benjamin Slim*, which adjoins or is in close proximity to the prosecutor's premises. The NEW INN had been lately taken to by Parkes, and the house was unoccupied. In the cellar, however, were two or three thirty-six gallon casks containing ale, one of which was in tap, and about two gallons had been taken out. The cellar had been properly secured during the afternoon, and about seven o'clock in the evening prosecutor received information that the cellar had been broken into and that the ale was being carried away. He immediately went to the place, and saw the prisoner Fereday in *Slim's* yard in the rear of the premises, and separated from prosecutor's house by a seven feet wall, but he had nothing in his possession. He went to the other side of the wall, and there found an iron bucket full of ale, and on examining the cellar, which had been entered by breaking open the trap door, he found that the barrel which was in tap was about half emptied of its contents. It was estimated to be worth at least 1s per gallon. The prisoner Fereday had endeavoured just previously to borrow a bucket from Mrs. *Slim*, but was refused, and he then took it. He was also heard to say that he would have some ale, and that it should come from the other side of the wall, pointing towards the cellar; and another witness swore to seeing the prisoners handing the beer to each other over the wall. They were each committed to take their trial at the ensuing Stafford Sessions on Monday next."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/10/1859

"Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Richard Fereday, 23, and Joseph Willetts, 35, both miners, were charged with breaking into the dwelling house of Noah Parks, the keeper of the NEW INN, White Heath, Rowley Regis, and stealing 18 gallons of ale from a 36 gallon cask in the cellar. Fereday was seen bringing some of the ale away from the cellar in a bucket; Willetts, it was alleged, aided him in passing it over the wall at the back of the NEW INN. Fereday was now sentenced to three months' hard labour, and Willetts was acquitted."

Birmingham Daily Post 18/7/1860

"Yesterday, before R. W. Johnson and W. H. Davies, Esqrs, William Slinn, labourer, was charged with having assaulted, with intent to murder, Enoch Cooper, a labourer in the employ of Mr. Hackett, of Rowley Regis.

The evidence was to the effect that on the 5th of the present month both parties were in the SWAN public house, near Whiteheath Gate, when the prisoner, being drunk, commenced provoking the complainant, and after quarrelling with both him and the landlord's son, he struck complainant on the temples with his fist, knocking him down on to the screen, apparently senseless. Prisoner then caught hold of complainant by the hair of his head, lifted him up, placed him against the window-shutter, and struck him two very violent blows in the mouth. He then loosed him, and complainant fell on the floor. It was at first supposed that complainant was dead, and upon it being suggested that brandy should be administered to revive him, the prisoner wiped the blood off the complainant's face, and forced it into his mouth, saying, 'I'll give the b—— brandy.' Subsequently prisoner violently assaulted the landlady, and pulled some of the hair off her head. He also assaulted the landlady's son, and frightened everybody so much that the daughter having locked herself in a room, he was at length complete master of the house. Eventually, however, he was taken into custody and locked up.

Mr. Brown, surgeon, said that complainant had sustained a severe compound fracture of the jaw, and had scarcely been able to speak. Complainant also sustained other injuries, so severe that his life was at one time despaired of, and on Friday last Captain Bennitt and Mr. Wright (Magistrates' Clerk) attended at his residence and took down all the answers – necessarily categorical – which he gave to questions put to him. The prisoner, the surgeon, the Superintendent, and sergeant of police were also present. It is hoped, however, that the complainant will ultimately recover, but it will be some time before he is able to leave home or indulge in general conversation.

After hearing the evidence, yesterday, the prisoner was fully committed to take his trial at the next Assizes.

The prisoner seems to be of an extremely violent temper, as he suffered imprisonment for eight months for a previous offence of a similar character. His brother is undergoing imprisonment for felony."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/12/1860

"Worcester Assizes.....

The Jury, without hesitation, found the prisoner guilty of wounding with intent to murder, and Mr. Baron Wilde directed that sentence of death should be recorded against him, observing that the sentence would only be commuted to penal servitude for life or

for twenty years.”

[The records show that William Slimm received a sentence of penal servitude for life.]

1861 Census

Birchfield Lane

[1] *Benjamin Slim* (67), victualler, born Warley Wigorn;

[2] Jane Haden Slim (58), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Jane Slim (20), daughter, general servant, born Rowley Regis:

1871 Census

Birchy Field Lane

[1] *Benjamin Slim* (78), dealer in scrap iron, born Oldbury;

[2] Ann Slim (70), wife, born Rowley:

The license was not renewed in February 1903.

County Advertiser 14/2/1903

“On Wednesday the annual licensing session for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held at the Court House. Notice of objection has been served on William Collins Hodgetts, the owner of the SWAN INN, Whiteheath, and the present tenant, *David Hingley*, on the ground that the license was not required. No intoxicants had been sold at this house for some years.

Superintendent Spendlove had given notice that he should oppose the following licenses.

David Hingley, SWAN INN, Whiteheath, license not required.

The Bench then proceeded to deal with the objections. Upon the consideration of the SWAN INN, Whiteheath, Mr. Cooksey pointed out that there was no application for the renewal of the license.

The Chairman: It is defunct then? – Mr. Cooksey: Yes, sir.”

[Check SWAN, Titford, Oldbury.](#)

SWAN WITH TWO NECKS

76, Lower High Street, (96, Lomey Town), CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

Henry ‘Harry’ Tibbetts [1893]

North Worcestershire Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1896)

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. (acquired in 1909)

LICENSEES

Joseph James Westwood [1864] – [1883]

Henry ‘Harry’ Tibbetts [1885] – **1896**)

William Weaver [1901] – [1908]

John Lane (**1910** – [1911])

Henry Townsend [1912]

Alfred Smith [1912]

Daniel Broughton [1915] – **1937**);

Egbert Ernest ‘Bert’ Priest (**1937** – **1958**);

Arthur Bradney (**1958** – [1965])

K J Woodhall [1976]

Tony Bass [1988]

NOTES

96, Lomey Town [1881], [1911]

76, Lower High Street [1939], [1940]

SWAN [1868], [1869], [1870], [1871], [1881], [1885], [1886], [1887], [1888], [1891], [1902], [1903], [1908], [1909], [1911],

[1912], [1939], [1940]

WHITE SWAN [1910]

It had an ante '69 beerhouse license.

County Express 29/8/1868

“*Joseph James Westwood*, SWAN INN, Cradley Heath, was charged with keeping his public house open after eleven o'clock on the night of the 22nd of August, and, pleading guilty, was ordered to pay costs.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/8/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for Rowley Regis division was held on Friday, at COOKSEY'S HOTEL, Old Hill.....

The following beerhouse keepers had been fined during the last five years.....

Joseph James Westwood, SWAN, Cradley Heath.....

The licenses of *Joseph James Westwood*, were suspended till the adjourned licensing day, on Wednesday week.”

Joseph James Westwood was also a chain manufacturer. [1870]

County Express 13/8/1870

“*Joseph James Westwood*, of the SWAN INN, Cradley Heath, was charged with keeping his house open for the sale of liquors during prohibited hours.

Police-sergeant Breton said, on Sunday morning, the 24th ult, he was passing defendant's house, when he saw a woman run in.

Directly afterwards ten or a dozen men came out of a back door. He went into the house, and in two different rooms he found wet marks on the table, where there had been ale. On one table were two jugs, one of which was partly filled with ale. Under another table he found a cup full of newly drawn ale.

Police-constable Lavin gave corroborative evidence, as he went into the house with the sergeant, and defendant was fined 20s and costs.”

County Express 27/8/1870

“The annual licensing meeting for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division was held yesterday.....

The licenses of Ann Cox, FIVE WAYS, Cradley Heath, licensed victualler; *Joseph Westwood*, SWAN WITH TWO NECKS, Cradley Heath, beerhouse keeper, were suspended.”

County Express 10/9/1870

“Mr. Hayes applied for continuation of the beerhouse license of *Joseph James Westwood*, SWAN INN, Cradley Heath, which was suspended at the annual licensing day.

The Bench consented to grant it, but said if the defendant was summoned again they should take away the license altogether.”

1871 Census

Lomey Town – SWAN INN

[1] *Joseph J. Westwood* (53), chain maker and publican, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Susan Westwood (50), wife, born Cradley;

[3] Ruben Westwood (16), son, labourer, born Rowley Regis:

Stourbridge Observer 14/10/1871

“*Joseph James Westwood*, landlord of the SWAN WITH TWO NECKS INN, Cradley Heath, was also charged with keeping his house open during prohibited hours, on 8th October.

The officers Johnson and Griffin proved visiting defendant's house about eight o'clock, when they found three men in the house.

There was a pint cup part full of ale in the cupboard.

Westwood, in defence, said one of the men was a lodger, and he had served him with a pint of ale. As to the other two men – one was his son in law, and the other came to bring him two sticks of celery. They did not have anything to drink.

The Bench dismissed the case.”

Joseph James Westwood, beer retailer and chain manufacturer. [1872]

County Express 15/7/1876

“*Joseph Westwood*, landlord of the SWAN INN, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, was charged with selling beer during prohibited hours, on Sunday, the 2nd instant; and was further charged with attempting to bribe Police-constable Cooper on the same date. Mr. W. Hayes, jun. defended.

Cooper said about twenty minutes past four on the above date he saw a man come out of defendant's house with a half-gallon bottle filled with ale. He took the man back to the house, when defendant said his wife had filled it. Witness then left the house, and defendant called him back and asked him if they could not settle the matter between them, and he (defendant) would give the officer something handsome.

For the first offence defendant was fined £1 and costs; and for the attempted bribery a fine of £5 and costs was imposed.”

County Advertiser 22/7/1876

“Benjamin Harris was fined 5s and costs for being upon the licensed premises of *Joseph Westwood*, at Lomey Town, on the 2nd inst, during prohibited hours. Police-constable Cooper proved the case. *Westwood* was fined at the previous sessions.”

Dudley Herald 30/8/1879

“The annual licensing session for the Rowley Regis division was held on the 26th ult.

The convictions against beerhouse keepers were.....

Joseph James Westwood, SWAN WITH TWO NECKS, Cradley Heath, permitting drunkenness. Paid costs, October 30th.”

1881 Census

96, Lomey Town – SWAN INN

[1] *Joseph Westwood* (65), widower, publican, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Daniel Tromans (74), boarder, chain maker, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Thomas Burrows (20), grandson, chain maker, born Rowley Regis:

Birmingham Daily Post 25/1/1883

“Yesterday, at the Old Hill Police Court, before Messrs. Lea Smith and Walker – *Joseph James Westwood*, chain manufacturer, and landlord of the SWAN WITH TWO NECKS INN, Cradley Heath, pleaded not guilty to a summons charging him with infringing the Truck Act, by paying a workman otherwise than in current coin of the realm, to wit, beer.

Mr. Hooper (Messrs. Stokes and Hooper), Dudley, instructed by Mr. Charles Williams, secretary to the Anti-Truck Association, appeared to prosecute, and Mr. Holberton, Brierley Hill, defended.

Joseph Wellings stated that he was a chainmaker, and he had formerly been in the employ of the defendant for about eighteen months, and had been in the habit of having beer from the defendant. He had not paid for the beer, but defendant used to deduct the amount from his wages, and on the 23rd September he deducted 2½d for a pint of ale.

Cross-examined: The defendant was his grandfather, and he (witness) had frequently had his dinner at defendant’s house. He was paid in the presence of the other workmen. Witness did not assent to the deductions being made from his wages.

Re-examined by Mr. Hooper: He had heard another workman named Goodman grumble when the money was deducted from his wages.

There was also a second charge of contravening the Truck Act by paying Joseph Wellings otherwise than in the coin of the realm, to wit clothes.

Wellings stated that he had been in the habit of going errands for the defendant, and he supplied him with a suit of clothes for doing it.

Cross-examined: He did not have the clothes until most of the work had been done.

When the witnesses were called for the defence it appeared that, although at the commencement all witnesses had been ordered out of Court, three of defendant’s witnesses had remained in during the hearing of the witness for the prosecution. The Bench therefore refused to take their evidence, and inflicted a fine of £5 and costs in the first case. The second summons was dismissed.”

County Advertiser 27/6/1885

“James Harris, Lomey Town, was summoned on the charge of being drunk on licensed premises of *Henry Tibbetts*, SWAN INN, Lomey Town, and refusing to quit. When the case came on last week Inspector Walters said he had ascertained that *Tibbetts* and Harris had settled the case.

Mr. Hingley then said the Bench would not allow cases to be settled in that manner, and the police were instructed to order the two men to appear.

Tibbetts now said he was under the impression that cases could be settled out of Court, but finding his mistake he was sorry for what he had done.

The case was allowed to be withdrawn on the defendant’s agreeing to pay the costs.”

County Advertiser 28/8/1886 - Advert

“Wanted, a strong Servant, of good character.

Apply, SWAN INN, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 17/9/1887

“An elderly man named Frederick Bence, described as a blacksmith, and residing at Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, was remanded for a fortnight charge of stealing three fowls, the property of *Harry Tibbetts* landlord of the SWAN INN, Lomey Town.”

County Advertiser 1/10/1887

“Frederick Bence, Cradley Road, Cradley Heath, was charged with stealing a whip, the property of Thomas Adams. The whip was missed from a trap which had been left in the yard at the SWAN WITH TWO NECKS, and subsequently the prisoner gave the whip to a man named Fisher. Defendant said that he found the whip lying in the road. The Bench did not consider there was sufficient evidence to convict defendant, and discharged the case.”

County Advertiser 3/12/1887 - Advert

“Wanted, good General Servant, over 20.

Apply, SWAN INN, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath.”

Dudley Mercury 14/4/1888

“Walter Jenkins, Woodside, was charged with assaulting Harriet Cartwright, on the 7th inst. Complainant said she was at the SWAN INN, Lomey Town when the defendant went to her and struck her with his fist several times. Mrs. *Tibbits* said that the defendant did not strike the girl. The case was dismissed.”

Dudley Mercury 21/7/1888

“On Monday morning Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the SWAN INN, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, respecting the death of an infant, aged nine days, who resided with her parents at Silverthorn Lane, Cradley Heath. Mary Yardley, mother of the deceased, stated that on Thursday morning witness got up to get her husband’s breakfast, when a neighbour, named Mrs. Cope, came in, and she said the baby was very ill, and asked if she should take it to a doctor. They took deceased to Dr. DeDenne. The assistant came and unwrapped the child, and he told them that he would fetch the doctor. When the doctor came he said the child was dead, and he could do nothing for it, and he ordered them to communicate with the police. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

1891 Census

Lomey Town – SWAN INN

- [1] *Harry Tibbetts* (31), beerhouse keeper, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Henrietta Tibbetts (29), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Nellie Tibbetts (7), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Willie Tibbetts (6), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Sarah Stinson (22), domestic servant, born Brierley Hill:

County Advertiser 17/9/1892

“Frederick Charles, Peartree Street, was charged with being disorderly on the licensed premises of *Harry Tibbetts*, landlord of the NEW [sic] INN, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, and refusing to quit same, and also with damaging windows to the amount of 2s 6d, on the 3rd inst.

Complainant stated that defendant came into his house on Saturday week and had a pint of ale. Soon afterwards he became disorderly and created a disturbance, using bad language. Witness told him he could not allow it, and ejected him. Immediately afterwards a stone came through the window.

A man named Thomas Bloomer said he saw defendant strike the landlord three times when ejected, and heard him threaten to break the window. Defendant searched in the gutter for some stones, and afterwards ran away when witness tried to catch him. Defendant was fined 5s and costs for being disorderly, and 10s and costs and 2s 6d damage for breaking the window.”

County Advertiser 2/9/1893 - Advert

“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 or Division of Rowley Regis in the said County, and to all whom it may concern.

I, *Harry Tibbetts*, the holder of a Seven Days’ Beerhouse License, now residing at the SWAN INN, Lomey Town, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, Do Hereby Give Notice, that it is my intention to Apply, at the Adjourned General Annual Licensing Meeting, for the Division of Rowley Regis, to be holden at the Public Office at Old Hill, in the said County, on the 27th day of September next ensuing, for the grant of a License or Certificate, authorising me to Apply for and to Hold an Excise License for the Sale by Retail, at a House and Premises, situate and known as the SWAN INN, Lomey Town, in the Parish of Rowley Regis aforesaid, of all Intoxicating Liquors, to be Consumed either on or off the Premises, in pursuance of the Intoxicating Liquor Licensing Act, 1828, and Acts amending the same, of which said Premises I am the Owner, and the same are of the annual value by law required, and are now in my own occupation.

Given under my hand this 31st day of August, 1893.

Harry Tibbetts.”

County Advertiser 30/9/1893

“The annual adjourned licensing sessions for Rowley Regis petty sessional division was held on Wednesday.....

Mr. John Wright made an application on behalf of *Harry S. Tibbetts*, landlord of the SWAN INN, Old Hill [sic], for an excise license to sell intoxicating spirits.

Mr. Wright said the house belonged to the applicant, who had occupied it for ten years, and it was near to the Railway Station. That being the case, he was frequently asked by travellers and other people for wines and spirits, and the population was also increasing. *Tibbetts* had a good character, and he might say that all the nearest houses were in the hands of breweries, who, therefore, had a monopoly. The applicant had kept the house without a stain on his character. He (Mr. Wright) had a petition in his possession very largely signed by people in the locality in favour of the application.

The applicant gave evidence in keeping with Mr. Wright’s statement, and in cross-examination said there were seven public houses at a distance of 300 yards or over from his house. All of these, with the exception of the ANCHOR INN were in the hands of breweries.

Mr. Sidaway deposed to the annual value of the house being £40, exclusive of rates.

Mr. Bassano said that personally, he was of opinion that every public house should be full-licensed, but as the majority of the publicans did not possess full licenses, they could not, in justice, grant the application.”

County Advertiser 29/12/1894 - Advert

“Wanted, a strong General Servant, used to Public Business.
Apply, Mrs. *Tibbetts*, SWAN INN, Cradley Heath.”

North Worcestershire Breweries issued tokens from here marked ‘SWAN, Cradley Heath’.

1901 Census

Lomey Town

- [1] *William Weaver* (41), innkeeper, born Cradley Heath;
- [2] *Lizzie Weaver* (38), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] *Pollie Weaver* (16), daughter, born Cradley Heath;
- [4] *Edith Weaver* (7), daughter, born Cradley Heath;
- [5] *William Weaver* (3), son, born Cradley Heath;
- [6] *Oliver Shaw* (20), cousin, shoe maker, born Quarry Bank:

County Express 18/1/1902

“On Tuesday morning the body of James Morgan, a moulder, who formerly resided in Silverthorn Lane, was found in a pool at the back of his home. An inquest relative to the death was held at the SWAN INN, Lomey Town, on Thursday morning by Mr. A. A. Betham, deputy-coroner.

Harry Weaver, son-in-law of the deceased, said Morgan had lived with him for some time. Deceased was an iron-moulder by trade, but owing to bad trade, had only worked five days in the last six months. Deceased had been in good health. Witness last saw deceased alive at 9.40am on Monday morning, when deceased was in better spirits than witness had seen him in for some time. The deceased ‘liked his beer’ but was sober on Monday morning. Deceased did not come home on Monday evening, and the next morning, when witness went down the garden, he found Morgan’s hat, and a minute or two later discovered the deceased’s body in a pool which was situated at the bottom of the garden. The body was about five yards from the side. Witness sent for the police, and PC Dale came and recovered the body. Witness had never heard deceased threaten to take his life, but witness knew deceased was depressed at times over not being able to get work. He was also troubled about his two sons who were out in South Africa. One of these was to have started home this month, but the last they heard of him was that he had the fever badly. That weighed on deceased’s mind. On Monday morning deceased received a letter, which witness knew asked him to send some money by return of post. This letter was produced, and the Coroner, after reading it, stated it was from a watch manufacturer in Birmingham, asking for money, but it was not of a nature as should disturb a man’s mind much.

Thomas Burley, of 40, Cradley Road, a moulder, said he spent from twelve o’clock until four on Monday afternoon with deceased at the SWAN INN. They had five pints of beer between them. When witness left the inn deceased was sober. During the conversation they had, which was chiefly about their work, deceased asked witness how things were looking at the works. Witness replied that they were looking brighter, and in a short time deceased might be able to get a job. Deceased replied that he had tried everywhere, but people would not set him on, on account of his grey hairs.

Mrs. Martha Smith, of Silverthorn Lane, who saw deceased going home on Monday night, said it was apparent he had had beer, but he was not drunk.

Mrs. Sarah Billingham, of Silverthorn Lane, who passed deceased in the lane, said deceased was drunk. Deceased had been in the habit of ‘getting a little bit on.’ She heard him muttering to himself, and overheard him say, ‘I will show them what I am going to do; they shall know what I am going to do.’

PC Dale gave formal evidence as to recovering the body. He said there was a coating of ice on the pool a quarter-of-an-inch thick, and as deceased was four yards from the side, this pointed to the fact that he had got there overnight, and before the pool became frozen. He had made enquiries as to the deceased’s condition on Monday, and found he was drunk.

William Weaver, landlord of the SWAN INN, said deceased was sober when he left the inn.

After deliberation, the jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned.”

County Advertiser 9/5/1903

“The florists of Lomey Town and several friends held their annual dinner at the house of Mr. *W. Weaver*, the SWAN INN, when about twenty-five sat down to an excellent repast provided by the host and hostess. After dinner Mr. D. Broughton presided. In the course of the evening Messrs. J. Butcher, J. Hill, T. Burley, T. Price, G. Stevens, and the host contributed songs or recitations, and a convivial evening wound up with the toast of ‘The Host and Hostess.’”

William Weaver, beer retailer, 96, Lomey Town. [1904]

County Express 12/9/1908

“Friendly Societies’ Parade. On Wednesday evening the committee of the above met at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Mr. W. Coley presiding over a large attendance. The following was a complete list of those boxes which contained amounts of 1s and upwards.....

Mr. *W. Weaver*, SWAN INN, 1s 5½d.”

Indenture 28/10/1909

“All that public-house known as The SWAN INN situate at Cradley Heath with the brewhouse outbuildings and garden.....”

County Express 11/6/1910

“At Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, a temporary authority was granted to *John Lane* in respect of the WHITE SWAN INN, Lomey Town.”

1911 Census

96, Lomey Town – SWAN INN

- [1] *John Lane* (40), anchor forgerman and publican manager, born Cradley Heath;
- [2] *Sarah Lane* (31), wife, married 13 years, assisting in public house, born Cradley Heath;
- [3] *Wallace Lane* (12), son, school, born Cradley Heath;
- [4] *Guilenda Lane* (11), daughter, school, born Cradley Heath;
- [5] *Daisy Lane* (10), daughter, school, born Cradley Heath;
- [6] *John Lane* (8), son, born Cradley Heath; [crossed out (dead)]
- [7] *Nelson Lane* (7), son, school, born Cradley Heath:

Henry Townsend, beer retailer, 96, Lomey Town. [1912]

County Express 21/12/1912

“Will. The late Mr. *Alfred Smith*, of the SWAN INN, Lomey Town, left by his will personal estate proved at £301 gross.”

Daniel Broughton, beer retailer, 96, Lomey Town. [1924]
He married *Jemima Higgs*.

Black Country Bugle (July 1988)

“*Dan Broughton* kept pigs at the back of the pub, and the story went that whenever he had a porker killed, he’d keep the teeth and use them as counters, to keep check of his ‘tick’ run up by his regular customers *Dan* had a speech impediment, and one day he returned to the pub, looking forward to a juicy suckling pig on the dinner table, he was offered turkey. Greatly displeased, he chastised his wife by saying ‘Yo’ve aiten all the ucking pig.’ As a consequence the pub often went as ‘Ucking Pig’s.”

1939 Register

76, Lower High Street – SWAN INN

- [1] *Egbert E. Priest*, date of birth 7/8/1903, publican manager, married;
- [2] *Leah Priest*, dob 4/4/1904, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] *Hilda L. (Priest) Faulkner*, dob 23/10/1933, at school, single;
- [4] *Caleb Priest*, dob 1/1/1876, chain maker, heavy work, widowed:

Sports Argus 30/12/1939

“Cradley Heath Darts League.....

The meeting of the clubs of the League will be held on Monday night at the SWAN INN, Lomey Town.”

A Publican’s license was granted on 2nd February 1949.

It was transferred to a full license on 27th April 1949.

News Telephone 3/9/1970

“All pubs have their regulars – some more regular than others – but few could claim to have two patrons of more than 62 years standing.

For that is how long 94 years old *Caleb Priest* and his friend 90 years old *Arthur Ford* have been popping into the SWAN WITH TWO NECKS INN at Lower High Street.....

The pub itself has changed little over the years and when I visited it the two old gentlemen were seated on a long wall bench near an old fashioned chimney stove.....”

A team from here took part in the Cradley Heath Darts League. [1970]

Tony Bass was married to *Jackie*.

[1994]

Closed

It was converted into offices.

TALBOT

96, High Street / Stoney Yard, Five Ways, CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

Noah Fellows [1880]
Showells Brewery Ltd. (acquired in 1875) [1893]
Ind Coope and Allsopp Ltd. (leased) (acquired on 3rd July 1935)

LICENSEES

Noah Fellows [1851] – [1854]
Reuben Chandler [1855] – **1857**;
Alfreece Chandler (**1857** – []
Noah Fellows [] – **1859**);
Johanna (Meredith) Hughes (**1859** – **1861**);
William Hughes (**1861**)
Noah Lowes (**1861**);
Charles Bridgens (**1861** – **1867**);
Charles Blizard [1862]
William Letts (**1867** – **1871**);
Thomas Taft* (**1871** – [1878]
William Letts [1876]
Thomas Taft* [1881] – [1889]
Henry ‘Harry’ Dingley [1891] – **1919**);
Clarence Bertram Dingley (**1919** – **1922**);
Isaiah Baker (**1922** – **1924**);
William George Hawkes (**1924** – **1929**);
George Thomas Delahay (**1929** – **1938**);
Joseph Powell (**1938**);
Francis Harry Tomlins (**1938** – **1940**);
Harold Tromans (**1940** – **1941**);
Francis Robert Hay (**1941**);
Charles Matthew Leake (**1941** – **1943**);
Alfred Reginald Harris (**1943** – **1948**);
Isaac Baden Shepherd (**1948** – **1949**);
John Howard Wise (**1949**);
Hubert Stowe (**1949** – **1950**);
Joseph Albert Cornock (**1950** – **1951**);
Richard Edgar Downen (**1951**);

NOTES

TALBOT HOTEL [1864], [1865], [1872], [1873], [1896], [1912], [1924]
CRADLEY HEATH HOTEL [1932]

It was known locally as “The Big Lamp”.

1851 Census

Cradley Heath

- [1] *Noah Fellows* (36), grocer, born Oldswinford;
- [2] Jane Fellows (35), wife, born Kingswinford;
- [3] Joseph Fellows (13), son, scholar, born Oldswinford;
- [4] Sarah Ann Fellows (8), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Ruth Fellows (5), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Charlotte Fellows (9 months), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Thomas Hill (15), apprentice, born Stourbridge;
- [8] Louisa Millward (16), house servant, born Rowley Regis:

Birmingham Journal 25/6/1853 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Property, Cradley Heath, in the Parish of Rowley, in the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Hawkins, on Tuesday, the 12th of July next, at the house of Mr. *Noah Fellows*, the TALBOT INN,

Five Ways, Cradley Heath aforesaid, at Five o'clock in the evening, and subject to conditions.

Lot 1. All that valuable Old Licensed House and Premises, known by the sign of the OLD FIVE WAYS INN, situate at the Five Ways, Cradley Heath aforesaid, and now in the occupation of Mr. William Cox.....”

Noah Fellows was also a grocer. [1854]

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 28/8/1854 - Advert

“Staffordshire. Freehold House and Land, Cradley Heath.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Hawkins (by direction of the Assignees of Mr. Jeremiah Billingham, a bankrupt), this present Monday, August 28, at the house of Mr. *Noah Fellows*, known by the sign of the TALBOT INN, Cradley Heath aforesaid, at six o'clock in the evening, and subject to conditions.....”

Birmingham Journal 14/7/1855 - Advert

“£50 Society, No.2

Reuben Chandler, TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath, begs to announce the Commencement of the above on Wednesday, 18th instant.

No.1 is admitted to be the best Club in the vicinity, and the same Management as heretofore will be continued.

Any friend wishing to become a Member will oblige by joining.”

Birmingham Journal 17/11/1855

“On Tuesday evening last, G. H Hinchliffe, Esq, commenced an inquest at the TALBOT INN, Cradley Heath, on the body of Edward Davis, aged thirty-five years, a sinker. The deceased was employed at Mr. Dawes's pit, Waterfield Lane, and on the previous Tuesday evening he descended the shaft which had been sunk between two and three hundred yards. Here he continued at work with two others until a little after nine o'clock, when three men went down to relieve the deceased and his companions, who got in the bowk and gave the usual signal, and it commenced ascending, Johnson, the engineer, working the engine. It went at a normal speed until within about 40 yards of the top of the shaft, when the speed slackened, but immediately afterwards it increased, and the bowk ascended at a fearful rate. Deceased and his companions called ‘murder,’ and the banksman hooted to the engineer, who also called out, but the speed of the engine was not checked, and the bowk came out of the pit, and was drawn violently over the pulley to the next roller post, the deceased and his companions being thrown a considerable distance – the former 28 yards from the pit. He was found severely injured and died on Saturday last; the other two were also badly hurt. The engineer immediately locked up the engine house and left the pit, and he afterwards procured the attendance of Dutton, Mr. Dawes's principal engineer, who examined the engine, and stated that he found the top strain valve and bottom exhausting valve sticking up, and he gave the causes that might occasion this, and said that when the valve stuck the engineer would lose all control over the engine, and the weight of the chain at the other shaft would cause the bowk in which deceased and his companions were to ascend with great velocity. The Coroner and Jury considered that the whimsey man, Johnson, had no right to have directed an examination of the engine, as it ought to have been left in the same state as it was when the bowk was drawn over the pulley until the inquest. The inquiry was adjourned until Tuesday evening next for further evidence, and in order that the Government Inspector might be written to.”

[At the adjourned inquest the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.]

Brierley Hill Advertiser 7/2/1857

“Concert Hall TALBOT HOTEL. A complimentary supper was given to Mr. J. H. Boston, the eminent pianist of this establishment, when between twenty and thirty respectable tradesmen of the district assembled to pay a mark of respect to that talented gentleman. The supper was served up in Mrs. *Chandler*'s general good style, and gave great satisfaction to all present.....”

County Advertiser 21/3/1857

“*Reuben Chandler*, landlord of the TALBOT INN, Cradley Heath, preferred a charge against a young man named Thomas Cox, for being drunk and disorderly in his house on the 9th inst. Defendant alleged that he went into the house and called for a glass of rum and water; on tasting it he discovered that no sugar had been put in, and therefore enquired the reason; that was all he had done. Mr. *Chandler* did not wish to press the case, as Cox had expressed contrition for what had occurred. Ordered to pay costs.”

Brierley Hill Advertiser 30/5/1857 - Advert

“To Be Let, with immediate possession, all that well-accustomed full-licensed house known as the TALBOT HOTEL, Five Ways, Cradley Heath. The house is doing good business, is well supplied with water, stands in the best situation in this rapidly improving town, and is surrounded with iron, coal, and other extensive works. The present tenant is leaving in consequence of other arrangements.

For particulars, and to treat, apply on the premises.”

Birmingham Journal 11/7/1857 - Advert

“The TALBOT, Cradley Heath, Four miles from Dudley, Two-and-a-half miles from Netherton, and near to the Great Congreve and other extensive Ironworks.

By Roderick and Son. To be Disposed Of by Private Contract, the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above capital Wine and Spirit Vaults and Tavern, one of the most lucrative Concerns in the Mining District.

The Premises comprise a large Liquor Shop, 50 feet long, Smoke, Tap, and Sitting Rooms, large Club Room, numerous Cham-

bers, good Cellaring, Yard, and Stabling, and are now held at a low rent. Coming-in about £450.”
For further particulars, and to treat, apply to the Auctioneers, 54, New Street, Birmingham.”

Mr. Chandler, auctioneer, had his office here. [1858]

County Advertiser 18/6/1859 - Advert

“TALBOT INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath.

To be Let, and may be entered upon immediately, the above old-licensed, well-situated Inn, capable of doing a first-class trade.
Apply to Mr. *Noah Fellows*, Five Ways, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 12/11/1859

“At the Old Hill Petty Sessions on Wednesday, two offending innkeepers were charged and dealt with as follows: Joseph Yardley, landlord of the CHAINMAKERS ARMS, Cradley Heath, for keeping a disorderly house on the occasion of the drunken fracas which gave rise to the proceeding against the defendant last week, was cautioned by the Bench and dismissed.
Joanna Meredith, landlady of the TALBOT INN, Cradley Heath, for a similar offence, was ordered to pay costs.”

County Advertiser 31/12/1859

“*Johanna Meredith*, landlady of the TALBOT INN, Cradley Heath, and John Shinton, a beerhouse keeper at the same place, were each fined 10s and costs for keeping their houses open during the hours prohibited by law.”

1861 Census

High Street – TALBOT INN

- [1] *William Hughes* (39), iron roller and victualler, born Tividale;
- [2] *Jemima Hughes* (45), wife, born Oldswinford;
- [3] *Henry Meredith* (16), son-in-law, born Cradley;
- [4] *Eliza Meredith* (14), daughter-in-law, born Cradley;
- [5] *Amelia Meredith* (11), daughter-in-law, born Cradley;
- [6] *Ann Hughes* (30), sister, born Kingswinford;
- [7] *Mary Elizabeth Hughes* (8), daughter, born Cradley;
- [8] *Sophia Hughes* (6), daughter, born Cradley;
- [9] *Mary Ann Grosvenor* (24), visitor, born Kingswinford;
- [10] *Margaret Johnson* (21), visitor, born Portabello;
- [11] *Jane Brown* (16), visitor, born Dudley;
- [12] *Mary Ann Sellers* (38), visitor, singer, born Bristol:

Worcestershire Chronicle 17/4/1861

“.....the following licenses were transferred.....

TALBOT, Rowley, from *Joanna Hughes* (late *Meredith*) to her husband, *William Hughes*.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/5/1861 - Advert

“To Parties in Search of a Good Old Licensed Public House.

To be Let, with immediate possession, that excellent Old-Licensed Public House, the TALBOT INN, at the Five Ways, Cradley Heath, having large front Spirit Shop, Smoke Room, Tap Room, large Club Room, three Chambers, three Cellars, Brewhouse, enclosed Yard, Stabling and Coach-house, with a good supply of Hard and Soft Water.

The above House is situated in High Street, in a manufacturing and densely populated district, and close to the British Iron Company's extensive Works.

For particulars, and to treat, apply to Mr. *Noah Fellows*, Five Ways, Cradley Heath; or to Mr. *Hawkins*, Auctioneer, Brierley Hill.”

London Gazette 2/6/1862

“*William Hughes*, at present and for one year and twenty-four days last past living in lodgings in the VICTORIA INN, Hill-street, Cradley, in the county of Worcester, Roller of Iron, previously and for seven weeks residing at the TALBOT INN, High-street, Cradley Heath, in the county of Stafford, Innkeeper and Roller of Iron, 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 28th of May, 1862, is hereby required to surrender himself to a Registrar of the said Court, at the first meeting of creditors, to be held before the said Registrar, on the 16th day of June instant, at twelve o'clock at noon precisely, at the said Court, at Birmingham. Mr. *George Kinnear*, of No.37, Waterloo-street, Birmingham, is the Official Assignee, and Mr. *Thomas Assinder*, of Birmingham, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.”

Charles Bridgens = Charles Bridgen = Charles Bridges

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 18/5/1862

“T. Homer of Cradley Heath will run A. Akers of Birmingham six score yards level, or Ben Garrington the like distance, with two yards start, for £5 or £10 a side. Money ready at *Bridgen's*, TALBOT INN, Five Ways, Cradley Heath.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 25/1/1863

“Garratt and Yorke. These men staked £2 each on the 17th at Mr. Rowley’s, FISH INN, Common Side. The final deposit of £4 a side is due at the TALBOT, Cradley Heath, on Monday Jan 26.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 1/2/1863

“Garratt and Yorke. The final deposit of £4 a side between these men was made at Mr. *Bridgen*’s, TALBOT, Cradley Heath, on Monday, Jan 26. The lads fight on Monday, Feb 2, within 20 miles of Cradley Heath.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 4/2/1863

“Jack Garratt, of Cradley Heath, and Yorke of Halesowen, at Catchweight, for £10 A-side.

These men met early on Monday morning at the Talbot Inn, Chaddesley, near Kidderminster, and, after considerable delay, proceeded to the Talbot, at Hartlebury, the police, who evidently had full scent of the coming event, keeping in track. Garratt is a fine-made, powerful looking young fellow of twenty-two, weighing close to 10st and had never figured in the roped arena. Yorke is a smaller-built man, weighing 9st 4lb, and fought a good battle with Smoker, of Dudley, to whom he had to succumb, the referee giving in against him for falling without a blow. For the present encounter he was made favourite at 6 to 4, from his doubtless possession of greater science than his antagonist, which more than compensated for the extra weight and length of reach of Garratt. From the commencement of the meeting at Chaddesley, the proceedings were watched with a furtive eye by a determined-looking ‘peeler,’ and no sooner was a start made than this inveterate spoiler, on arriving at the second meeting-place (the Talbot, Hartlebury) no less than three of the Stourbridge Constabulary carts were drawn up with a most threatening aspect in front of the inn, each car containing three of Her Majesty’s servants. Garratt, who had trained at the TALBOT, Cradley Heath, being recognised by the police, a lively chase through several fields resulted, he being ultimately obliged to surrender, being hemmed in on all sides. Some very ugly rumours are afloat as to Garratt having contrived his apprehension, being ‘funky’ at meeting his adversary; but these rumours require proof ere they should obtain credence among the unprejudiced. We are inclined to think that a fight was meant, but that, not being sufficiently ‘snug,’ the authorities got wind of the affair, and determined to put a stop to the proceedings by an imposing force. The result of the final meeting between these men will appear in our next.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 8/2/1863

“J. Garratt of Cradley and T. York of Brierley Hill.

These men met, for £10 a side, at Hartlebury, in Worcestershire, on Monday, Feb 2, but, owing to the attendance of the police, they could not bring the affair off; and at a meeting which took place on Tuesday, Feb 3, another fixture was arranged, and at an early hour on Wednesday morning, Feb 4, the men met at Brick Bridge, nine miles from Cradley, but before the ring could be put down the police again made their unwelcome appearance. A move was at once made towards Wolverhampton, and about four miles from that place the ring was pitched. It was Garratt’s first essay in a roped ring; York has figured in two or three minor matches. Garratt had the advantage in height and length of reach. The betting commenced at 6 to 5 on York, who got the knock-down blow, whilst the first blood was awarded to Garratt. From the first to the last it was one of the most determined, slashing fights that has taken place in the midland districts for some time past; York having the best for the first half hour, getting heavily all over Garratt’s phiz in almost every round. Garratt was not idle, for with his right he placed some severe punishment on York’s ribs. Round after round was fought gamely on both sides, both men administering severe punishment, until after fighting for one hour the odds turned in favour of Garratt. York still continued to play his part with advantage, and Garratt to receive unflinchingly; but as the fight progressed York began to show signs of weakness, yet his gameness was such that he kept on, only to receive the lion’s share of punishment; and not till nature had left him would he consent to be withdrawn, after fighting 96 most determined rounds in 1h 55min. Garratt, who was declared the winner, was led away nearly blind of both eyes, and York was much in the same condition. Garratt’s money shall be sent to him at Mr. *C. Bridgen*’s, TALBOT INN, Cradley Heath, Staffordshire.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 22/2/1863

“Jack Garrett will fight White of Halesowen, at 9st 10lb, for £25 or £50 a side. Money ready at *C. Bridgen*’s, TALBOT, Cradley Heath.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 4/3/1863

“The Late Prize Fight. The ‘Fancy’ in Trouble.

On Monday week, Benjamin York and John Garratt appeared in answer to a summons before the county magistrates, Messrs. Hill and Briscoe, at Wolverhampton, on a charge of creating a breach of the peace by fighting a pitched battle, on the 4th inst, at Tettenhall, and William Naylor, George Wilkes, Alfred C. Berry, Isaiah Edmonds, *Charles Bridgens*, and Barnsley Beasley, were charged with aiding and abetting the same. Mr. Miller Corbet, of Kidderminster, appeared on behalf of the defendants, all of whom belonged either to Brierley Hill or Cradley Heath. The Bench ordered Berry, York and Garratt to enter into their own recognisances in £20, and each to find one surety in £10 to keep the peace for three months.”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/2/1864 - Advert

“At a Meeting of the Gas Consumers of Cradley Heath, on Tuesday last, the 2nd day of February, at Mr. *C. Bridgens*, TALBOT INN, Mr. R. Whitby in the Chair.

Proposed and carried unanimously—

1st. That this Meeting is of opinion that the proposed reduction of prices, as now offered by this Company, is not satisfactory, and cannot be accepted by the Consumers, and they (the Consumers) pledge themselves not to burn any of their Gas after the 25th day of March next, unless, in the meantime, the Gas Company reduce their charges to the same rates and terms as those of the Bir-

mingham and Staffordshire Gas Company, and also give notice of the reduction to the Consumers prior to that date.

2nd. That the following Resolution, which was passed at our last Meeting, be rescinded: 'That all the Gas Consumers be requested to decline payment of their accounts till the decision of the Company should be made known,' and that the Company pay their accounts forthwith.

3rd. That a Copy of the Resolutions passed at this Meeting tonight be published in the *Brierley Hill Advertiser* and *Birmingham Daily Post*, and that the Chairman be requested to send a copy of the same to the Directors of the Gas Company.

(Signed) Robert Whitby. Chairman."

Stourbridge Observer 21/5/1864

"On Monday last an inquest was held at the TALBOT HOTEL, (Mr. *C. Bridgen's*) before E. Hooper, Esq, on the body of Charles Giddens, who was killed by a fall of coal, on Friday last, at Messrs. Sparrows pits After several witnesses had been heard the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

Benjamin Westwood, the butty, was recalled, and cautioned by the Coroner to make his men adhere to the rules in a better manner for the future; and also to see that the doggy fulfilled his duty in a better manner likewise."

Stourbridge Observer 4/3/1865

"On Wednesday last, an inquest was held at the house of *Charles Bridgens*, TALBOT HOTEL, before E. Hooper, Esq, District Coroner, on the body of Samuel Wright, who died suddenly on Sunday morning last. After the jury had been duly sworn and had viewed the body, the following evidence was taken.

Alfred Wright deposed that he was the son of the deceased who was a butcher, and resided at Cradley Heath. His father had not enjoyed very good health for the last 12 months, he was troubled chiefly with the rheumatism and a pain in the stomach. On Sunday morning last, at about half past twelve o'clock, he and his brother Samuel were going to bed, when they began pulling each other about not angrily but only in fun. When they had got up stairs his father said he would put a stop to this game. Samuel made a reply and said yes, he would. His father then got out of bed, and went down stairs. He and his brother then dressed themselves. He went down stairs also, but Samuel went into the other room. When he had got down into the kitchen he commenced fastening his shoes. While doing this, his father came out of the shop with a gambriel [a hook for hanging a carcass on] in his hand. He (the father) struck at him twice with the gambriel, but hit the screen instead; the third time the stick caught him on the head. As his father was endeavouring to strike again he slipped down. His sister went and lifted his father up, and sat him down on the screen. When his father was trying to strike him his younger sister ran out and gave an alarm. Mr. Harper hearing the alarm came in and persuaded his father to go to bed. He slept in the same room as his father. His brother Samuel was not in the room when his father came up stairs the second time; he was out in the yard. His father had not been in bed five minutes, when he got out and complained about being ill. He (his father) then went down stairs and said to his eldest daughter, 'Elizabeth, I am ill, send for Henry Bellingham.' No doctor was sent for as his father said he was getting better. He then went into a neighbour's house, as he did not like to hear his father groan. His brother Samuel came in at about a quarter past twelve o'clock. He was not drunk. He understood that his father would die suddenly, from hearing the doctor making a remark to that effect some time since. His father was subject to fits, but he had not seen him in one during the last six years. At about twenty minutes to three they came into the house where he was and sent him for the doctor. When he came back with the doctor, his father was lying dead on the sofa. He thought that he heard the doctor say that his father had died in a fit of apoplexy. His father ate a very hearty supper on the Saturday evening. His brother Samuel and his father often quarrelled. The last time that they did so was on the Thursday previous to his father's death. His father had not had any drugs from any chemists. There was some money in the bank belonging to his father, but he did not know the amount.

Elizabeth Wright, daughter of the deceased, corroborated the former witness's evidence, and stated in addition that when her father came down stairs he complained of pains in his stomach and neck. He complained on Thursday the 23rd of a similar pain. He asked for Henry Bellingham, and when Bellingham came he rubbed her father's chest, and also gave him some tobacco; part of which he smoked. He was in great pain and groaned dreadfully. He would not consent for us to send for a doctor, but said he should be better presently. He was then sitting on a screen; he afterwards got up and went to the sofa, where he knelt down resting his hands on the back of the sofa. She then turned him over and found that his face was quite black. She immediately sent for the doctor, but before he came her father was dead. He died on the sofa. When she went up stairs she did not observe anything in disorder in his room. Her father was easily enraged. The pain of which he complained on Thursday, the 23rd, was caused by his lifting a pig.

Police-constable Fox said he was told of the sudden death of the deceased, on Sunday evening last, by Dr. Hodgson. He had made every enquiry but could not hear of anything suspicious. When he went to the deceased's house, he did not search it.

After hearing the above evidence the coroner ably summed up, and the jury returned the following verdict. That the deceased died in a fit of apoplexy, caused by overexcitement through quarrelling with his son, Samuel."

County Advertiser 11/3/1865

"On Wednesday, at the Police Court, before Messrs. F. W. G. Barrs and H. O. Firmstone, John Worton and Benjamin Shaw were charged with committing a breach of the peace on the previous Saturday week, by fighting in the TALBOT public house, Cradley Heath. Police-constable Fox gave evidence to the effect that he was called into the public house in question to put an end to a disturbance, and found the two defendants stripped and fighting. Shaw was then charged with assaulting Worton. Complainant stated that the cause of the fight was an assault committed upon him by Shaw, without the slightest provocation. For the assault Shaw was fined 6d and costs. In the first case the two men were ordered to find sureties to keep the peace for a month."

Stourbridge Observer 1/7/1865

“Wanted, a General Servant, about 20 years of age, accustomed to the Business of a Public House. Apply Mrs. *Bridgens*, TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 12/8/1865

“George Walker, a carter, in the employ of Mr. Gideon Billingham, chainmaker, Cradley Heath, was charged with stealing 3½d from the till of *Charles Bridgens*, of the TALBOT public house, Cradley Heath. It appeared that the prisoner was in the habit of calling almost every day at the liquor shop of the prosecutor and having half a pint of ale. Sometimes he called twice in the course of one day, and after he had gone money was generally missed from the till. Mrs. *Bridgens* consequently watched him, and on Tuesday last saw him get on a form, reach over the counter, and take 3½d from the till. She immediately accused him of the theft, when he admitted it, and said it was the first time he had taken anything. He was sentenced to twenty-one days’ imprisonment.”

County Advertiser 23/9/1865 - Advert

“*Chas. Bridgen*, of the TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath, has taken No.1 Booth, adjoining the Paddock, on the Wordsley Race Ground, where the best Articles on the Course will be found. Port, Sherry, Champagne, and Spirits of the best quality. Ham, Beef, &c, will be provided.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 2/12/1865

“T. Horner (alias Dumpling) of Musham will run Tudor of Dudley Port 120 yards level, or Tonks or Wareing of Wednesbury, or take two yards of Foster of Oldbury, or three yards from Kirkham of Westbromwich. Either match for £10 a side. Money ready at the TALBOT INN, Cradley Heath.”

Stourbridge Observer 26/5/1866

“An inquest was held on Monday afternoon, before Mr. Edwin Hooper, Coroner, at the TALBOT INN, Cradley Heath, respecting the death of Charlotte Smith, a woman 27 years of age, who resided in Cradley Heath.

John Smith said the deceased was not his wife, but he had lived with her as such for the last twelve or thirteen years. He had six children, three of them were living. On the 4th inst he went home tipsy, and had some words with the deceased. Some time afterwards she told him that she was not well. On the 11th inst, she complained of a pain in her leg and stomach, and on the following day she was delivered of a still-born female child. Witness asked the deceased where the child was, and she said she had covered it over, and put it away, so that the children should not see it. Witness, who seemed very much depressed, said the child was not a full grown one, when he appeared overcome, and said, ‘I should wish for that woman to come here; that woman has been the cause of the death of the deceased.’ Upon being asked by the Coroner what he meant, witness said a woman that lived next door to him had raised a report stating that the deceased had taken ‘stuff’ to destroy her child. In reply to the Coroner, witness said deceased had never had a miscarriage before, and the last time she was confined was about a year and nine months past. Witness asked the deceased when she complained of illness whether he should fetch a doctor, and she said, ‘No, they were poor enough then.’ Witness afterwards fetched a midwife, on the night of the 12th inst, and she said deceased could have another delivery. Witness, on the following Sunday went for Mr. Hodgson, surgeon, but he was out. He then went to Mr. Moore’s; the servant answered the door. Witness asked for Mr. Moore saying his wife was on the point of death. The servant said Mr. Moore was out. Witness then asked if Mr. Kendrick was in, but received an answer in the negative. Witness then went to another doctor’s house, but he also was out. He then ran to Hadens Hill, where he had been informed Mr. Kendrick was. He went to the house he was told and Mr. Kendrick answered the door. Witness asked him to come to their house, and told him the state the deceased was in. Mr. Kendrick then told him he could not go unless he had a note. Witness then went to Mr. Hodgson’s again, and that gentleman saw the deceased about seven o’clock in the evening. He saw her again at midnight, and four o’clock the next Monday morning. Mr. Hodgson informed witness that he thought the deceased would be delivered of another child, but she was not. Mr. Hodgson told witness that when he came to the deceased he expected to have the money. Witness said he should have it, and went to his master for the purpose of getting it. Mr. Hodgson, however, afterwards told him that he could have as much medicine as he liked, and, although he had attended the deceased three times, he would not charge him anything. He continued to attend the deceased until last Saturday morning, when she died. Witness, when asked by the Coroner what he thought the deceased died from, said he thought she died of a broken heart, for about a quarter of an hour previous to the time she expired she referred, in her conversation with him, to the report that had been raised, and said what a disgrace it would be to her.

Elizabeth Edmonds, alias Billingham, said she lived next door to the deceased. She saw her on the 12th inst. She was very ill. The deceased told her she had had a miscarriage. Witness told her she had better send for some one. She replied, ‘I want no one; I want to lie and die.’ Witness had known her for seven months. The husband of the deceased had words sometimes with her, but witness never knew him strike the deceased. Since her illness he had paid her every attention, and she had everything that she required.

Sarah Working said she lived at the Five Ways. She was fetched to the deceased by Elizabeth Edmonds. When she saw deceased she saw something she did not like. She afterwards had some conversation with her. The child was a six months child. Witness asked her why she did not send for a doctor? She replied that she did not want one. Witness then told her to get some brandy. Mr. H. F. Hodgson said he attended to the deceased, and during the time he did so she had sufficient nourishment. She was suffering differently to what she would have done if she had been properly attended. The child was not full-grown, and he did not think it had been born alive. He gave an order for the burial of it. He felt convinced that the deceased had taken nothing to secure abortion. He discovered no marks or bruises on the body of the deceased.

The jury returned a verdict that the deceased Died from Natural Causes, accelerated by the want of earlier medical treatment. They appended also to their verdict that the relieving officer living such a distance away, a person should be appointed in Cradley Heath to grant orders for the attendance of a parish doctor.

The Coroner promised to bring the wishes of the jury under the notice of the Dudley Board of Guardians.”

Bells Life In London and Sporting Chronicle 16/6/1866

“Homer (alias Dumpling) of Musham will run any of the following men at Aston Cross Grounds, Birmingham, viz, Pegg of Worcester 100 yards (and give Pegg one yard start), for £5 a side, open for £10; or will take two yards start of Kirkham of West-bromwich in 100 yards, for £10 a side; or run Tudor of Dudley Port 100 yards level, for £10 a side; or take two yards start in 100 yards from Sim Webb of Kates Hill, for £10 a side; or take two yards start in 100 yards from Bennett of Kidderminster, for £10 a side. Any of the above matches can be made any night next week at Mr. *Charles Bridgens*’s, TALBOT INN, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 30/6/1866 - Advert

“Ancient Order of Foresters and Shepherds. Grand Demonstration!

The Committee of the Stourbridge and East Worcestershire District of the Ancient Order of Foresters have much pleasure in announcing that they have obtained the kind permission of the Right Hon. Lord Lyttleton to hold a Monster Gala in Hagley Park, on Monday, July 9th, 1866.

The Members of the various Courts in their splendid Regalia will meet the Ancient Order of Shepherds and form a Grand Procession from Stourbridge to Hagley, accompanied by their splendid Emblematical Flags and Banners, and a Grand Display of Military Bands. The Birmingham Royal Albert Saxhorn, Worcestershire Rifle, 1st Battalion, the 3rd Worcestershire, and the 15th Staffordshire Bands; the whole in their gorgeous and Military Uniforms.

The following first-rate Artistes have also been engaged, regardless of expense.

Mr. W. Fawke, late Sergeant in the Royal Scots Greys, who will go through the whole of his wonderful Feats of Swordsmanship, for particulars of which see small bills.

The versatile Mimics of Mr. George Hancox, the Royal King of Cures, who has had the honour of appearing before her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales.

A Comic Singing Contest; First Prize, £2; Second, £1; Third, 10s; Fourth, 5s. Entrance, 2s each.

A String Band will accompany the vocalists.

Dancing, Aunt Sally, Uncle Sam, Foot Ball, Gymnastics, and other English and Olympic Games; Shooting Gallery, Photographic Gallery, Camera Obscura, and for the Juvenile Visitors, Running Horses, Punch and Judy, &c, &c. Balloon Ascents.

Spacious Tents will be erected for Refreshments, at town prices. Ale, Porter, Wines, Spirits, &c, will be supplied by Mr. Bateman, CROSS KEYS, Stourbridge, and by Mr. Bridgens, TALBOT INN, Cradley Heath; and Confectionary, Sandwiches, Tea, Coffee, and Ginger Beer by Mr. Corns, Snow Hill, Wolverhampton.

Admission to the Park, 6d each. Children under Twelve, Half-price.

Tickets may be had at the various Court Houses, of any Member of the Committee, or of Mr. Mark’s, Printer, Stourbridge.

Applications to be made to the Committee, OLD KINGS HEAD INN, Stourbridge.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 7/7/1866

“Pegg of Worcester and Homer (alias Dumpling) of Musham. £2 a side is down for the 100 yards match, for £5 a side (open for £10), at the Britannia Grounds, Tipton, on July 23. A further deposit of the same must be made at *Bridgen*’s, TALBOT INN, Cradley, on the 16th inst.”

County Advertiser 31/8/1867 - Advert

“To Innkeepers.

To be Let, with possession at Michaelmas, that Old-licensed Inn, the TALBOT, situated at Five Ways, Cradley Heath. The Premises are extensive and well-arranged, and adapted for carrying on a large business. In-coming about £150.

For further particulars apply to Mr. Joseph Fellows, Cradley Heath.”

London Gazette 22/10/1867

“*Charles Bridgens*, now and for one month last past residing in lodgings at Brettell-lane, in the parish of Kingswinford, in the county of Stafford, out of business, and for six years previously thereto residing and carrying on business, as a Victualler and Dealer in Tobacco, at Cradley-heath, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the said county of Stafford, having been adjudged bankrupt under a Petition for adjudication of Bankruptcy, filed in Her Majesty’s Court of Bankruptcy for the Birmingham District, on the 18th day of October, 1867, is hereby required to surrender himself to Owen Davies Tudor, Esq, a Registrar of the said Court, at the first meeting of creditors to be held before the said Registrar, on the 1st day of November next; at twelve o’clock at noon precisely, at the said Court at Birmingham. Mr. George Kinnear, of Waterloo Rooms, Waterloo-street, Birmingham, is the Official Assignee, and Mr. Joseph Stokes, of Dudley, is the Solicitor acting in the bankruptcy.”

County Advertiser 29/2/1868

“On Saturday last an inquest was held at the TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath, before Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, on the body of the illegitimate child of Ann Homer, residing at Hancox’s building. After hearing the evidence, the Jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased was stillborn.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/4/1868 - Advert

“County of Stafford. Weights and Measures. District C, or South Staffordshire.

I hereby give notice that I shall attend at the undermentioned times and places for the purpose of Comparing and Examining all such Weights and Measures as shall be brought to me for that purpose, and stamping such of them as shall be found correct.....

TALBOT HOTEL, at Cradley Heath, on Thursday, May 14th, 1868, at Ten o'clock am.....

All Persons residing in the said District desirous of having their Weights and Measures stamped, should bring or send them to any of the above places for adjustment, as shall be most convenient; or to my Residence, at Goldthorn Hill, near Wolverhampton, on Wednesdays or Saturdays.

Persons within any local jurisdiction, for which a separate Inspector is appointed, cannot have their Weights and Measures Examined or Stamped by the County Inspector.

J. George Horder. Inspector of Weights and Measures for the said District.

Brueton Villa, Goldthorn Hill, Wolverhampton. April 1, 1868.”

County Advertiser 4/7/1868 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant, well accustomed to a public house. Must have a good character.

Apply, *W. Letts*, TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 3/10/1868

“Thomas Griffiths was charged with assaulting Police-constable Johnson while in the execution of his duty, on the 22nd August. Plaintiff said on the 22nd ult he was on duty near the TALBOT INN, High Street, Cradley Heath, at twenty-five minutes past twelve in the morning, when a number of men were turned out of that house drunk, and making a great disturbance. He requested them to go home when defendant struck him on the mouth, and prevented him taking two others into custody. He hit him in the face cutting his lip and causing his mouth to bleed.

Thomas Cox, chainmaker, Four Ways, Cradley Heath, said defendant did not strike the policeman. A man named Samuel Gritton struck him and knocked him down. The officer here said he was not knocked down.

Defendant had been twice before charged with assaults. Fined 5s and costs, or in default, twenty-one days' imprisonment.”

County Advertiser 9/1/1869 - Advert

“Wanted, an active industrious Girl, of good character.

Apply, *W. Letts*, TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 6/3/1869

“At a special Petty Sessions, held on Wednesday, before Mr. H. Hall, Thomas Morgan, of Harts Hill, was brought up on remand from Wordsley, charged with unlawfully cutting and wounding William Hampton, of Cradley Heath, on the 22nd ultimo. Mr. Addison appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Stokes was for the defence.

Complainant said he was a chain maker, residing at Cradley Heath. On Monday, the 22nd ult, he was at *Letts's* public house, the TALBOT INN, Cradley Heath, about twelve o'clock at night. He first went into the liquor shop, and afterwards into the bagatelle room where he saw the prisoner and his brother-in-law, George Webb, and several others. A dispute arose over the play. While the quarrel was going on Mr. *Letts* said he would have no quarrelling there, and they went outside. When outside, the prisoner struck at George Webb, who struck him again, and the prisoner and his brother-in-law ran away towards Four Ways, in the direction of the brother-in-law's house. In about five minutes they returned. Prisoner had a knife in his hand. Did not see him do anything then, but when he was going up the street, prisoner came to him and said, ‘You b—, you are one,’ and struck him with the knife. He threw himself back, but the knife caught him under the left eye. Prisoner struck at him again with the knife, at his head. He (complainant) put his left arm up, and was cut in two places. Prisoner struck at him three times. He felt the blood on his hand, and fell down. He then got up, and started to go away to the Five Ways, to look for a policeman, but did not see one; and about half-past two went to Dr. Hodgson's surgery, where his wounds were dressed. I knew the prisoner well.

Cross-examined. Lived at Five Ways. Had spent seven weeks in gaol. Had been before the Magistrates seven or eight times.

Had been charged with assaulting the police. Had been a prize fighter. Prisoner stopped till Webb came up. Went in the same direction as the men. Was with Webb and his companions till three o'clock. A knife was not drawn by Westwood. He was not one of the company. He, Webb, and others did not set about the prisoner when he came out of the public house. Did not follow him up to his brother-in-law's. Did not have a picker in his hands to defend himself. Did not throw brick-ends at the prisoner. A person named ‘Jack Tom’ was present. He was a friend of his (complaint's). He did not knock the prisoner down and take 4s 6d out his pocket in his (complainant's) presence. Had been drinking from a quartier to ten till twelve o'clock. Went to *Letts's* and had some spirits. Was quite sober. Prisoner was drunk.

George Webb said he was a collier, and resided at Cradley Heath. On the 22nd ult he was at *Letts's* public house. Prisoner was there. Prosecutor came in about twelve o'clock. Prisoner and the others were playing at bagatelle. A dispute arose, and prisoner said he would give witness sixpence if he would fight him a quarter of an hour. The landlord ordered them all out. Prosecutor did not say a word to the prisoner in the house. When out of the house prisoner struck witness, and he struck him again. Prisoner's brother-in-law threatened witness and afterwards went away. When by Mason's, the ironmonger's, he saw the prisoner with a knife in his hands. It looked like a carving knife, and prisoner struck Hampton twice. Prosecutor fell down. He afterwards got up and ran away. Prisoner said, ‘Where's the man who struck me?’ Witness said, ‘Here I am.’ Prisoner then lifted up the knife and stuck at him on the head; but he fell towards him, and the knife went through his coat. He then went after the policeman, and waited for him till ten minutes to three, when he came.

Charles Butler, chain maker, residing at the Five Ways, said that when near Mason's house, at Cradley Heath, he saw prisoner with a knife in his hand. He struck at the prosecutor with the knife, and hit him under the left eye.

Henry Frederick Hodgson said he was a surgeon practising at Cradley Heath, and was called up about half-past two o'clock on the morning of the 22nd ult to attend to the prosecutor. He found him suffering from two incised wounds on the back of the left hand, and one under the left eye. They appeared to have been cut with a sharp instrument. He dressed the wounds. The man was

still under his care, and was likely to be for some time. One of the wounds was about an inch in length, and the other went right through the hand.

Cross-examined: There were two flesh wounds. The bone of the hand was not hurt. The blow on the eye was very trivial. Police-constable Fairbanks proved apprehending the prisoner, and charged him with stabbing William Hampton on the morning of the 22nd ult. Prisoner said, 'You can have me; but I want them, as they wanted to set about me.'

This being the case for the prosecution, Mr. Stokes said he should not address the Bench, as there was no doubt a prima facie case. He should simply call a witness.

John Scoltock said he was a blacksmith, and resided at Cradley Heath. On Monday week prisoner came to his house at about eight o'clock, and they went to the TALBOT about nine. Prisoner had a quarrel with George Webb, and when outside the house Webb struck the prisoner. Witness told prisoner to come along, or he would get killed; so they both left, and went to witness's house. They were there about ten minutes, when prisoner went out to go home. Shortly after he had left witness heard a noise outside, and went out to ascertain what was the matter, when he saw a number of persons fighting. He did not go near them, but returned into the house. Prisoner shortly after followed him into the house and took up a poker, and said he should defend himself. While prisoner was in the house some one threw some stones and half-bricks at the door. Did not run out with a knife; neither did the prisoner have a knife. Had prisoner a knife, witness must have seen him with it.

Prisoner was then committed to take his trial at the next Stafford Assizes."

[At Staffordshire Lent Assizes, Thomas Morgan was found guilty of intent to do grievous bodily harm. The jury recommended him to mercy on account of his previous good character. He was sentenced to fifteen months' imprisonment.]

County Advertiser 24/7/1869 - Advert

"Wanted, an honest, industrious Girl, as General Servant. Apply to *W. Letts*, TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath."

Stourbridge Observer 28/8/1869

"Joseph Weaver and Richard Harvey were charged by Emmanuel Pitchford with assaulting him on the 14th inst. Complainant said he lived at the Four Ways, Cradley, and was out-porter at Cradley Station.

On the above date, witness went into *Letts*' public house to have a pint of ale, and put it on the mantelpiece. Weaver went and took hold of it, and said it was his ale. Witness went to sit down on the Bench, and Harvey struck him several times, and then pulled something out of his pocket, and stabbed him through the cheek with some sharp instrument, which completely penetrated it. Weaver had previously threatened to stab him with a knife.

A witness was called for the defence.

After hearing his evidence, the Bench fined Harvey 10s and costs; in default one month. Weaver was fined 6d and costs; in default seven days."

County Advertiser 27/11/1869

"On Monday, Mr. Bayley, Deputy Coroner, held an inquest at the TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on the body of Daniel Cartwright, a miner, twenty-two years of age. On the previous Thursday, the deceased was at work at the Haden Hill Colliery, belonging to Mr. Bassano, when a fall of coal immediately followed what is known as a 'bump.' Deceased was struck on the back by the falling coal, and so severe were his injuries that he died in about twenty-four hours. Several witnesses were examined, but there did not appear to be the least blame attributable to anyone, every precaution having been taken to prevent an accident. The Jury accordingly returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

County Advertiser 24/12/1869

"On Wednesday, at the Police Court, Mary Homer, a well-dressed young woman was charged with stealing 1½lbs of sugar, belonging to Mr. *Letts*, of the TALBOT, Cradley Heath. Before any evidence was taken, the Bench asked Mr. *Letts* if he wished to press the case. He replied that he did not, provided defendant would pay the expenses incurred. Defendant's husband paid the money, and as he left the Court was roundly abused by defendant for doing so."

County Advertiser 23/4/1870 - Advert

"Wanted, an active Girl, as General Servant. Apply, *W. Letts*, TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath."

Stourbridge Observer 7/5/1870

"Alfred Billingham was charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the TALBOT INN, Cradley Heath, on the 1st inst, when requested to do so by the landlord.

William Letts, the landlord said he ordered defendant to leave the house, and he refused to do so, and threatened to strike him with a pint cup.

Defendant pleaded guilty, and was fined 2s 6d and costs, in default 14 days."

Stourbridge Observer 17/12/1870

"An inquest was held on Wednesday evening at Mr. *William Letts*'s, the TALBOT HOTEL, before Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, touching the death of Cornelius Grainger, five weeks old.

The first witness called was Sarah Grainger, mother of deceased, who said she was wife of Thomas Grainger, a puddler, and resided at the Five Ways. Deceased was five weeks old, and it was his body the jurymen have just seen. He had good health. On

Saturday night she went to bed. His face was towards her when she went to bed, and it was in the same position when she woke. She did not think he died from suffocation. She sent for Mrs. Evans.

Deceased was purple about the lips, and his hands were clenched. The child had not been out of her care on the Saturday. She sent for Mr. Maland, surgeon, after the child was dead, and he told her to go for a policeman.

Elizabeth Evans said she was neighbour to Grainger. She had frequently seen the child, and he seemed to enjoy pretty good health. She last saw it alive at eleven o'clock on the Saturday night. She was called in on the Sunday morning, and she saw the child in bed dead. She thought every attention had been paid to the child by the father and mother. She thought the child had died from natural causes.

Police-constable Craddock said there was no suspicion in the case.

The jury returned a verdict of Died from Natural Causes."

1871 Census

High Street – TALBOT INN

[1] *William Letts* (35), grocer and victualler, born Holdenby, Northamptonshire;

[2] Sarah E. Letts (21), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Anne Letts (14), daughter, born Halesowen;

[4] Edward A. Letts (7), son, scholar, born Halesowen;

[5] Ralph Letts (5), son, scholar, born Halesowen;

[6] Mary Letts (3), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[7] Walter Letts (9 months), son, born Rowley Regis;

[8] Emma Dunn (50), nurse, born Halesowen;

[9] Sarah A. Salt (19), domestic servant, born Halesowen;

[10] George Palmer (19), general servant, born Halesowen:

County Advertiser 20/5/1871 - Advert

"Wanted, an active experienced Girl, about 24 years of age, as General Servant. Apply, Mrs. *Letts*, TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath."

County Advertiser 19/8/1871 - Advert

"Wanted, a steady Girl, as Servant, and to take management of house. Apply, Mrs. *Letts*, TALBOT HOTEL, Five Ways, Cradley Heath."

Stourbridge Observer 23/9/1871 - Advert

"TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath. To Publicans, Brokers, & Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. S. Leonard, on the Premises aforesaid, on Wednesday, September 27th, 1871, the whole of the Brewing Plant, quantity of Household Furniture, &c, comprising lot of Hogshead, Half Hogshead, and other Casks, 20-bushel Mash Tub, Gathering Tub, three Wort Vats, Wort Pumps, 180-gallon Copper Boiler, Iron Boiler, Malt Crusher, eleven pockets of Sussex and Worcester Hops; capital 4-pull Beer Machine, with Taps, extensive Piping, &c, complete; Brass Pumps, Brass Water Fountain, with gas apparatus; lot of Pewter Measures, eight Liquor Casks, with Piping and Brass Taps; large Street Lamp, Copper Kitchen, capital slate-bottomed Bagatelle Table, with Cues, Balls, Marking Board, and Cover, complete; Mahogany Sofa, covered with Morocco Leather; Mahogany Horsehair-seated Couch; Mahogany Smoke-room and other Chairs; Chimney Glasses, in Gilt and Rosewood Frames; two long Mahogany Tables, Mahogany Table, with three additional leaves; 4-post Bedsteads, with cornices, &c; Feather Beds, and numerous other Effects, belonging to Mr. *William Letts*, who is leaving the Premises.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock in the Morning.

Catalogues may be had of the Auctioneer, Cradley Heath."

Thomas Taft = Thomas Taft

* probably the same person

Stourbridge Observer 9/11/1872

"Thomas Williams was charged with refusing to quit the TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on the 19th ult, when requested to do so by the landlord. *Thomas Taft* proved the case. The defendant pleaded guilty, and was fined 6d and costs."

County Advertiser 8/2/1873

"Richard Spencer, chainmaker, was charged with stealing a parcel of woollen shirting on the 29th ult, the property of Joseph Bowen, of Cradley Forge. Mr. Addison defended.

Complainant said he was in the TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath, between seven and eight o'clock on the night of the 29th. He had some plaid shirting in his right-hand jacket pocket, wrapped up in paper. The prisoner was in the house, and he drank with him. Prisoner was dancing about the room. He sat down, and sometime after he felt some one take the parcel out of his pocket. Could not swear it was the prisoner. Prisoner went out of the room, and he followed him and asked him where the stuff was. Did not hear him make a reply.

Cross-examined by Mr. Addison: The parcel did not fall out; it was taken out.

Samuel Mason said he was in the TALBOT HOTEL on the 29th ult, and while a fight was going on in the street he saw prisoner

take the parcel out of prosecutor's pocket, and go out.

Police-constable Collier said he went to the works where prisoner was employed, and found the parcel under some straw in the manger. He apprehended prisoner, who said that he picked it up off the room floor.

Alfred Shaw was called for the defence, and said that while the fight was going on the parcel fell out of prosecutor's pocket. Prisoner picked it up, and he (witness) took it out of his hand, and put it in Mr. Hingley's stable for a lark. Prisoner did not take it out of prosecutor's pocket. The case was dismissed."

County Advertiser 15/11/1873

"Hannah Skelding and William Hadley were charged with stealing five ginger beer bottles on the 8th inst, the property of *Thomas Taft*, landlord of the TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath. The prosecutor said he found the bottles produced on the prisoners. Henry Homer said he was waiter, and on the night in question he was put to watch the prisoners. He saw the prisoner Hadley take up two bottles and give them to the other prisoner, and she put them in her handkerchief. He also saw a boy, the female prisoner's son, give her two bottles, and she put them in her basket. Police-constable Collier said he went to the public house on Saturday night, and met the prisoners coming out of the house with the bottles produced. He charged them with the theft, and they denied stealing the bottles. Prisoners pleaded not guilty, but they were sentenced to 24 hours' imprisonment."

Birmingham Daily Post 17/2/1874 - Advert

"Bagatelle Table, slate bottom; excellent condition.

Apply to *Thomas Taft*, TALBOT INN, Cradley Heath."

The Era 30/8/1874 - Advert

"Wanted, at once, a Piano Player; must be a good singer, for a Public House, in the Country.

Apply to Mr. *T. Taft*, TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath, near Brierley Hill."

County Express 8/5/1875 - Advert

"Walter Showell, Crosswells Brewery, Langley, near Oldbury.

Having completed his new premises, is now prepared to offer season-brewed Ales and Porters of first-class qualities, and upon terms that cannot fail to give general satisfaction. Agent for Bass & Co., Burton; Guinness & Co., Dublin; W. & A. Gilbey, London; Wholesale Wine and Spirit Merchant, and Bottler of Bass's Pale Ale, and Guinness's Extra Stout.....

Wholesale Branch Stores TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath. Agent: Mr. *T. Taft*."

County Express 5/2/1876 - Advert

"Wanted an industrious Youth, to live in house.

Apply, TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath."

County Express 22/7/1876 - Advert

"Walter Showell, Crosswells Brewery, Oldbury, Wholesale Wine & Spirit Merchant.....

A stock of the above Wines and Spirits is kept by the following Agents.....

Mr. *T. Taft*, TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath."

County Advertiser 30/9/1876

"*Thomas Taft*, TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath, charged Henry Leatham with being disorderly and refusing to quit his premises on the 16th inst. Fined 5s and costs."

County Advertiser 3/3/1877

"William Price, a wheelwright, of Cradley Heath, was charged with being disorderly and refusing to quit the licensed premises of *Thomas Taft*, TALBOT INN, Cradley Heath. The landlord proved that on the 18th ult defendant came to his house, and applied for some ale; but as he was drunk at the time, the barmaid refused to supply him with any. Defendant then became disorderly, and on being in consequence ordered to leave the premises, he refused. There was no defence, and the Magistrates imposed a fine of 10s and costs; in default fourteen days' imprisonment."

County Advertiser 10/3/1877

"Henry Homer, a chainmaker, of Cradley Heath, was charged with being disorderly on the licensed premises of *Thomas Taft*, and with refusing to quit when ordered to do so. The prosecutor, who is the landlord of the TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath, said defendant applied to him for ale while intoxicated, and on being refused became disorderly. He also refused to leave. Defendant said he only spent 1s on the day in question; he promised amendment in the future. A fine of 2s 6d and costs was inflicted; in default, a week's imprisonment."

County Express 25/8/1877

"After the business of the Petty Sessions had been disposed of the Annual Licensing Sessions were held.....

John Biggs, the BULLS HEAD INN, Cradley Heath, applied for a license to enable him to sell intoxicating liquors either on or off the premises.

Mr. Hayes, who supported the application, said that his client at present held a seven days' beer license but he proposed if the Bench granted his application to discontinue the sale of all intoxicating drinks on Sunday; an arrangement which he thought very

desirable.

Mr. *Taft*, of the TALBOT HOTEL, opposed, on the ground that his business would be injured by the granting of an additional license in the neighbourhood, as there were already a number of public houses in close proximity to this one.

Application refused.”

Midland Advertiser 9/2/1878 - Advert

“Walter Showell, Crosswells’ Brewery, Oldbury.

Has the pleasure to inform his friends and customers of Oldbury and District, that he has given up the Agency of Messrs. W. A. Gilbey. He has been induced to do so in consequence in the rapid increase of business, which has far outgrown the limits to which agencies of this kind usually attach, and which has consequently rendered it necessary for him to purchase in the open market, in order to meet the requirements of his customers. In doing so he has confined his purchases to Importers of the first-class only, and being in a position to obtain the most favourable terms, and finds himself able to offer an article very far superior to that he has been hitherto able to do in his capacity as Agent.....

Agents Mr. *T. Taft*, TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 18/1/1879 - Advert

“TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath. Wanted, a good General Servant.

Apply as above.”

Dudley Herald 22/11/1879

“James Nicklin was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of *Thomas Taft*, TALBOT HOTEL, Five Ways, Cradley Heath, on the 11th inst. Prosecutor stated that the defendant came to his premises and was drunk. He ordered him out, but defendant refused to quit. Defendant was also charged with being drunk and riotous in the street. The charges were proved, and defendant was fined 1s and costs, or, in default, seven days. The second charge was withdrawn.”

County Advertiser 7/8/1880 - Notice

“The Licensing Acts, 1872-74.

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 or Division in which the House and Premises or Shop hereinafter mentioned are situate.

I, *Thomas Taft*, now residing at Cradley Heath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, Victualler, do Hereby Give Notice that it is my intention to Apply, at the next General Annual Licensing Meeting for the Rowley Regis Division of the said County, to be holden at the Public Office, at Old Hill, in the said Division, on the 25th day of August, 1880, for a License to hold any of the Excise License or Licenses that may be held by a Publican, to Sell by Retail, Intoxicating Liquor, to be consumed on and off the Premises, at a House situate at Cradley Heath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis aforesaid, and known by the sign of the TALBOT, of which Premises Noah Fellows, of Halesowen, is the Owner, and from whom I rent them.

Given under my hand this 27th day of July, 1880.

Thomas Taft.”

Dudley and District News 2/10/1880

“Adjourned Licensing Sessions. These sessions were held on Wednesday at Old Hill.....

Mr. Waldron made an appeal, on behalf of Mr. *Thomas Taft*, of the TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath, that a seven days’ license might be granted to his client. He stated that some five or six years ago, in deference to public opinion, his client voluntarily surrendered his seventh day’s license, but now, finding that the competition of other publicans placed him at a disadvantage, he asked that he might be allowed to have the day back again.

Mr. Homer opposed, on behalf of a number of ratepayers. He urged that the seventh day license was not required, stating that the number of young men and women to be found in the public houses on a Sunday night was a public scandal, and a disgrace to Cradley Heath. The Sunday closing would very soon be brought about by the Legislature itself. Mr. Joseph Whitley presented a memorial, signed by a large number of ratepayers of Cradley Heath against the application being granted.

The application was refused, the Bench stating that their feeling was against the increasing of seven days’ licenses.”

1881 Census

96, High Street

[1] *Thomas Taft* (39), licensed victualler, born Tettenhall;

[2] Eleanor Taft (39), wife, born Tettenhall;

[3] William Henry Taft (14), nephew, scholar, born Enville;

[4] Abigail Newton (21), barmaid, born Brierley Hill;

[5] Jane Grazier (18), general servant, born Mushroom Green;

[6] Eany Shire (21), visitor, dressmaker, born Brierley Hill:

County Advertiser 25/3/1882 - Advert

“To Builders, Speculators, and Others.

Very Desirable and conveniently-situated Freehold Building Land, in Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath, in the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs Insull and Son, at the house of Mr. *Taft*, the TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on Thursday, March 30th, 1882, at Six o’clock in the Evening, subject to conditions of Sale as will be then and there produced and read.....”

County Advertiser 1/4/1882

“An inquest was held on Monday morning last at the TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath, before Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, touching the death of Richard Johnston (39), of High Street, Cradley Heath, who met with his death while engaged at the Timbertree Colliery, belonging to the New British Iron Company, on the previous Thursday. Mr. Scott, assistant Mines’ Government Inspector, and Mr. Keen, certificated manager of the colliery, were present.

The evidence given was to the effect that Henry Downes and the deceased man, Johnson, were engaged in setting a tree a little after eight o’clock on the previous Thursday morning. As Downes struck the tree with a dresser another tree jumped out, and a quantity of ‘shut’ came down upon him and Johnson. Downes was injured by the stuff which came upon him, but his fellow workman, Johnson, was completely buried by the falling mass, and when he was extricated some few hours afterwards he was quite dead.

It was stated that Johnson had been accustomed to timber setting for twenty years.

In answer to Mr. Scott, the man Downes said there were slabs over the tree, but these were not nailed. He was quite sure the blow hit the tree and not the bar.

Mr. Scott remarked that there seemed to have been some very injudicious setting.

In reply to further question, witness said the timbering was safe, but it was the weight of the stuff which brought it down.

Mr. Scott said that at present it did not seem to him that this was the case.

The Coroner asked Mr. Scott if he would like to have the inquest adjourned so that he might examine the place.

Mr. Scott said it seemed to him to be an ordinary class of thick coal accident, which might have been avoided by better fastening of the timber by nailing.

The Coroner said it did not seem to have been done in this instance. There did not appear to have been sufficient care used in the setting of the timber, and in consequence the unfortunate man lost his life.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

Mr. Scott, in answer to the Coroner, said he would not be long before he visited the place.

The Coroner: And no doubt you will impress upon them the necessity of carrying out your suggestion.

Mr. Scott said he certainly should. This was only another case which proved the suggestion to be a valuable one.

Replying to a remark of Mr. Keen, the Coroner said he was here to speak the opinion of the jury, and they were of opinion that there must be greater care used in future in timbering this pit.

Mr. Keen said that would be impossible.

The Coroner said if Mr. Keen told him it was impossible, he should certainly make a note of what he said. He afterwards told Mr. Keen that if he could convince Mr. Scott as to what he said, he (the coroner) should be satisfied.

Mr. Scott said he himself thought the timber had been very weakly set.

The inquiry then terminated.”

County Advertiser 22/4/1882

“A trap accident occurred a few nights ago, near to the Board Schools, Blackheath, and resulted in two persons named *Thomas Taft*, publican, Cradley Heath, and Thomas Wilkes, ironmonger, also of Cradley Heath, being injured, Mr. *Taft* seriously about the head. It is alleged that when Mr. *Taft* was driving in the direction of Cradley Heath he was driven into by a butcher named Thompson. Mr. *Taft* and his three friends were thrown out of the conveyance. Mr. *Taft* was thrown violently against the kerbstone, by which he sustained shocking injuries to his head. He was removed to his home, and for some days no hopes were given of his recovery. Since then he has taken a favourable turn, and is said to be getting the better of his injuries.”

County Advertiser 29/12/1883 - Advert

“Wanted, a good General Servant, about 20, clean, active, and early riser. One from the country preferred. Apply, TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 10/3/1888 - Advert

“Important Sale of Valuable Freehold Properties, Cradley Heath.

Mr. A. H. Sidaway is favoured with instructions to Offer for Sale by Auction, at the house of Mr. *T. Taft*, the TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on Thursday, March 27th, 1888, at Six for Seven o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then produced.....”

County Advertiser 25/5/1889 - Advert

“High Street, Cradley Heath.

Mr. T. Pateshall is instructed to Sell by Auction at the TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on Monday, June 3rd, 1889, a very useful Chestnut Horse, 16½ hands; capital Chestnut Mare, 15 hands; a Valuable Roan Colt, 13½ hands, 2 years off, broken to harness; Three Sets of Harness, Gearing, Horse Clothing, a quantity of Household Furniture, and other Effects, belonging to Mr. *Thomas Taft*, who is leaving the Premises.

Sale at Twelve o’clock.”

Dudley Mercury 1/6/1889 - Advert

“High Street, Cradley Heath.

Mr. T. Pateshall is instructed to Sell by Auction at the TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on Monday Next, June 5th, 1889, the Modern and Genteel Household Furniture, Horses, Vehicles, &c, comprising Iron Half-tester and French Bedsteads, Feather Beds,

Toilet Tables and Ware, Chests of Drawers, Night Commode, Mahogany and other Tables, Two capital Pianofortes, Sofa, Time-pieces, Wringing and Washing Machine, Kitchen Requisites, Two-knife Chaff Engine, capital Village Dog Cart (new), Waggonette, Four Sets of Harness, Horse Clothing, capital Chestnut Horse 16½ hands, good worker; capital; very useful Cream-coloured Cob, 15 hands; Valuable Roan Colt, 2 years; and other Effects, belonging to Mr. *Thomas Taft*, who is leaving.
Sale at Eleven o'clock.
Catalogues may be had of the Auctioneer, Cradley Heath."

1891 Census

96, High Street – TALBOT HOTEL

- [1] *Henry Dingley* (44), publican, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Sarah A. Dingley (41), wife, born Cradley;
- [3] Joseph H. Dingley (17), son, iron moulder, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Victor P. Dingley (9), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Lawrence N. Dingley (6), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Clarence B. Dingley* (3) son, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Frank G. Dingley (9 months), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] Susannah Oliver (22), general servant, born Cradley;
- [9] Lizzie Rosser (14), nurse, born Chester:

County Express 29/7/1893 - Notice

"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 or Division of Rowley Regis, in the said County, and to all whom it may concern.

I, *Henry Dingley*, Licensed Victualler, the holder of a Six Days' License, now residing at the TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, do Hereby Give Notice that it is my intention to Apply, at the General Annual Licensing Meeting, for the Division of Rowley Regis, to be holden at the Public Office, at Old Hill, in the said County, on the 23rd day of August next ensuing, for a Seven Days' License to hold an Excise License of Sell all Intoxicating Liquors by Retail, to be consumed on and off the Premises, situate and known as the TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath, in the Parish of Rowley Regis aforesaid, in pursuance of the Intoxicating Liquor Licensing Act, 1828, and Acts amending the same, of which Premises Messieurs Walter Showell and Sons are the owners, and the same are of the annual value by law required, and are now in my own occupation.

Given under my hand this 26th day of July, 1893.

Henry Dingley."

County Advertiser 26/8/1893

"The annual licensing sessions of the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday.....

Henry Dingley, landlord of the TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath, applied, through Mr. Waldron, for the extension of his six days' license to a seven days'.

Mr. Waldron said that although the present application was in the nature of a new application, it was not so in reality. Some years back Messrs. Showell and Sons, the owner of the premises, endeavoured to bring about the closing of public houses on the Seventh Day, but every other public house had since kept to the seven days. They therefore thought that it was time that such an application should be made, and that the applicant should be placed on the same footing as others in the trade.

Mr. Bassano said the Bench would be glad if all licenses were for six days, and if there were fewer of those. It was, however, not fair to the applicant to be placed at a disadvantage with his competitors; and he would not be guilty of taking away a man's license without sufficient reason, and he would not grant a new one without he thought it was required.

Mr. Cave objected to the extension of the license on the ground that the notices were bad in law, and that it was not required.

There were many licensed houses open on Sunday within a stones throw of the TALBOT, and in 1880 the Bench declared that as far as possible they should refuse any seven days' license.

The license was granted."

Staffordshire Advertiser 14/10/1893

"The annual meeting of the County Licensing Committee was held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Saturday for the purpose of confirming new licenses and of hearing objections (if any).....

Mr. Samuel Cave appeared (in the interests of public morality, he explained) to oppose the confirmation of a seven days' license to Mr. *Henry Dingley*, of the TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath. For 20 years, it appeared, the the house had had a six days' license, but the petty sessional bench had now granted a seven days' license. The Clerk of the Peace said there was nothing before the committee with respect to Mr. *Dingley*'s license. Mr. Cave asked if he was to understand that the extension of a license from six to seven days did not require confirmation. The Chairman said it was not the business of the committee to decide an abstract question of the kind; the case was not before them. From some further remarks it was understood that the police would move in the matter if there has been any contravention of the law with regard to the license in question."

Birmingham Daily Post 16/4/1894 - Advert

"Important Sale of Valuable Old-Licensed Public House and other Property, situate in High Street, Cradley Heath.

Mr. A. H. Sidaway is favoured with instructions to Sell by Auction, Tomorrow (Tuesday), the 17th day of April, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions then to be produced.

Lot 1. All that truly Valuable Freehold Old-Licensed Premises, known as the TALBOT HOTEL, situate in High Street, Cradley Heath, together with the Property adjoining, now used as Offices.

The Public House accommodation consists of spacious Liquor Vaults, 29ft by 28ft, capital Bar, Smoke Room, two Private Sitting Rooms, large Club Room, Spirit Room, four Bed Rooms, extensive Cellaring with Rolling Way, Cooking Kitchen, Coalhouse, Store Rooms, excellent Stabling, and large paved Yard.

This is in every respect a complete and important Property, commanding one of the very best business positions in Cradley Heath, and has a frontage of 63ft 6in to High Street aforesaid

The TALBOT is a very old-established and well-accustomed house, doing an extensive trade, and is well worth the attention of capitalists and the trade generally. Possession will be given on completion.....”

County Advertiser 2/2/1895

“Mary Ann Hurley, of Cradley Heath, was charged with stealing an umbrella, value 2s 6d, the property of Emily Yardley, on the 19th inst.

The evidence showed that prosecutrix, who lived at Nether-ton, went on the day named to the TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath. Prosecutrix had put her umbrella down in a corner while she was waiting to be served, and missed it directly afterwards. Prisoner, who was then in the public house had gone out, and the umbrella was missing. The umbrella was recovered on the 23rd when Alice Oliver, servant at the TALBOT HOTEL, went to prisoner’s house and demanded the umbrella, which was given up. When prisoner was arrested by Police-constable Wynn she said that she did not intend to keep the umbrella as it was not worth keeping. Mr. Bassano said prisoner’s record was not so good as it should be, and she had been committed for two months for receiving stolen goods. Prisoner would be fined 5s and costs, or fourteen days, in all £1 8s.”

County Advertiser 29/10/1898

“David Collett, labourer, of Mousesweet Brook, Old Hill, was charged with being drunk and disorderly and refusing to quit the licensed premises of the TALBOT HOTEL, kept by *Henry Dingley*, and also with assaulting Police-constable Tiernan, on the 23rd inst.

It appeared that on Saturday night prisoner went into the TALBOT HOTEL in a drunken condition. He was refused drink, and he then caught hold of a customer’s jug which contained ale. The landlord requested him to leave, but he declined to go, and when ejected he commenced to create a disturbance. Police-constable Tiernan was called, and defendant, refusing to give his name, he was taken into custody. He became very violent, and Tiernan had to obtain the assistance of Police-constable Clark before he could be conveyed to the station, and he struck Tiernan savagely.

Defendant said he remembered nothing until he found himself in a police cell on Sunday morning.

Defendant was fined £1 15s, including costs, or in default three weeks’ imprisonment.”

County Express 28/4/1900

“The annual parade of the local friendly societies to the Parish Church, took place on Sunday, accompanied by the Halesowen Volunteer Band and the Cradley Heath Salvation Army Corps Band. The two original processions united at the TALBOT HOTEL, and then paraded to Cradley Park, Netherend, Lyde Green, and High Street, to the church.....”

1901 Census

96, High Street

[1] *Henry Dingley* (52), publican, born Old Hill;

[2] Sarah A. Dingley (50), wife, born Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire;

[3] Victor P. Dingley (18), son, chainmaker’s fitter, born Cradley Heath;

[4] Lawrence Dingley (15), son, chain manufacturer’s clerk, born Cradley Heath;

[5] Frank G. Dingley (13), son, born Cradley Heath;

[6] Maud Bradley (23), barmaid, born Oakengates, Shropshire;

[7] Elisabeth Weaver (19), domestic servant, born Quarry Bank:

County Advertiser 3/8/1901 - Advert

“For Sale, a Roan Pony, 13 hands, coming four; very quiet, will face trams or steam.

P. *Dingley*, TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 14/9/1901

“Myra Price, and elderly woman, said to have no fixed abode, was charged with stealing a half-pint cup, a tea spoon, and a salt spoon, value 6d, the property of *Henry Dingley*, landlord of the TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath. Mr. *Dingley* said prisoner had been in the habit of going to the public house, and on August 24th she went in and remained some time. She had some rum and coffee, and as she asked for some salt, he handed her the half-pint cup produced, in which the salt was kept. He did not miss the cup until it was brought back to him by Police-constable Reynolds. Then he missed the cup and spoons.

Police-constable Reynolds said he met the prisoner on the 5th inst in Dog Lane, Rowley. She had a bag with her. He arrested her and charged her with being in possession of stolen property. Prisoner admitted to him having had the things from *Dingley*’s public house, Cradley Heath.

While the evidence of these witnesses was being given, the prisoner kept up a running commentary upon the statements, nor would she be quiet though warned by the magistrates’ clerk that she was doing her case no good. She protested the things were given to her by Mrs. *Dingley*.

She was fined 10s or seven days' imprisonment."

County Express 14/12/1901

"A bad beginning in life was made by Roland Cox (aged 9), of High Street, Cradley Heath, and Noah Harris (aged 13), of Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath, who were each ordered to receive three strokes of the birch-rod for stealing 4s and a money-box, the property of Mrs. *Dingley*, landlady of the TALBOT HOTEL. It seems the box was left in the kitchen by Mrs. *Dingley*, who saw it safe during the morning, and when she found it at night it had been burst open and the money extracted. A boy named James Billingham and PC Maisey also gave evidence, the latter detailing the admissions made by the boys."

County Express 5/4/1902

"On Thursday morning, Mr. H. A. Pearson (South Staffordshire Coroner) held an inquest at the TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath, with respect to the death of Henry Barber (53), haulier, High Street, who had been found dead. Joseph Poole, scrap iron dealer, stated deceased was his uncle, and had been a teetotaler for ten years. On Monday he went to Hereford, and was apparently in the best of health, and thoroughly enjoyed himself. He returned home alone, and nothing further was seen of him.

By the Coroner: The deceased lived alone.

Job Swindley stated he was in the employ of the deceased, and on the 1st inst he went to his house and found him dead on the couch in the sitting room. Police Constable Dale said that having heard of the death he went to that house and found on the table a box of Beecham's pills and other medicines.

Dr. Tibbetts, who made the post mortem examination, said death was due to perforation of the stomach, caused by a gastric ulcer. There was a hole the size of a sixpence in the stomach through which food escaped. The food traveling in the wrong direction caused death.

In reply to the coroner, the doctor stated the actual cause of death was a surprise to him.

A jurymen stated the deceased had been in the habit of drinking stone or ginger beer, and he should like to know if it would be injurious, and the doctor replied it would not be beneficial, but lemonade or soda water would be harmless.

The Coroner said it was very rare such cases occurred among men.

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence."

County Advertiser 6/9/1902

"A smoking concert was held on Monday evening at the TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley, in connection with St. Luke's Football Club. Dr. Tibbetts (who was supported by the Rev. W. L. O. Ward and several well-known patrons of the winter pastime) presided over a large attendance. The toast of 'The King' was proposed by the chairman in a very interesting and appropriate speech. The Rev. W. L. O. Ward, in proposing 'St. Luke's FC' appealed for support to the club in its new surroundings, and wished it every success. Mr. T. Grice had arranged a capital programme, and a hearty vote of thanks was passed to the following gentleman for their services: Messrs. Cutler, C. H. Mansell, J. Cookson, L. Williams, T. Grice, J. Grice, and members of the Glee Party. Mr. F. Raybould and Master Cutler proved very efficient accompanists."

County Advertiser 8/11/1902 - Advert

"To Brewers, Publicans, Maltsters, and Property Investors.

Important Sale of Freehold Beerhouse and Dwelling Houses at Cradley Heath; and Building Land at Mount Pleasant, Kingswinford.

Arthur H. Sidaway is favoured with instructions from the Trustees of the late William Tibbetts, Esq, to Sell by Auction, on Tuesday, the 18th day of November, 1902, at the house of Mr. *Harry Dingley*, the TALBOT HOTEL Cradley Heath, at Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to Conditions then to be produced....."

County Express 22/11/1902

"On Tuesday night Mr. Arthur H. Sidaway held a very successful sale of properties at the TALBOT HOTEL, High Street, Cradley Heath. Eight houses in Tibbetts Gardens were sold for £700; six freehold houses, Graingers Lane, made £620; the RAILWAY TAVERN and house adjoining, after spirited competition, realised £1,835; a plot of land at Kingswinford, £101. The total amount of sale, £3,256. Mr. James Hinds, of Stourbridge, acted as solicitor."

County Advertiser 13/10/1906

"Sporting Items.....

The opening run of the Cradley Heath branch of the Small Heath Harriers will take place today from headquarters, *H. Dingley's*, TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath. Any person wishing to join should apply to Mr. A. Pateshall, 33, King Street, Cradley Heath."

County Advertiser 27/10/1906

"Cross-Country Notes.

Small Heath paid a visit to their Cradley Heath branch on Saturday last, and a combined pack of 30 runners turned out in charge of A. F. Pateshall, the branch captain, under whose direction they negotiated some seven miles of splendid country around Foxcote, Lutley, and Huntingtree at a medium pace. One pleasing feature of the run was the increased number of actual Cradley Heath runners in the pack, there being more of these than ever before, and it was pleasing to note with what ease and style the new men among them got over the ground.....

An excellent tea, provided by Mr. *Dingley*, of the TALBOT, was partaken of by the runners and others, after which an impromptu social evening was held....."

County Express 9/5/1908

“On Monday night, at a public auction at the TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath, two freehold houses, situate in Spring Street, Cradley, producing £23 8s per annum, were disposed of for £235. A freehold residence, known as Whitehall House, situated in Scholding Green Road, Cradley Heath, was withdrawn. Messrs. Thomas Cooksey and Co. were the solicitors for the vendors; auctioneer, Mr. A. H. Sidaway.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/10/1908

“Sporting Items.....

Small Heath Harriers have a combined run today with their Kings Heath and Cradley Heath branches, which takes place from TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath. Start 3.30pm. A large turn out is expected. A medal will be given for the first novice home in a mile run. Train 2.30 from Snow Hill; return fare, 1s.”

Tipton Herald 9/1/1909

“Mr. *Harry Dingley*, of the TALBOT HOTEL, High Street, on Thursday evening, entertained a number of friends to dinner to celebrate the coming of age of his third son, Bertram Dingley. After the meal a convivial evening was spent.....”

County Express 5/3/1910 - Advert

“Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath. Sale of Valuable Freehold Property.

E. O. Nightingale has received instructions to Sell by Auction, at the House of Mr. *H. Dingley*, the TALBOT HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on Monday, the 14th day of March, 1910, at 7 o'clock in the Evening, subject to Conditions of Sale then to be produced.....”

1911 Census

High Street – TALBOT HOTEL

- [1] *Henry Dingley* (63), licensed victualler, born Old Hill;
- [2] Sarah Ann Dingley (60), wife, married 39 years, born Ashby, Leicestershire;
- [3] Laurence Nelson Dingley (25), son, pianist, born Cradley Heath;
- [4] *Clarence Bertram Dingley* (23), son, engineer, cycle trade, born Cradley Heath;
- [5] Frank Gilbert Dingley (20), son, carpenter, born Cradley Heath;
- [6] Lydia Greenaway (25), servant, born Cradley Heath;
- [7] Polly Tibbetts (21), servant, born Old Hill:

The building was damaged when the High Street subsided on 18th and 19th February 1914.

Birmingham Mail 20/2/1914

“The position at Cradley Heath last night became worse, and the subsidence which has taken place in the last few days is regarded as the worst calamity which has befallen the Rowley Regis parish for many years. There have been a number of occurrences of this kind in the parish, but nothing of such a serious character. There was a gradual movement throughout yesterday afternoon, with the result that additional houses were affected. The main street seems to be the centre of subsidence, and the property is being drawn into a hole in the middle of the street. The roadway had sunk last evening to a depth of about five feet, the cracks in the footpath and road had become wider and more extensive, whilst there was evidence that the tram lines, which had up till then maintained a level position, were being pushed out of place. Up to a late hour last night workmen were employed in propping up those buildings which were in danger of falling, whilst residents were busily engaged in the removal of their furniture and goods to a place of safety.....

The street assumed a more sloping position towards night, and a peculiar spectacle was witnessed at the TALBOT HOTEL. The whole of the rooms were on the slope, and the customers were taking their refreshments under difficulties. In one of the rooms upstairs a billiard table is fixed, but this had assumed a slanting position, so that when the balls were placed on the table they ran into one pocket.”

Clarence Bertram Dingley – see also FIVE WAYS.

1939 Register

High Street – TALBOT HOTEL

- [1] *Francis H. Tomlins*, date of birth 25/11/1897, manager public house, married;
- [2] Gladys Tomlins, dob 9/2/1899, unpaid domestic duties, married:

The license renewal was referred to the Adjourned Licensing Meeting on 2nd March 1949.

The license renewal was not applied for by the brewery (Ind Coope) at the Brewster Sessions of 1959.

The property was sold and converted into a shop.

THREE FURNACES

78, (51), Waterfall Lane, (51, Slack Hillock), OLD HILL

OWNERS

William Millard [1868]
William Richard Cooper [1909]
Annie Bennett
William Alfred Bennett
Isaac Hughes
Julia Hanson and Sons Ltd. (acquired on 11th April 1934)
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

William Millard [1861] – **1872**);
Mrs. Emma Millard (**1872** – [1875]
Darby [1880]
Edwin Cooper [1880] – [1887]
John Foley [1891] – **1896**);
Mrs. Sarah Ann Foley (**1896** – **1906**);
William Richard Cooper (**1906** – **1909**);
Annie (Cooper) Bennett (**1909** – **1921**);
William Alfred Bennett (**1921** – **1924**);
Walter Edwin Cooper (**1924** – **1926**);
Isaac 'Ike' Hughes (**1926** – **1934**);
Charles Hickman (**1934** – **1950**);
William Henry Shuter (**1950** – **1951**);
Honor Elizabeth Shuter (**1951** – **1952**);
Bert Arthur Davies (**1952** – [1970s]
Ian Robinson [1987]
Chris Davies [1995]
Nigel Brian Salsbury [2000s]

NOTES

51, Slack Hillock [1881]
51, Waterfall Lane [1904], [1908], [1912]
78, Waterfall Lane [1924], [1932], [1939], [1940]

Black Country Bugle - Pub of the Month

“.....One such establishment was Bennett’s Brickworks, in Waterfall Lane. The building later converted to the THREE FURNACES was the house of its proprietor, Simeon Bennett. A deep marl-hole was gouged from the farmland, almost to the retaining wall of his house. Many older readers will remember this when filled with water from the Drainage Pit, set up there, later Though not a great expanse of water, it was very deep and more than one local suicide was committed there. At one time it was stocked with fish and used by the THREE FURNACES fishing club In the days when old Tory Street stood, few outsiders used the tavern, for its customers were a rough and ready bunch and brawls were frequent.....”

[Black Country Bugle 30/12/2020](#)

[A History of Waterfall Lane](#)

“.....These brickworks stood where there currently stands a council depot and on a levelled section of Waterfall Lane just before the road rises and meets the canal bridge. These former brickworks probably originated during the 1850s and were owned by a gentleman called Simeon Bennett; part of the site was later redeveloped into the THREE FURNACES public house where Simeon Bennett once lived. The licensed premises continued to trade as recently as 2009 before its reversion and metamorphosis into a residential property once more.”

William Millard = William Millward

[County Advertiser 25/8/1860](#)

“The annual licensing meeting was held at Stewpony on Tuesday last.....

The applications numbered 25, of which only three were granted, viz, James Noden, Fenton Street, Brierley Hill; *William Millward*, Waterfall Lane, Rowley, and Humphrey Wellings, Bromley, Kingswinford.”

1861 Census

Waterfall Lane

- [1] *William Millard* (34), boat builder and victualler, born Bumblehole;
- [2] *Emma Millard* (32), wife, born Beech Lanes;
- [3] Ester Ann Millard (11), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] William Millard (10), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 2/12/1865

“An inquest was held on Wednesday, before Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, at the THREE FURNACES public house, Waterfall Lane, on the body of Elijah Baker, who was killed in the colliery belonging to the New British Iron Company. The deceased, a pikeman, had been employed in cutting through some stone to get coal, at the Top Beardmore, and having finished his day’s work, was holding a candle for the doggy to inspect the place. While so engaged a quantity of stone fell upon him, and so severe were the injuries he sustained that death took place in a few minutes after the fallen mass had been removed. The Jury were of opinion that blame could not be attached to anyone, and returned their verdict accordingly.”

William Millard was also a boat builder. [1868], [1870], [1872]

Stourbridge Observer 5/12/1868 - Advert

“Powke Lane, Old Hill, Rowley, in the County of Worcester.

Five Valuable Freehold Dwelling Houses.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Samuel Insull, by the direction of the Mortgagee, on Monday, December 7th, 1868, at the house of Mr. *William Millard*, THREE FURNACES INN.....”

County Express 19/12/1868 - Advert

“Freehold Inn, Waterfall Lane, Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Public Auction, by Mr. Samuel Insull, on the Premises, the THREE FURNACES INN, Waterfall Lane, on Wednesday, the 20th day of January, 1869, at Six o’clock for Seven in the Evening punctually, in one Lot, subject to the usual conditions. All that Old-licensed and Well-accustomed Freehold Inn, known by the sign of the THREE FURNACES, situate in Waterfall Lane, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, and now and for many years occupied by the Proprietor, Mr. *William Millard*. The Premises consist of a large Smoke Room, Bar, large Club Room, Cooking Kitchen, Two Chambers, Brewhouse, capital Cellaring, large Stable and other Outbuildings; together with an Apparatus for making Gas.

The Property is well supplied with Water.

The Fixtures are sold with the Freehold, but the Purchaser will have to take to the Stock and Effects at the price fixed by Two Valuers, one to be chosen by each party.

For further particulars apply to Messrs. Homfray and Holberton, Solicitors, Brierley Hill and Colman Hill; or to the Auctioneer, Brierley Hill.”

County Express 26/12/1868 - Advert

“Important to Persons about to Embark in the Public Business, Capitalists, and Others.

Sale of Freehold Inn and Premises, Waterfall Lane, Old Hill.

Mr. Samuel Insull begs to announce that he is favoured with instructions by Mr. *William Millard* to Sell by Auction, upon the Premises, on Wednesday, the 13th day of January, 1869, at Six for Seven o’clock in the Evening punctually, in one Lot, subject to conditions to be then produced.

All that Old-licensed and Well-accustomed Freehold Inn, known by the sign of the THREE FURNACES, situate in Waterfall Lane, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, and now and for many years occupied by the Proprietor, Mr. *William Millard*. The Premises consist of a large Smoke Room, spacious Bar, large Club Room, Tap Room, Cooking Kitchen, Two Chambers, Brewhouse, capital Cellaring, Stabling for eight horses, and other necessary Outbuildings; the Property having a frontage to Waterfall Lane of 12 yards 1 foot 6 inches, and containing in the whole by admeasurement 449 square yards or thereabouts, with a good supply of hard and soft water. The whole is well and substantially built, and enclosed, and is complete with every convenience for carrying on a first-class in and out-door trade, which has been successfully done by the present Proprietor for the last ten years, and who is disposing of the same owing to his declining Business.

There is a model Gas Works upon the Premises, capable of supplying 30 lights, which will be sold with the Freehold.

The Property will be sold with the option of the Purchaser taking to the Stock and Fixtures at a Valuation.

For further particulars apply to Messrs. Homfray and Holberton, Solicitors, Brierley Hill and Colman Hill; or to the Auctioneer, Brierley Hill, at whose respective Offices a Plan of the Property may be seen.”

County Express 17/12/1870

“On Tuesday evening last, a fatal occurrence took place at Waterfall Lane, by which a man named Henry Stonehall, a boatman, aged 45, lost his life. It appeared deceased was carelessly sitting on the side of a boat, when he over-balanced himself, and falling into the water, was drowned. The accident happened at 7 o’clock in the evening, and he was not got out until 7.30, Mr. Smith, and

others, assisted in getting the body out. The inquest was held yesterday, at the house of Mr. *Millward*, THREE FURNACES INN, Waterfall Lane, before E. Hooper, Esq, Coroner, when the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1871 Census

Waterfall Lane

[1] *William Millard* (44), boat builder, born Dudley;

[2] *Emma Millard* (42), wife, born Halesowen;

[3] *William Millard* (20), son, boat builder, born Rowley Regis:

William Millard died in the 2nd quarter of 1872.

Birmingham Daily Post 21/6/1872 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Properties, Malthouse, and Dwelling Houses, situate at Bumble Hole, Waterfall Lane, and Springfield, near Rowley.

Mr. Hawkins will Sell by Auction, on Tuesday Next, at the House of Mr. Warby, the FOX AND GOOSE INN, Bumble Hole, at Six o’clock in the evening, in the following or such other Lots as may be determined at the time of Sale, subject to conditions to be then read.....

Lot 5. All that well-arranged, substantially-built, good accustomed, Old-licensed Public House and Premises, known as the THREE FURNACES INN, situate at Waterfall Lane, the Residence of the late Mr. *William Millard*, deceased, comprising Front Tap Room and Front Bar, large Parlour, Club Room, Chambers, two Cellars, Brewhouse, Office, Stabling, Coach-house, Piggeries, and Out-buildings, with the Gasholder, Mains, and Apparatus, in good working order, for lighting up the Premises.....”

County Advertiser 23/11/1872 - Advert

“Valuable Old-Licensed Public House, Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Hawkins, on Tuesday, the 10th day of December, 1872, at the House of Mrs. Ruth Cooksey, the COOKSEY HOTEL, Old Hill, at Six o’clock in the Evening, subject to conditions to be then read.

All that well-arranged substantially-built good accustomed, Old-licensed Public House and Premises, known as the THREE FURNACES INN, situate at Waterfall Lane (the residence of the late *William Millard* deceased), comprising Front Tap Room, Front Bar, large Parlour, Club Room, Chambers, Cellars, Brewhouse, Office, Stabling, Coach-house, Piggeries, Outbuildings, Gas Holder, Mains, Apparatus, Piping and Gas Fittings throughout the Premises.

Further particulars may be obtained from Mr. Thomas Homer, Solicitor, Colley Gate and Brierley Hill; or from the Auctioneer, Dudley Street, Brierley Hill.”

Emma Millard = Emma Millward= Emma Miller

County Advertiser 13/12/1873

“Matthias Adams was charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the THREE FURNACES, Waterfall Lane, on the 6th inst. Defendant was also charged with destroying a jug and glass. Mr. Addison defended.

The landlady of the house said that the defendant came into her house about five o’clock on the night in question, and after staying in her house some time commenced gambling. Defendant fought with a man, and she heard a jug and glass fall

Enoch Evans said that the defendant knocked the jug out of his hand. Defendant refused to leave the house, but he was not drunk. Enoch Reed was called for the defence, and said that the landlady did not order the defendant out of the house. The defendant did not break the jug and glass.

Edwin Adams said Enoch Evans beat him with the jug, and broke it over his shoulder. The landlady knew that the men who were in the house were ‘cobbling,’ but she did not tell them to cease gambling.

George Jackson said that the defendant was told several times to leave the house, but he refused.

The defendant was fined 10s and costs for refusing to quit. The other case was dismissed.”

Stourbridge Observer 3/1/1874

“*Emma Millward*, landlady of the THREE FURNACES INN, Rowley, was charged with permitting gaming in her house on the 6th ult. Defendant pleaded not guilty.

Joseph Carr, said he went to defendant’s house in company with Enoch Reid on the above date. When he went in he saw some men in one corner of the room playing with some corks. They played for two or three quarts of ale. At the time they were playing defendant came into the room. She did not say anything about playing. There was a row in the house over the gambling. Defendant took a quart of ale to the men whilst they were gambling.

Enoch Reid said he was with last witness at defendant’s house, on the 6th ult. He saw some men playing for two or three quarts of ale. They were supplied with ale by the defendant. There was a dispute between the men as to which should pay for the ale that had been brought. When the landlady came in she did not order them to stop.

Mr. Hayes: You said last week that you heard her order them to stop.

Mr. Barrs to witness: You are a nice fellow to come here and swear things like this.

Witness continuing said they put one cork on the barrel and then threw the other pieces at it to try and knock it off.

Superintendent Mills said there were a great many complaints against gambling of that kind. He had been informed by masters of works that the men went into the public house and got gambling, instead of coming to work.

Defendant said when she went into the room they were playing and she asked them to leave off.

Mr. Hingley to defendant: You admit that you received the money from the men who had lost it. Defendant called George Jackson, who said he was in the house when the men were gambling. They were not gambling many minutes. When defendant saw them she told them to knock off and they began to swear at her. The man Adams said down the pit he would make it hot for defendant, because he was fined.

Mr. Barrs: He was fined 10s last week and now he says he will have vengeance.

Witness said defendant did not bring them ale.

Mr. Hingley: That is a story because she says she did.

Reid, recalled, said defendant brought the drink in but the men did not pay for it, and she took it back but the parties that were gambling had some drink out of the jug. The same ale they refused to pay for was afterwards brought back into the room and was paid for by one of the men that had been gambling.

Mr. Hingley: I think we are bound to convict we cannot dismiss it. It is time to put a stop to this gambling.

Mr. Barrs: I want to know what publicans can do if vagabonds come into their houses and begin to gamble.

Mr. Hayes: They can summons them.

Mr. Barrs: They ought to have summoned Adams for gambling and not for refusing to leave the house.

Mr. Hingley: It has been proved that the woman let them have the drink.

Superintendent Mills: If the servant had gone into the room instead of the landlady, it would have been all the same.

Mr. Barrs: If any one had a spite against a landlady they would go into the house and commence to gamble.

Superintendent Mills: I can produce several officers who have been in the house on different occasions and have seen the gambling going on, but as soon as the officers went inside it was stopped.

Mr. Barrs: It seems because she is a widow the public put upon her.

Mr. Hingley to defendant: Don't you let the gambling go on any more in your house; we cannot fine you less than 20s.

Mr. Barrs: Is it the least we can fine her.

Mr. Hayes: Yes, sir, 20s is the lowest.

Mr. Barrs to defendant: You are fined 20s and costs.

Superintendent Mills: I must make an application that the witnesses be allowed something for their expenses.

Mr. Barrs: I will never sanction that.

Mr. Hingley: No, nor me.

The case was ended."

County Advertiser 6/3/1875

"*Emma Miller*, landlady of the THREE FURNACES public house, Waterfall Lane, was charged with opening her house during prohibited hours on Sunday, the 7th ult. Police-constable Holland said that at twelve o'clock on the morning of Sunday he visited the defendant's house and found three men there. He called the attention of the defendant to the fact, and she said they had come in for some ale, and had stopped chatting. The ale was ordered the night before. Defendant, who now pleaded guilty, said the men were neighbours and good customers. The Bench inflicted a fine of 40s and costs."

County Advertiser 13/3/1875

"Jeremiah Hooper was charged with having been found on the premises of *Emma Miller*, the THREE FURNACES, on the 7th inst, during prohibited hours. The defence was that the defendant had for some time been in the habit of stabling a horse on the premises, and that on the morning in question he was there for the purpose of attending the horse, but no ale was supplied him. The case was dismissed."

County Express 20/3/1875

"Samson Beesley and Henry Pugh were charged with being on licensed premises during prohibited hours.

Defendants pleaded guilty.

It was shown that on Sunday, the 7th inst, a police officer visited the THREE FURNACES INN, Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, at twelve o'clock, where he found the defendants. The landlady of the house has been convicted and fined for keeping her house open during prohibited hours on the day in question.

The defendants were each fined 5s and the costs; or, in default of payment, seven days' imprisonment with hard labour."

Dudley Herald 30/9/1876

"Mr. Edwin Hooper, district coroner, held an inquest on Saturday, at the THREE FURNACES, Old Hill, on the body of John Perry, a child 5 years of age.

Deceased was last seen alive by his mother on Wednesday evening, and about an hour afterwards he was taken home dead, a lad named Joseph Booth having pulled deceased out of the arm of the canal near the THREE FURNACES. There being no evidence to show how the child got into the water, the jury returned a verdict of Found Dead."

County Express 13/9/1879

"On Monday last the members of Court Miners' Guide No. 5781 of the Ancient Order of Foresters held their anniversary at the TWO [sic] FURNACES INN, Waterfall Lane, Old Hill. An excellent spread was provided and after the cloth had been drawn Bro. Thomas Pulley, PCR, took the chair and Bro. Edward Evans, PCR, the vice chair. The usual toasts were given and responded to, and a very satisfactory account of the club was given by the secretary Mr. John Owen. The usual votes of thanks brought a pleasant evening to a close."

Dudley and District News 2/10/1880

“Adjourned Licensing Sessions. These sessions were held on Wednesday at Old Hill.....

Mr. Hayes applied for a license for a house in the course of erection, in place of the WHITE LION INN, which recently fell down. Mr. Waldron opposed on behalf of Mr. *Darby*, landlord of the THREE FURNACES INN, that gentleman being of opinion that there were public houses sufficient in the neighbourhood to supply the wants of the population.

The application was granted, the Bench stating that there was almost a promise at the time Mrs. Cole’s house fell down, that when she re-built it her license should be renewed.”

County Express 13/11/1880

“On Wednesday night a miners’ meeting, the special object of which was to discuss the Employers’ Liability Bill, was held at the THREE FURNACES INN, Waterfall Lane, Old Hill. There was but a small attendance.....”

Dudley and District News 27/11/1880

“Last night a meeting of miners was held at the house of Mr. *E. Cooper*, THREE FURNACES INN, Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, to discuss the clauses of the Employers’ Liability Bill and the low rate of wages.....”

1881 Census

51, Slack Hillock – THREE FURNACES INN

[1] *Edwin Cooper* (40), licensed victualler, born Kings Norton;

[2] *Sarah Ann Cooper* (35), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *William R. Cooper* (13), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Charles Cooper (11), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Joseph H. Cooper (7), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Albert E. Cooper (4), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[7] Mary Jane Cooper (14), daughter, domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 9/4/1881

“The usual quarterly meeting of the Dudley and Cradley Heath district of the Ancient Order of Foresters, was held on Monday last, at the THREE FURNACES INN, Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, Bro. T. H. Smith, DCR, in the chair.....”

Dudley and District News 28/7/1883

“John Hodgetts, anchormith, Tory Street, Blackheath, was fined 20s and costs, with the alternative of one month’s imprisonment, for being drunk and refusing to quit the licensed premises of *Edwin Cooper*, known as the THREE FURNACES INN, Waterfall Lane, Old Hill.”

Dudley and District News 20/9/1884

“An inquest was held on Saturday afternoon last, before Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, at the THREE FURNACES INN, Waterfall Lane, Rowley, respecting the death of Edwin Albert *Cooper* (8), son of Mr. *Edwin Cooper*, landlord of the above-mentioned house, whose body was found in the canal near his parents’ residence on the 11th inst. Evidence was given to the effect that on the afternoon of the 10th inst, deceased was seen playing on the canal side with a brick tied to a piece of string, and it was supposed that he was accidentally pulled into the water.

The jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 21/5/1887

“On Saturday afternoon, Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the SPORTSMAN INN, Gorsty Hill, respecting the death of a single woman named Eliza Danks (25), daughter of Samuel Danks, blacksmith, of Netherton, who was found dead in a water ‘shoot’ at the side of the Birmingham Canal, near to Gorsty Hill tunnel, on the 13th inst. Inspector Smith appeared on behalf of the Great Western Railway Company.

Eliza Danks, grandmother, said that she saw the deceased alive on the 12th inst. Her granddaughter was in the habit of sleeping at her residence in St. Thomas Street. Deceased was subject to fits, and frequently used to have three or four violent turns in a week. She had distant relatives at Old Hill, but was not in the habit of visiting them.

Sarah Ann Cooper, landlady at the THREE FURNACES INN, Old Hill, said that the deceased visited their house on three separate occasions, and requested to have some beer supplied to her; but she was refused, witness seeing that she had had enough. Before she would leave witness had to threaten to send for the police. Deceased proceeded down Waterfall Lane, and she did not see her again.

Samuel Taylor, boatman, said that on the 13th inst, about 5.30am, he was proceeding to the Gorsty Hill tunnel, for the purpose of going out with a boat, when he saw the deceased lying in the water ‘shoot’ on her back. A short distance up the embankment he found her skirt. At the time there was very little water running down the stream.

Police-sergeant Salt stated that he had examined the place, and had traced the deceased’s footprints along the railway line, and to the spot where she was found. He was present when Dr. Standish examined the body, and said that the marks on the body might have been caused by falling, and were not sufficient to cause death.

The jury returned a verdict of Found Dead.”

County Advertiser 23/7/1887

“At the Rowley Regis Police Court, on Wednesday, before Mr. Walter Bassano and Mr. J. Walker, six publicans named *Edwin Cooper*, Waterfall Lane; James Southwick, Yew Tree Lane; Isaac Mullett, Ross, Blackheath; Thomas Tromans, Gorsty Hill; James Andrews Levett, Perry’s Lake; and Joseph Tibbetts, Cromwell Street, Blackheath, were each brought up for defrauding the Inland Revenue by using sugar in the beer after the Excise Officer had made an entry of the brewing. Mr. Shakespeare, of Oldbury, represented the first five-named defendants.

Mr. J. Blake Davies (supervisor of Excise) stated that the whole of the defendants were licensed victuallers. In April last Excise officers visited their cellars. After brewings had taken place and the entries been made, it was discovered that the defendants had put loaf sugar into the barrels. The sugar was found at the bottom of the barrels in a partly dissolved state. In each instance the beer was racked, and each offender said that the sugar had been used for the purpose of ‘fining’ the beer. Notices had from time to time been published to the effect that it was illegal to use sugar after entries had been taken by the Excise officers, because the Board of Inland Revenue was defrauded by the beer being increased in strength and no increased duty paid.

Mr. Bassano: Dose the use of sugar with beer that has been racked increase the gravity of the beer?

Mr. Davies: A brewer might by adding sugar increase his ‘twopenny’ into ‘sixpenny.’

Mr. Bassano: And are the consumers of beer any way prejudiced by the use of such beer as you have referred to?

Mr. Davies: It is heavy and certainly not wholesome.

Mr. Bassano: That is important.

Mr. Davies (continuing) said the illegal use of sugar was on the increase, and the Board of Inland Revenue desired to put a stop to the practice.

Mr. Shakespeare said the whole of his clients pleaded guilty, but had acted in ignorance, and as the Board of Inland Revenue had really sustained no loss he should with confidence ask the magistrates to only inflict nominal penalties. The Excise officers had in each instance seized the beer and utensils, and one of the defendants had had to pay as much as £3 14s for the purchase of his beer from the Excise officers. He also asked the magistrates to bear in mind that the publicans of the Black Country had been in the habit of using sugar to ‘fine’ the beer. He was assured the defendants had not used it for the purpose of increasing the gravity of the beer, and as a matter of fact had not gained a single farthing by what they had done.

Mr. Davies said he thought it only right that he should inform the magistrates and the public that the use of sugar in racked beer did not ‘fine’ the beer, but only increased its specific gravity. He must ask the magistrates to make examples of the defendants.

Mr. Bassano said it was important that the law should be observed, and that the public should be supplied with a wholesome article.

The defendant were each fined £20 including costs, which amounted to £120.”

Dudley Mercury 22/10/1887

“About eleven o’clock on Tuesday night last, a man named Samuel Baldwin (34), baker, Blackheath, was found drowned in the Birmingham Canal, at Waterfall Lane, by Police-sergeant Salt. The deceased had been to Great Bridge and returned home by the train which arrives at Old Hill at 9.28. He was seen to go along Waterfall Lane, but nothing more being seen of him, Police-sergeant Salt was communicated with, and upon dragging the canal for some time brought up the body of the unfortunate man. The place is open to the road, and is rather dangerous.

Mr. Hooper held an inquest on the body of the deceased at the THREE FURNACES INN, Waterfall Lane, on Thursday morning. The jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned, and recommended that Mr. Barnsley be called upon to forthwith fence the place. Mr. Barnsley said he would carry out the recommendations of the Coroner and jury as speedily as possible.”

County Advertiser 21/4/1888

“Yesterday afternoon an inquest was held at the THREE FURNACES INN Old Hill, before Mr. Hooper, coroner, respecting the death of Edward Evans (69), a watchman employed at Mr. Bassano’s Colliery, Haden Hill, who was found drowned in the canal wharf, at the colliery, on Thursday. Deceased, it is stated, went to his duty on Wednesday night as watchman at the colliery, and during the night he was missed. It is supposed that deceased accidentally fell into the water whilst going his rounds. The inquest was adjourned till Wednesday.”

Edwin Cooper died in the 3rd quarter of 1888 and was buried at St. Paul’s Church, Blackheath.

Edwin Cooper – see also HADEN CROSS.

John Foley married *Sarah Ann Cooper* in the 2nd quarter of 1890.

County Express 8/11/1890

“Mr. Edwin Hooper (district coroner) held an inquest on Tuesday, at the THREE FURNACES INN, Waterfall Lane, on the body of Mary Ann Johnson (72). The deceased was a widow, and lived alone in a cottage. On the 29th ult she fell on to the kitchen fire, and was found enveloped in flames. She died from her injuries on Monday. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

1891 Census

Waterfall Lane – THREE FURNACES INN

[1] *John Foley* (52), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Sarah Ann Foley* (44), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Charles Cooper (21), step-son, brewer’s assistant, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Anne Cooper* (20), step-daughter, born Rowley Regis;

- [5] *Walter Edwin Cooper* (6 months), grand-son, born Rowley Regis;
[6] *Joseph Henry Cooper* (17), step-son, born Rowley Regis;
[7] *Sidney Foley* (4 months), son, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 11/11/1893

“*Samuel Grainger*, fruiterer, Birmingham Street, Halesowen, was charged with obtaining 7½d, by means of a trick, from *John Foley*, on the 19th ult. Mr. Waldron defended.

Complainant, who lived in Waterfall Lane and kept a public house, alleged that on the date named, defendant came to his house and offered 3½ bags of potatoes for sale. Complainant said he would pay him 2s 9d for them, and defendant accepted it. Defendant said he would find the weight of all the bags correct. When the bags were weighed the next morning there were 43lbs short, and by this shortness defendant had defrauded him of 7½d.

In cross-examination, complainant admitted that defendant said if there was anything wrong with the potatoes he would make them right. Defendant’s master called on the 28th ult and said the reason why complainant had not received the potatoes which were short was because they had been working in another place. The potatoes had since been sent. The Bench dismissed the case.”

John Foley was a brewer and maltster.

He fell from the platform at Handsworth Station and was killed by a train on 21st March 1896.

County Advertiser 28/3/1896

“Information was received at Old Hill, on Saturday night, that Mr. *John Foley*, landlord of the THREE FURNACES INN, Waterfall Lane, Blackheath, Rowley, had died from injuries received at Handsworth Station, on the Great Western Railway. On Saturday morning deceased went to Perry Barr, to witness a football match, and as he has recently been unwell, and recommended by his medical adviser to have plenty of walking exercise, he walked with his step-son to Handsworth Station. On the platform there was a large number of passengers, and a difficulty was experienced in getting accommodation. By some means Mr. *Foley* slipped down between the platform and the train. He was speedily rescued, but not before he had sustained shocking injuries to his face and chest. Every possible assistance was rendered to Mr. *Foley*, but he died within twenty minutes of receiving the injuries. The body was removed to the Handsworth mortuary to await the coroner’s inquest. The deceased was about 56 years of age, was for many years a large brewer and well known throughout the Black Country. The deceased’s son, *John Cooper Foley* was journeying by the same train, but he did not hear of the accident to his father till he got home to Blackheath.

The inquest was held by Mr. Edwin Hooper, district coroner, at the Police Station, Thornhill Road, Handsworth, on Tuesday. Mr. Evers, of Stourbridge, watched the case on behalf of the Great Western Railway Company, and Mr. Thomas Cooksey, of Old Hill, appeared for the relatives of the deceased.

Charles Cooper, step-son of the deceased, and who managed the business, said that he accompanied the deceased and his son from Old Hill to Perry Barr on Saturday afternoon, to witness the football match. They journeyed from Old Hill to Soho by train, and then walked to the football ground. After the match they walked to Handsworth Railway Station, calling at the Stork Hotel on the way, on account of a heavy shower of rain. In the house they partook of refreshments. They booked by the 7.57 train back to Old Hill. When the train approached the station a bell was rung, and witness and deceased left the waiting room in which they had been sitting and went on to the platform. They walked towards the front of the train, but could find no accommodation, and turned towards the end of the train with the same result. A porter came and said there was no room. The porter was showing a lady into a first-class compartment, and deceased said, ‘We must get into this.’ The porter put out his hand to keep witness and deceased back, saying that it was a first-class. Deceased remonstrated, and the porter said, ‘You must try a second.’ Deceased said it was no good, and added that they must get in. He then took hold of the handle of the door of the first-class carriage, but his feet slipped from under him. Witness caught hold of his coat, but his legs slipped down between the platform and the train. The porter shouted for the train to stop, and it was stopped almost immediately. The end of the train had passed deceased, and witness looking down saw deceased lying by the side of the rails. He was carried into the waiting room. In reply to witness, deceased said he was hurt across the chest, and he was then placed on the company’s ambulance, and a doctor was sent for. Deceased succumbed to his injuries shortly after. Deceased was a steady man, and was perfectly sober at the time of the accident. Witness, in reply to Mr. Cooksey, said that scarcely any time elapsed between when the porter told them to try a second-class carriage and the train starting. The porter made no attempt to find them a seat. There was plenty of room in the first-class carriage. Cross-examined by Mr. Evers, witness said the train was just moving when deceased attempted to open the door.....

The Coroner said he had been impressed by the straightforward way in which the witnesses on both sides had given their evidence. Nevertheless there had been serious discrepancies; not that the witnesses intended to mislead the jury. When an accident occurred at a railway station everyone was excited, and wrong impressions were formed. He (the coroner) knew the deceased very well, and he was a man of excellent character. If the jury thought necessary he would adjourn the inquiry.

The jury returned a verdict to the effect that deceased met with his death accidentally by falling from the train, which he attempted to enter whilst it was in motion; and they added a rider, urging the railway company to have more porters on the platform on the arrival of passenger trains.”

John Foley – see also DUKE WILLIAM.

County Advertiser 22/8/1896

“*John Skitt*, Tory Street, Blackheath, was fined 10s and costs for refusing to quit the THREE FURNACES INN, Old Hill.”

Dudley Herald 27/8/1898

“The annual Licensing Sessions of the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division was held at the Old Hill Police Court on Wednesday.....

Mr. Cartland, Birmingham (instructed by Messrs. Redfern and Company) applied for the transferring of a full license from the NAVIGATION INN to the HORSE SHOE INN, Old Hill, and also for the beer license of the HORSE SHOE INN to be transferred to the NAVIGATION INN.

Mr. B. Shakespeare opposed on behalf of Mrs. *Foley*, of the THREE FURNACES INN.....”

County Advertiser 18/3/1899

“Mr. Pearson also held an inquest at the THREE FURNACES, respecting the death of Delilah Cole (59), formerly of Tory Street, who died suddenly on Monday. On Sunday deceased retired to rest apparently in good health. Early the next morning the landlady called for her rent, and found deceased dead on the floor. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

1901 Census

Waterfall Lane – THREE FURNACES INN

[1] *Sarah Ann Foley* (54), widow, innkeeper, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *William Richard Cooper* (33), son, manager of inn, born Rowley Regis:

AND

Waterfall Lane – THREE FURNACES INN

[1] *Annie Cooper* (30), widow, barmaid in inn, born Cradley Heath;

[2] *Walter Edwin Cooper* (10), son, born Old Hill;

[3] *Beatrice Annie Cooper* (8), daughter, born Old Hill:

County Advertiser 9/1/1904

“On Monday afternoon Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest at the THREE FURNACES INN, Waterfall Lane, Blackheath, on the body of George Plant, aged one year and five months, son of Isaiah and Elizabeth Plant, of Tory Street, Blackheath, who died on the 3rd inst from the effects of severe burns received on the 17th ult. It appeared from the evidence that deceased was placed on a screen in the house whilst the mother was engaged in washing. The child fell off the screen on to the floor close to the fire grate, and his clothes were ignited by a cinder. He received severe burns, and was attended by Dr. McQueen, but died on the 3rd inst. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Sarah Ann Foley died in the 2nd quarter of 1906 and was buried at St. Paul’s Church, Blackheath.

County Advertiser 30/6/1906

“Licensing Business.....

An interim authority was granted in respect of the THREE FURNACES INN, Waterfall Lane, Blackheath, from Mrs. *Sarah Ann Foley* to *William Richard Cooper*.”

County Advertiser 18/8/1906

“The following licenses were transferred.....

THREE FURNACES INN, Waterfall Lane, Blackheath, from *Sarah Ann Foley* (deceased) to *William Richard Cooper*.”

County Advertiser 1/9/1906

“Thomas Plant, of Tory Street, Blackheath, was charged with being disorderly and refusing to quit the licensed premises of the THREE FURNACES INN, Waterfall Lane, Blackheath, on the 25th ult. The offence was admitted by defendant, who was fined 15s, including costs.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/9/1906

“Midland Wills.....

Mrs. *Sarah Ann Foley*, of the THREE FURNACES INN, Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, Stafford.

Gross £2,912. Net £591.

Only the gross amount of the whole of the estate and the net value of the personalty appear upon the official records. The net or actual value of the whole is not ascertainable.”

William Richard Cooper died in the 1st quarter of 1909 and was buried at St. Paul’s Church, Blackheath.

County Express 17/4/1909 - Advert

“Preliminary. Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, Staffs.

To Brewers, Maltsters, Wine and Spirit Merchants, Capitalists and Others.

Alfred Hill has been instructed by the Trustees of the late *William Richard Cooper*, to Sell By Public Auction, at the House of Mr. Albert E. Sidaway, the BRITISH OAK INN, High Street, Old Hill, on Wednesday, the 5th day of May, 1909.

All that Highly Valuable and Attractive Freehold, Fully Old-Licensed House and Premises, known as the THREE FURNACES INN, situate as above, and now in the occupation of Mrs. *Annie Cooper*. Full particulars next week.

Vendor’s Solicitors: Messrs Thomas Cooksey and Co, Old Hill and Blackheath. Auctioneer’s Offices: Halesowen.”

County Express 24/4/1909 - Advert

“Preliminary. Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, Staffs.

Notice Of Sale By Auction of a Highly Valuable and Attractive Freehold Fully Old-Licensed House and Premises.

To Brewers, Maltsters, Wine and Spirit Merchants, Capitalists and Others.

Alfred Hill has been instructed by the Trustees of the late *William Richard Cooper*, to Sell By Public Auction, at the House of Mr. Albert E. Sidaway, the BRITISH OAK INN, High Street, Old Hill, on Wednesday, the 5th day of May, 1909.

All that Highly Valuable and Attractive Freehold, Fully Old-Licensed House and Premises, known as the THREE FURNACES INN, situate at Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, now in the occupation of Mrs. *Annie Cooper*. The business accommodation comprises Bar and Smoke Room, Tap Room, very large Club Room, Two capital Cellars, 4-Stall Stable with Loft over same, Coach House, Pigstye, etc. The private accommodation consists of Breakfast Room, Dining Room, Three Bed Rooms, Box Room, large Kitchen and the usual outbuildings.

The above is well set back from the road, with Cartway entrance at side into a large Paved Yard, and is surrounded by a good brick wall, and entirely private. The House has always done a good business, and is well situated, and can, with every confidence, be recommended to the Trade and others as a good sound investment.

For any further particulars apply to: Messrs Thomas Cooksey and Co., Solicitors (offices at Old Hill and Blackheath). Or to the Auctioneer's Offices: Halesowen.”

County Express 5/6/1909

“At Old Hill, on Wednesday, the following licenses were transferred.....

THREE FURNACES, Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, from *William Richard Cooper* (deceased), to *Annie Cooper*.”

Tipton Herald 25/9/1909

“On Monday afternoon, Mr. G. C. Lewis (Coroner) held an inquest at the THREE FURNACES INN, Waterfall Lane, Blackheath, concerning the death of a newly born female child of Samuel and Hannah Plant, of Tory Street, Blackheath, whose death occurred on the 18th inst. After hearing the evidence of the parents, which showed that the child only lived ten minutes, the jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

County Express 11/6/1910

“A sad accident, resulting in the drowning of two girls, named Laura Withers (13), and Elsie Foster (11), of Tory Street, Blackheath, occurred at a canal basin belonging to the Station Colliery, Old Hill, on Saturday morning. The girls, together with Maggie Roden (8), of the same locality, left their homes shortly before eight o'clock, and at length found their way to the canal basin close to the Station Colliery, Old Hill, which is at present disused. The elder girls were on a wooden bridge, formerly used for the purposes of an endless rope, when the woodwork beneath them gave way, and they fell into the canal. Roden raised an alarm, and Elijah Evans, of Tory Street, Blackheath who was engaged at a local tube works, ran to the spot, and jumped into the water. He succeeded in getting out the body of Foster, which was at once removed to its home. Later he secured Withers' body, and PCs Longman and Pass and Mr. Harry Sample, of the HORSE SHOE INN, Station Road, Old Hill, tried artificial respiration. This was continued for 45 minutes, until Dr. McQueen arriving pronounced life extinct, and the body was removed home by the police. The inquest was held on Tuesday morning at the THREE FURNACES INN, Waterfall Lane, before Mr. G. C. Lewis (coroner).

Mr. J. L. Fellows represented the proprietors of the Station Colliery.

The parents stated that early on Saturday morning the children left their homes for the purpose of playing.

Maggie Roden, aged eight, said she accompanied the two girls to the Station Colliery for the purpose of picking coal. She saw them go on the bridge, which spans the canal, and suddenly the floor collapsed, and the girls fell into the water. She was frightened and ran away, and told the first man she met.

Elijah Evans (50), miner, stated that when the child Roden told him of the accident he hurried to the canal, and divesting himself of clothing jumped in. He soon recovered the body of Foster, but a considerable time elapsed before he could recover Withers.

The Coroner thanked Evans for his courageous efforts.

PC Longman stated that when he and PC Pass arrived at the colliery the body of Foster had been recovered and conveyed to her home. With the assistance of a man named Sample they tried artificial respiration with Withers for three-quarters of an hour without success.

The Coroner: Were the girls trespassing?

Witness: Yes, sir, they were. Trespassers had been warned many times not to go on the colliery estate. The floor of the canal bridge was decayed; it had, in fact, been fenced off.

The Coroner said it was a very sad accident, but the unfortunate girls were the authors of their own misfortune. The owners of the bridge were not to blame. PCs Longman and Pass and Mr. Sample were to be commended for what they had done. Bright features of the sad affair were the gallant efforts made to save life.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Annie Cooper married *William Alfred Bennett* in the 3rd quarter of 1910.

Dudley Chronicle 10/12/1910

“Licenses Transferred. The following temporary transfers were agreed to.....

THREE FURNACES, Waterfall Lane, from *Annie Cooper* to *Annie Bennett*.”

1911 Census

51, Waterfall Lane

[1] *William Alfred Bennett* (26), bolt header, nut and bolt works, born Old Hill;

[2] *Annie Bennett* (40), wife, married under 1 year, born Cradley Forge;

[3] *Beatrice Cooper* (18), step-daughter, born Old Hill;

[4] *Walter Edwin Cooper* (20), step-son, architect and surveyor, born Old Hill:

Black Country Bugle

Letter from Mrs. I. H. Towersey, Totnes

“.....my great aunt was Mrs. *Annie Bennett*, the licensee of this inn. Previously she was married to my uncle, a Mr. *Cooper*, she still being the licensee. They had two children, Edward (Teddy) and Beatrice. Sometime after the death of my uncle she married a man by the name of *Bennett*, considerably younger I believe Aunt *Annie* was always so nicely dressed in black silk and lace. She was rather prim and proper in her ways, and I can hardly imagine rough and bawdy things going on.....”

Walsall Observer 28/3/1914

“The members of the Old Hill Ironworks Band on Saturday night entertained their bandmaster, Mr. Thomas Wood, to dinner at the THREE FURNACES INN, Old Hill, prior to his departure for Glasgow, where he has secured an important position. Mr. Harry Harborne, of Dudley, was in the chair. Mr. A. Walker, who has been chosen to succeed Mr. Wood as conductor of the band, presented that gentleman with an umbrella on behalf of the band, and complimentary speeches were made by Councillor J. E. Shaw and Mr. Harborne. In returning thanks, Mr. Wood said he had been head of the band for 29 years.”

1939 Register

78, Waterfall Lane

[1] *Charles Hickman*, date of birth 25/1/1903, licensed victualler, married;

[2] *Elisa Hickman*, dob 9/5/1905, household duties, married;

[4] *Elizabeth Hickman*, dob 19/4/1861, incapacitated, widowed;

[5] *Rachel Hickman*, dob 6/2/1889, chain maker, single:

Sandwell Evening Mail 4/8/1987

“A boxing match involving the fearsomely named Skull Crusher and The Tank will be held in the Black Country on Saturday – but no one will get hurt.

The Skull Crusher is Alan Fairclough, licensee at the WHARF pub, off Station Road in Old Hill, and he will be taking on Tommy Mills, of Grange Road, Old Hill, in a fancy dress match for charity.

Alan said that Tommy, a regular at the THREE FURNACES in Waterfall Lane, had often ‘threatened’ to get him in a boxing ring and sort him out. ‘Now’s his chance. It’s obviously not going to be too serious and we shall be in long johns and fancy dress,’ said Alan.

The two fighters will be aiming to raise cash for the Father Hudson’s Homes charity and are hoping to get Warley boxer Pat Cowdell to referee.

The match will be on the car park of the WHARF at 3pm.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 22/10/1987

“Old Hill drinking pals Tommy Mills and Alan Fairclough were black and blue after challenging each other to a fight – but it was all in a good cause. Alan, former licensee of the WHARFE public house off Station Road and Tommy, one of his regular customers, fought each other in a sponsored boxing match there – and for their pains they raised more than £200 for a children’s charity.

The two were sponsored by customers at the WHARFE and the THREE FURNACES public house in Waterfall Lane, Old Hill.

A cheque for £205 raised by the contest, along with some cuddly toys, was presented by Tommy at the THREE FURNACES to Mr. Charlie O’Malley, the local representative of Father Hudson’s Children’s Homes.

Mrs. Helen *Robinson* whose husband *Ian* is licensee of the THREE FURNACES, said the contest, refereed by another friend, Mr. Tony Jones, lasted several rounds and was declared a draw. She said, ‘It was all a bit of fun really. Alan and Tommy had always joked about fighting each other and when charity was mentioned they decided to do it for real.’”

The cellar was flooded after heavy rain on 30th October 2000.

[2000]

Nigel Brian Salisbury – check also BOAT.

Closed [2001]

A fire broke out in a storeroom in July 2001.

It was renamed OLD FURNACE [2006]

[2007]

Closed [2010], [2011]

Halesowen News 27/7/2011

“An eyesore fence around a boarded up pub which has blighted the view of Blackheath residents for several months could soon be pulled down. An application to turn the former THREE FURNACES pub on the Cradley Heath/Blackheath border into a three bedroom house has been submitted to Sandwell Council. Blackheath councillor Mary Docker said the plan was good news for residents in the Grange Road area, several of whom had contacted her to complain about the ugly fence which had been erected around the disused Waterfall Lane pub. She added, ‘Hopefully this will transform this area for the benefit of nearby residents.’”

It was converted into housing. [2014]

Halesowen News 31/4/2019

“A former Cradley Heath pub proved to be one of the hottest properties on offer at a recent Birmingham auction. The OLD FURNACE on Waterfall Lane – which has already been partially converted into a residential property – sold for far more than SDL Auctions Bigwood expected. Having been put up at a guide price of £145,000-£155,000, the property was bought for £210,000 after attracting enthusiastic bidding at the Villa Park auction.

Auctioneer Rory Daly said, ‘We were delighted to get such a good result for the seller of this former pub. It is a great example of why auction is a great way to sell property, particularly properties which are a little out of the ordinary, such as this one.’”

Halesowen News 4/5/2021

“Plans to flatten a former pub in Cradley Heath to make way for homes have been submitted to Sandwell Council. The OLD FURNACE on Waterfall Lane would be demolished and five houses built in its place, if plans get the go-ahead. The derelict pub sold at auction for £210k back in March 2019. It smashed its guide price of £145k, attracting enthusiastic bidding at the Villa Park auction. The proposal, from Mohammed Parvez, is for outline planning permission to build four three-bed semi-detached houses and one three-bed detached house. The site is next to Sandwell MBC Taxi Licensing Offices. The new homes would front onto Grange Road. The proposal states, ‘The scale of the proposed development has been carefully considered throughout the design process.’”

Express & Star 12/10/2021

“Plans to bulldoze a derelict Cradley Heath pub and replace it with homes have been submitted to planners. A developer wants to knock down the former OLD FURNACE pub on the corner of Waterfall Road and Grange Road and build three houses in its place. If the outline application gets the go-ahead three four-bedroom detached homes will be built on the site. A design and access statement notes that the site ‘is bounded by Sandwell MBC Taxi Licensing Offices with timber fence and trees behind and there are semi-detached houses on the north boundary separated with a timber fence. Currently the site is occupied by the derelict public house and associated yard.’ It goes on, ‘The proposed residential development has been carefully planned to provide layout which responds carefully to its setting.’ It states that the proposal ‘Represents a high quality environment both visually and environmentally.’

The application will be considered by Sandwell Council planners.”

Halesowen News 6/12/2021

“Plans to flatten a former pub in Cradley Heath to make way for homes have been given the go-ahead. The OLD FURNACE on Waterfall Lane will be demolished and three four-bedroom detached houses built in its place. The derelict pub sold at auction for £210k back in March 2019. It smashed its guide price of £145k, attracting enthusiastic bidding at the Villa Park auction. The proposal, from Mohammed Parvez, is for outline planning permission. He had previously submitted an application to build four three-bed semi-detached houses and one three-bed detached house, but plans were amended to feature just three detached houses. The site is next to Sandwell MBC Taxi Licensing Offices. The new homes will front onto Grange Road. The proposal states, ‘The proposed residential development has been carefully planned to provide layout which responds carefully to its setting.’ Sandwell Council planners approved the application.”

TIMBERTREE

Valley Road / Coppice Road, CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.
Punch Taverns [2007]

LICENSEES

Harold Noah Homer (1962 – [1965])
J C Gormley-Carney [1983]

NOTES

Provisional Grant 1st March 1962
Final Order granted 9th May 1962.
It opened in 1962.

Birmingham Daily Post 7/12/1964

“When it comes to giving a helping hand to a worthy cause Black Country people are ready to pull their weight no matter what their social status. Resplendent in white aprons, members of Rowley Regis Borough Council, corporation officials, and professional men served traditional Christmas fare on Saturday night to more than 100 disabled people without spilling a drop of soup A social club at the TIMBERTREE public house, Old Hill, had raised more than £50.”

Harold Noah Homer – see also BLUE BALL.

Sandwell Evening Mail 4/6/1988

“Darts.....

Former Tipton Super League player Mick Merrick raised over £80 for a heart operation for Nicholas Thomas when he took on all comers at the TIMBERTREE, Valley Road, in Cradley Heath. The Cradley Heath pub started a darts marathon today in a bid to swell the fund even further as well as a knockout competition. Entrance for the knockout is £2 per player.”

Halesowen News 8/9/2010

“Police in Cradley Heath and Old Hill have promised to tackle anti-social behaviour and loutishness in Haden Hill Park and troublesome pubs. The Cradley Heath and Old Hill Neighbourhood Policing Team are acting upon complaints about gangs of yobs who are blighting residents’ lives.....

During the Summer the police executed a drugs warrant at the TIMBERTREE pub leading to six arrests and charges for drugs.....”

Dudley News 9/2/2011

“A Cradley Heath pub has been transformed from an anti-social behaviour hotspot into a family friendly pub after the community, politicians and the new landlord joined forces.

The TIMBERTREE pub, Valley Road, had caused local residents sleepless nights for years with constant late night parties and loud noise. Cradley Heath and Old Hill Councillor Liz Bowler and her husband Alan took up the challenge and started regular meetings with residents, the police and the pub’s management. After the issue was still not solved the pub closed down until a new licensee was found.

Cllr. Bowler said, ‘The meeting that we set up was a success from the point of view that it was an opportunity for all the residents living closest to the pub to talk directly to the police and particularly the pub’s Area Manager and explain exactly what they were being subjected to every weekend. Clearly the anti-social behaviour was totally unacceptable and should never have been allowed to carry on for so long.’ She added, ‘I felt really sorry for them all so I had to do something to help and at least we got some positive action from the pub management group who now realised how serious the problem had become.’

The TIMBERTREE pub’s new manager is now in place and has recently re-opened, is being refurbished and is now attracting customers old and new.

Cllr. Bowler added, ‘I’ve since spoken to some of the local residents and they seem much happier with the way the pub is now being managed. It has taken a long time to get to this point but I’m pleased that we were able to step in and help the residents to try and make a difference. As we all know it’s very difficult times for the pub trade and so, rather than see another pub have to close, I would hope that we will see the TIMBERTREE pub return to being a good well-run family pub that many of the local residents will want to use again.’”

It retained an anti-social order in 2013.

[2014]

Express & Star 3/10/2016

“A pub in Cradley Heath which has been blighted by anti-social behaviour is to be knocked down and replaced by 20 new flats. The TIMBERTREE, in Valley Road, will be bulldozed after plans for housing were given the go-ahead. A total of 17 one-bed and three two-bed apartments will be built on the site. The move has been welcomed by Councillor Anne Shackleton who covers the area. ‘The pub has continued to attract crime and anti-social behaviour and was said by experts to be becoming a nuisance of its own.’

But the development will breathe fresh life into the area after the plans were approved by planning bosses at Sandwell Council. Councillor Anne Shackleton said, ‘I welcome the move 100 per cent, and from talking to people in the neighbourhood, they do too. It has been one of our ‘grot’ spots, an eyesore, for a considerable length of time. I look forward to the development starting.

It will improve the look of the area and it will get rid of the anti-social behaviour there.’’

Closed [2017]

Demolished [2018]

TIVIALE

45-47 Regent Road, Tividale, ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Del Sharpe [2018] – [2019]

NOTES

It opened on 9th June 2018 in the premises of a former convenience store.

Del Sharpe was married to Lynn.

[2019]

TRAVELLERS REST

CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

LICENSEES

NOTES

[1840]

It became Chapman’s Electrical Store.

TRUE BRITON

Newtown, CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Benjamin Millward [1864] – **1865)**

NOTES

Wolverhampton Chronicle 30/11/1864

“At the Petty Sessions, on Wednesday last, *Benjamin Milward*, beerhouse keeper, Cradley Heath, was summoned on two excise informations, which charged him with having in his possession, on the 30th of September last, a quantity of grains of paradise, and with using the same in the brewing of ale, for each of which offences he had forfeited the sum of £200.

Mr. Edward Thomas, supervisor, Stourbridge, proved visiting the premises of the defendant while brewing was going on, and taking from the boiler a quantity of hops containing grains of paradise.

Mr. James Moxon, assistant chemist at Somerset House, who had examined samples of the hops seized, proved that they contained grains of paradise. There was in grains of paradise a starch convertible into saccharine matter, and they were consequently capable of replacing malt to some extent. In answer to the Bench, witness said that grains of paradise gave a fictitious strength to beer, and would make inferior have the appearance of superior beer. There was about five per cent of grains of paradise in the samples of hops produced.

The defendant, in answer to the case, said that his daughter had bought some grains of paradise, but he was not aware that it was contrary to law to use them.

The Bench fined the defendant £50 and recommended the Commissioners of Inland Revenue to reduce the fine to £25.”

County Advertiser 28/1/1865

“At the Police Court, on Wednesday, before the sitting magistrates, *Benjamin Millward*, landlord of the TRUE BRITON public house, Newtown, Cradley Heath, was charged with having, on the 10th inst, unlawfully permitted gambling in his house. Mr. Addison defended.

Police-constable Daulman deposed that he visited the defendant’s house about seven o’clock on the evening in question, and there he saw four men playing at dominoes. At the conclusion of the game one of the men said, ‘We have lost,’ and paid the landlady for some ale which stood on the table.

The defence was that neither the landlord nor the landlady knew anything of the matter.

Defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs.”

County Advertiser 5/8/1865 - Advert

“TRUE BRITON INN, Cradley Heath.

To be Let, with immediate possession, the above well-accustomed House. It is situate close to a Mill, Forge, and large Chain and Brick Works, and is certain to command a large trade. Rent low. Coming-in about £30. Present proprietor is retiring. Apply to Mr. Chandler, Auctioneer and Valuer, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 11/11/1865 - Advert

“TRUE BRITON INN, Newtown, Cradley Heath.

Coopers’ Made Casks, Tumps of Hops, Furniture, &c.

Mr. Chandler will Sell by Auction, on Monday Next, November 13th, 1865, at Eleven o’clock, the seasoned Coopers’ made Casks, Furniture, &c, including Hogshead, Six Half-hogshead, several Thirty-six Gallon and smaller Ale Casks, in good condition; Eight-strike Mash Tub, Oval and Round Coolers and Tubs, Four Cross-legged Drinking Tables, Strong Rail-back Seats and Forms, Set of Pewter Ale Measures, Ten Iron Spittoons, Two Tumps of prime Worcester Hops, 1864; Signboard, large Mastlin Kettle, Mahogany Centre and Oak Two-leaf Dining Tables, excellent Mahogany Sofa, with carved back, and seated in hair; Mahogany Chest of Drawers, capital Oak Linen Chest, with extra drawers; Eight-day Spring Clock, strong Wheelbarrow, and other useful Effects, at the TRUE BRITON INN, Newtown, Cradley Heath, being surplus Stock not taken to by in-coming Tenant.”

TWO FURNACES

107, (45), Powke Lane, (Dog Lane), OLD HILL

OWNERS

Burton Brewery Co. Ltd.

Ind Coope and Allsopp Ltd.

LICENSEES

Mary Edge [1861] – [1865]

Prudence Pugh [1871] – [1875]

Joseph Williams [] – 1876);

John Tunley (1876 – 1877);

Albert Nicholls* (1877 – []

Albert Nicklin* [1877]
Alfred Nicklin* [] – 1878);
Edward Millington (1878– 1879);
William Perry (1879 – 1880);
George Pearson (1880 – [1882]
Joseph Foley [1883] – [1889]
Philip Chatwin [1891] – [1896]
Dick Chambers [1901]
William Smith [1905] – 1912);
Mrs. Elizabeth Smith** (1912 – 1924);
Charles Thomas Smith (1924 – 1926);
Mrs. Elizabeth Smith** (1926 – 1928):

NOTES

Dog Lane [1861]
45, Powke Lane [1881], [1891], [1905], [1907], [1908], [1911], [1912]
107, Powke Lane [1924]

1861 Census

Dog Lane

- [1] *Mary Edge* (73), widow, mother, licensed victualler, born Cradley;
- [2] Thomas Pugh (28), son-in-law, furnaceman, born Rednall, Worcestershire;
- [3] *Prudence Pugh* (38), wife, born Rowley;
- [4] Joseph Williams (14), grandson, engine smith, born Rowley;
- [5] Richard Pugh (1), son, born Rowley:

County Advertiser 15/4/1865

“On Wednesday Mr. Edwin Hooper, Coroner, held an inquest on the body of William [sic] *Pugh*, a boat unloader, whose body was found in Barrs basin on the canal, on Monday morning, by William Southall, a boatman, who was passing along the bank. The evidence was to the effect that on Saturday, the 18th of March last, the deceased was living with his wife at the TWO FURNACES public house, Old Hill. He went home about half-past ten o’clock, and said he had not got any money. His wife said to him that he ought to give up the calling he followed, and try to get something better. He went out saying that he would make ‘a hole in the water’ and from that time till Monday morning, when Southall discovered his dead body in the canal, he was never seen. Of course, when his relations saw that he did not return within a reasonable time, they gave information to the police. The canal was dragged; but without any result. The body had sunk into a quantity of silt which had collected at the place where it was found, and it only rose to the surface after the process of decay had been considerably advanced. The body was in an upright position when found by Southall, and the spot where he discovered it was quite close to the residence of the deceased. Five shillings and sixpence in money, besides some keys and three pocket-books, were found in the pockets of the deceased’s clothes. There was no suspicion that the deceased had met with foul play.

Evidence was given to show that his manner was sometimes strange, and that he had once gone away from his wife, and remained away for a long time without communicating with her. He was in a sick club, and his wife would receive £10, unless it could be shown that he had committed suicide. The jury found that the deceased had been found drowned in the canal; but how he got there there was no evidence to show.”

AND

Staffordshire Advertiser 15/4/1865

“Mr. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at Rowley, on Wednesday, on the body of Thomas *Pugh*, aged 32 A verdict of Found Drowned was returned.”

1871 Census

Powke Lane – THREE [sic] FURNACES

- [1] *Prudence Pugh* (48), widow, licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Richard Pugh (11), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] William Pugh (8), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Joseph Williams (24), boarder, engine tender, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Mary Williams (30), boarder, born Kingswinford;
- [6] Louise Southall (22), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 13/3/1875

“*Prudence Pugh*, landlady of the TWO FURNACES public house, Old Hill, was charged with having, on the 5th inst, permitted drunkenness on her premises. Mr. Addison appeared for the defendant.

A man named John Bladen stated that on the above date he was at the defendant’s house, in company with two other men named Wylde and Sifford. They were supplied with seven quarts of ale, in which was a quantity of rum. He left Sifford in the house,

‘not drunk, but intoxicated.’ In answer to the Bench, witness said he did not think a man drunk unless ‘he went to the pump to light his pipe.’

William Wylde said he was at the defendant’s house on the night in question. Sifford was not intoxicated when witness left. Mrs. *Pugh*, however, asked Sifford to leave.

Benjamin Plant said that when the man Sifford left the house he was ‘topicated’ a little.

Police-constable Kettle said that when he served the summons the defendant said that Sifford was no worse than the other men.

Her son said it was the rum and ale which had made them drunk.

Mr. Addison having addressed the Bench, called the defendant, who said that the ale supplied to the men was but five quarts, with three quarters of rum. The men were all sober when they entered her house. On seeing that Sifford had had sufficient, she asked him to leave, and he did so immediately. The case was withdrawn on the payment of costs.”

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.....

Prudence Pugh, TWO FURNACES, Powke Lane.”

County Advertiser 30/9/1876

“*Joseph Williams* was charged with permitting drunkenness in his house, the TWO FURNACES INN, Old Hill. Mr. Hayes defended.

Police-constable Kettle said that on the night of the 21st inst the defendant came to the Police Station in a drunken condition, and asked that an officer might be sent to his house. Shortly afterwards witness and Police-constable Sylvester went to the house and found the defendant’s brother asleep in bed, very drunk. The defendant’s wife was also drunk.

In cross-examination the witness said that the reason he thought defendant’s brother was drunk was because he could not awake him.

The Bench considered there was no case, and dismissed it.

The above defendant, his wife (*Mary Williams*), and his brother (*Richard Williams*), were then charged with having been drunk on the licensed premises of the former. The facts were as above stated. The Bench dismissed all the summonses.”

John Tunley = John Tonley

County Advertiser 4/8/1877

“An interim transfer of the license of the TWO FURNACES INN, Old Hill, was allowed from *John Tonley* to *Albert Nicholls*.”

County Express 25/8/1877

“After the business of the Petty Sessions had been disposed of the Annual Licensing Sessions were held. The Black List was first called on, and it appeared that the following were the publicans who had been convicted of offences against the Licensing Laws during the past year.....

Albert Nicklin, TWO FURNACES, Old Hill.....

License renewed with a caution from the Magistrates.”

* possibly the same person

County Advertiser 16/11/1878

“*Richard [sic] Millington*, publican, was charged with unlawfully permitting drunkenness on his premises on the 4th inst. Mr. Hayes defended.

Police-constable Farnell stated that at a quarter past seven on the night of the 4th inst he visited the defendant’s house, TWO FURNACES, Powke Lane, Old Hill, and found a man leaning with his head down on a table in one of the rooms. The defendant was present, and he called his attention to the man whom they tried to get up. He was unable to stand, and had to hold the counter for support. Witness left after the landlord said he knew nothing about him; but returning subsequently found the man still standing at the counter. Witness had to help him away.

Mr. Hayes, in defence, called Mr. *Millington*, who said that when the man found by the policeman came into his house he had no appearance of being tipsy, and witness supplied him with a bottle of ginger beer. Directly afterwards the officer came in and called his (witness’s) attention to the man, on which witness told him he must leave. He refused to do so on the ground that he was sober, but left on witness telling him he would have to be ejected. He was not in the house more than ten minutes or so.

Cross-examined by Mr. Woollaston, defendant affirmed that he looked at the clock when the man entered and also when the policeman came in.

Mr. Hayes called other witnesses, and the magistrates, after hearing them, said they should not convict, although they entirely believed the officer as to the man being drunk, and also thought the landlord blameable for allowing him to stay on his premises. It was not proved, however, that he was supplied with anything intoxicating, and the case would therefore be dismissed.

John Devill was then charged with being drunk, and was fined 2s 6d and costs.”

Dudley Herald 11/9/1880 - Advert

“Freehold Old-Licensed Inn and Dwelling Houses, Powke Lane, Rowley Regis, Staffordshire.

Mr. H. King is instructed to Sell by Auction, on Monday, October 4th, 1880, at the TWO FURNACES INN, Powke Lane, at Six

o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions then to be produced.

All that well-accustomed Old-licensed Freehold Public House, the TWO FURNACES INN, with extensive Stabling, large Yard, and Premises, now in the occupation of Mr. *George Pearson*, at the very low rental of £20 per annum; and also the Four Dwelling Houses adjoining, with Four Brewhouses and Appurtenances thereto, occupied by Morton, Cash, Matthews, and Owen, producing per annum £30 14s.

The Property is situate in Powke Lane, having a long frontage thereto, adjoining Messrs. Hingley's Furnaces, the new works in course of erection, and opposite Messrs. Lowe's timber yard, and is well supplied with Hard and Soft Water.

The Public House being situate in the immediate vicinity of several large chain, anchor, and brickworks, is doing an excellent trade, which may be readily increased, as it is, with one exception, the only Old-licensed Inn within a radius of a quarter of a mile. The area of the property being 3,712 square yards, extending to the Birmingham Canal, with a good frontage to Powke Lane. The spare land is available for the erection of a small work or additional dwelling houses.

The Mines and Minerals are reserved.

For particulars and plan, apply to Mr. John Wright, Solicitor, Cradley Heath; or to the Auctioneer, Stourbridge."

1881 Census

45, Powke Lane – THREE [sic] FURNACES

[1] *George Pearson* (49), licensed victualler, born Brierley Hill;

[2] Jane Pearson (48), wife, born Worcester;

[3] Elisa E. Sanders (2), visitor, born Birmingham:

Dudley and District News 10/12/1881

"*George Pearson*, landlord of the TWO FURNACES INN, Old Hill, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises. Mr. Cooksey defended.

On the previous Saturday night PCs Rowlands and Walkeden found in the defendant's liquor shop two men alleged to be drunk. Defendant, in the officers' presence, led one of the men out by the back door. When the officers returned to the house ten minutes later, defendant was in the act of leading the other man out. He was afterwards found sitting down in the brewhouse.

Witnesses for the defence were called to prove that one of the men, admitted to be drunk, had not been supplied with anything in defendant's house, and that the second man was not drunk, although he had had some beer.

The Bench considered the case proved, and fined defendant 40s and costs."

County Advertiser 17/12/1881

"Thomas Bryant, miner, and William Newnam, horse fletcher, both of Old Hill, were charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of *George Pearson*, TWO FURNACES INN, Old Hill, on the 3rd inst. Police-constable Rowlands gave evidence in support of the charge. It was stated that Bryant had been before the Court on three previous occasions during the present year. The Bench fined him 10s and costs; in default, twenty-one days. Newnam was fined 2s 6d and costs; in default, seven days."

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.....

George Pearson, TWO FURNACES, Powke Lane, Old Hill, permitting drunkenness, fined 40s 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 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 beerhouses, 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 cost 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 blacklist, were called before the Bench and cautioned, and their licenses were renewed. There were no applications for fresh licenses or transfers."

Birmingham Daily Post 6/2/1886 - Advert

“Girl (good) Wanted, about 18 years of age, as General Servant.
Apply, Mrs. *J. Foley*, TWO FURNACES INN, Old Hill, near Dudley.”

County Advertiser 6/3/1886

“*Joseph Foley*, landlord of the TWO FURNACES INN, Old Hill, was charged with stealing 19s 9½d belonging to David Edmonde, cable chain maker. Mr. J. Wright defended.
Complainant’s evidence was that on Saturday night he went to defendant’s house and ordered a pint of ale, tendering a sovereign in payment. Defendant refused to give him the change, but gave him a receipt to the effect that the money had been received in part payment of an account of £2 which was owing on a drink score for ale consumed on the premises.
Mr. Wright admitted that his client had acted illegally in retaining the change, but had no intention of committing a felony. The Bench said defendant had acted illegally, but that they would allow the case to be withdrawn on defendant returning the change and paying the costs.
Case withdrawn.”

County Advertiser 23/2/1889

“*Joseph Foley* and Mary Foley, landlord and landlady of the TWO FURNACES INN, Old Hill, were charged with assaulting Frank Hubery, a furnaceman of Mouse Sweet Brook, on Saturday night. Mr. Thompson (Messrs. Warmington and Thompson, Dudley) prosecuted.
Shortly before ten o’clock complainant was in defendant’s house, along with some companions, and made some remark about *Foley’s* wife, whereupon defendants struck him, knocking him down, and, according to evidence called by complainant, defendant *Joseph Foley* also kicked him.
Inspector Walters said complainant came to the police station on the night of the assault, and appeared to have been badly assaulted.
Joseph Foley said he considered that defendant’s remark was an insult to his wife, and he (defendant) was in a passion when he assaulted complainant.
Mr. Hingley said it was certainly not a polite expression that complainant made use of, but people in public houses did say such things, and it did not justify the defendants in the assault they had committed. They considered the assault a brutal one, and fined the male defendant £1 and costs, and Mrs. *Foley* 10s and costs.”

1891 Census

45, Powke Lane
[1] *P. Chatwin* (41), licensed victualler, born Halesowen;
[2] Sarah Chatwin (37), wife, born Halesowen;
[3] Bertha Chatwin (7), niece, scholar, born Halesowen;
[4] William Partridge (30), boarder, general labourer, born Halesowen:

County Advertiser 22/12/1894

“*Philip Chatwin*, landlord of the TWO FURNACES INN, Powke Lane, Old Hill, was charged with permitting gaming on his licensed premises on the 10th inst. Mr. Wm. Waldron prosecuted on behalf of the police, and Mr. Foster, of Sedgley, appeared for defendant.
The evidence showed that Police-constable Rixson, disguised as a labourer, visited defendant’s house about 8.40pm. Upon going into the bar he saw thirteen men playing ‘tippet.’ When the game was ended, a quart of beer was ordered, and those who had lost paid for it. A game of ‘threes and fives’ was played, and more beer supplied, for which the losers paid. The landlord was present all the time, and could see perfectly well what was going on.
Mr. Foster pleaded guilty on behalf of the defendant, and urged in extenuation of the offence, that he had hitherto borne a most exemplary character. He had conducted the house for fourteen [sic] years, and during that time had not had a single complaint against the house. Inspector Raybould also informed him that defendant had conducted a house at Halesowen in a very satisfactory way. In view of these facts, and that the games were harmless and innocent in themselves, he asked the Bench to take a lenient view of the case.
Mr. Bassano said it was the principle of the thing they looked at more than the thing itself. Gaming was gaming, and must be put down. In consideration of defendant’s excellent character, however, they should only fine him 40s and costs.”

County Advertiser 23/3/1895 - Advert

“Highly Important Sale by Auction of Valuable Licensed Properties, at Old Hill.
Alfred W. Dando has received instructions from W. J. Hipwood, Esq, the Trustee under a Deed of Assignment for the benefit of Creditors, to Sell by Auction, at the QUEENS HEAD INN, Old Hill, on Tuesday, March 5th, 1895, at Seven o’clock in the Evening, subject to Conditions of Sale then to be produced, as follows.
Lot 1. All that Exceedingly-important Old-Established, Fully-Licensed Premises, known as the TWO FURNACES INN, Powke Lane, Old Hill, containing Smoke, Tap, and Sitting Rooms, Bar, Club Room, Three Bed Rooms, with spacious, dry Cellars, Stabling, Pigsties, and other Outbuildings in Yard; in the occupation of Mr. Beach, and his under-tenant, at the nominal rental of £28 per annum. Also adjoining are Four Well-built Dwelling Houses, in first-class tenantable order and repair, being Nos.41 to 44, Powke Lane; well supplied with Water, and having pleasant Gardens at rear, always well let, and now in the occupation of Matthews, Neat, and others, at rentals amounting to £32 12s 2d, the tenants paying water rate.
The TWO FURNACES is one of the best-known Houses in the Old Hill district, being in close proximity to several very extensive

Works, and must always command a large and extensive Trade. The Auctioneer invites the particular attention of Brewers and others to this House, as it is seldom so genuine a Property is in the market.....

Further particulars may be obtained of W. J. Hipwood, Esq, Chartered Accountant, 21, Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton; of S. Goodman, Esq, Solicitor, Halesowen; of Frank Deeley, Esq, Solicitor, or of the Auctioneer, both of Dudley.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/9/1895

“The Old Hill adjourned annual Licensing Sessions were held yesterday. Mr. Waldron applied for a renewal of the licenses to *Philip Chatwin* which were adjourned from the annual licensing day. Mr. Bassano asked how the houses had been conducted in the meantime, and Inspector Given replied that everything had been satisfactory. The licenses were renewed.”

Philip Chatwin – see also VICTORIA.

1901 Census

Powke Lane

[1] *Dick Chambers* (33), licensed victualler, born Dudley;

[2] Elizabeth Chambers (27), sister, house keeper, born Dudley:

County Advertiser 7/3/1903

“Yesterday morning Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest at the TWO FURNACES INN, Powke Lane, Old Hill, on the body of Mary Bramley (89), a widow, of Powke Lane, who had died from the effects of a fall. On going to bed she fell downstairs on the 23rd ult, and died from shock on the 4th inst. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

2nd April 1905 - Ada (b. 9/3/1905), daughter of *William* and *Elizabeth Smith*, publican, 45, Powke Lane.

22nd May 1907 - Adelaide Elizabeth (b. 29/4/1907), daughter of *William* and *Elizabeth Smith*, publican, 45, Powke Lane.

County Advertiser 16/3/1907

“A dinner in connection with the Old Hill Ironworks Brass Band was held on Saturday night at the TWO FURNACES INN, Powke Lane. A good company sat down to dinner, after which the chair was occupied by Mr. W. Neale. A capital musical programme was rendered.”

County Express 18/6/1910

“On Saturday evening, in connection with the money club at the TWO FURNACES INN, a supper was held, to which between 20 and 30 people assembled. Afterwards a most enjoyable evening was spent, Messrs. J. Head (bass), J. Stevens, Shaw, Round, and Cooper contributing to the entertainment. The features of the evening were the songs of Mr. Head, who rendered admirably ‘The wolf,’ ‘Asleep in the deep,’ ‘Anchored,’ and ‘The Flight of Ages.’”

1911 Census

45, Powke Lane

[1] *William Smith* (39), licensed victualler, born Tipton;

[2] *Elizabeth Smith* (39), wife, married 9 years, assisting in the business, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Sarah Smith (9), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Ada Smith (6), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Adelina Smith (3), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Martha Smith (1), daughter, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 9/3/1912

“The adjourned licensing sessions for Old Hill Petty Sessional Division were held on Wednesday, at the police court.....

The following licenses were transferred.....

TWO FURNACES INN, Powke Lane, Old Hill, from *William Smith* (deceased) to *Elizabeth Smith*.”

** possibly the same person

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.....

TWO FURNACES, Old Hill, on the ground of redundancy.”

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority, on 7th March 1928, on the grounds of redundancy.

Staffordshire Advertiser 21/7/1928

“The principal meeting of the Licensing Compensation Authority for the county was held at the Shirehall, Stafford, on Monday, when 14 licences which had been scheduled by the licensing justices, mostly from the South Staffordshire area, came under con-

sideration. Of these three were renewed and the remainder were referred for compensation.....
The licence of the TWO FURNACES, an alehouse at Old Hill (licensee *Elizabeth Smith*) was referred for compensation.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 4/8/1928 - Notice

“The Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910. County Of Stafford.

Notice Is Hereby Given, that the Compensation Authority for the above area, having decided at their Principal Meeting, held on the 16th day of July, 1928, to Refuse the Renewal of the Licenses of the Premises specified below, all persons claiming to be interested in the said premises for the purpose of the payment of Compensation under the said Act (other than the Licensee, and the Registered Owner of the said Premises) are required to send to the Compensation Authority notice of their Claims before the 14th day of September, 1928, for the purpose of enabling the Compensation Authority to ascertain in manner provided by the Licensing Rules, 1910, the persons entitled to Compensation under the said Act in respect of the said Premises.....

TWO FURNACES, Powke Lane, Old Hill. Alehouse. Licensee, *Elizabeth Smith*. Registered Owners, Ind Coope & Co. Ltd.”

Compensation was paid on 22nd December 1928.

House closed on 29th December 1928.

Staffordshire Advertiser 5/1/1929

“County Quarter Sessions. Licensing Compensation Awards.

At the Supplemental meeting the committee awarded a total sum of £15,230 in compensation, and considered that the amounts agreed upon were satisfactory both from the point of view of the parties interested and the Compensation Fund. The amounts approved were as follows.....

TWO FURNACES, Old Hill, alehouse, £1,425.

The amounts awarded had been apportioned between the interested parties and paid.”

VICTORIA

Victoria Terrace, CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Elijah Jones [1841] – [1842]

Elijah Hill [1876]

NOTES

Dudley Herald 17/6/1876

“William Guest and David Robinson, miners, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, were charged with stealing a silver Geneva watch and various other articles, the property of *Elijah Hill*, landlord of the VICTORIA INN, Cradley Heath, on the 12th inst.

Prosecutor having identified the articles as his property, called his wife who stated that at about 12 o'clock on the day in question the two prisoners went to her house, and having drunk three pints of ale left. They remained in the kitchen about half-an-hour, and during that time one of them must have gone up into her bedroom and took the watch and some money which she saw safe about ten minutes before the prisoners entered her house. She missed some money from the bedroom about two o'clock, but did not miss the watch until five o'clock.

Inspector Mapp stated that at about six o'clock in the evening of the same date he saw the prisoners looking at a ring in King Street. He watched them and followed them up the long entry, after which Guest went into Mr. Hannay's shop, and when he came out he (witness) went and asked Miss Hannay what Guest had pledged. Upon receiving her reply he followed the prisoners into the HEN AND CHICKENS INN, New Street, where he apprehended them, giving Robinson into the charge of PC Lake. Upon searching the prisoners at the station he found the chain, guard, and money upon them, each of them having 7s 6d in money in their pockets.

Martha Hannay stated that she lent Guest 15s upon the watch, produced.

The prisoners were committed for trial, Mr. Bagott observing there was some degree of credit attached to the police for their conduct in the matter.”

[At the Worcester Midsummer Quarter Sessions they were found guilty and sentenced to twelve months' hard labour with five years' police supervision. They had been previously convicted.]

VICTORIA

132, (44), (32), (30), Halesowen Road, OLD HILL

OWNERS

James Holcroft [1897]

John Rolinson and Son Ltd. (acquired on 28th September 1897 for £1,700) [1909]

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

Mrs. Mary Stokes [1841] – [1849]

Mrs. Mary Talbot [1848] – **1867**);

John Parkes (**1867** – [1868]

William Robinson [1871] – **1873**);

Enoch Morris* (**1873** – []

Edward Morris* [] – **1879**);

Sarah Morris (**1879** – [1884]

Jonah Round [1889]

Mrs. Ellen Cartwright [1890] – [1897]

Philip Chatwin [1900] – **1903**);

Sarah Chatwin [1903]

James Pearson (**1903** – **1923**);

James Johnson (**1923** – **1926**);

George Henry Smith (**1926** – **1927**);

Frederick 'Fred' Crumpton (**1927** – **1932**);

Arthur Owen Hickman (**1932** – **1934**);

John Samuel Walter Sidney Foley (**1934** – **1936**);

Jack Hudson (**1936** – **1938**);

Hugh Anyon Sherratt (**1938** – **1941**);

Ellen Bedford (**1941** – **1945**);

Percy Benjamin Hackett (**1945** – **1950**);

John William Benjamin Hurst (**1950** – **1951**);

Brian Mulcaster (**1951** – **1954**);

Frederick Arthur 'Freddie' Phillips (**1954** – **1960**);

William Harry Slack (**1960** – **1961**);

Reginald John Craggs (**1961** – [1965]

Dave Walker [1983]

Alan Swaine [1993]

Wayne Davies (**2002** – []

NOTES

30, Halesowen Road [1881], [1891]

32, Halesowen Road [1896], [1900], [1901]

44, Halesowen Road [1911], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1924], [1932], [1940]

132, Halesowen Road [1990], [2002]

It was originally the PIG AND WHISTLE.

It was known locally as the "Vic".

It had a boxing gym run by Bert Rollason.

Mrs. *Mary Stokes*, PIG AND WHISTLE, Old Hill. [1849]

Mary Talbot = Mary Talbott

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

31st July 1825 - Benjamin, son of Benjamin and *Mary Talbot*, victualler, Old Hill.

22nd April 1827 - Mary, daughter of Benjamin and *Mary Talbot*, victualler, Old Hill.
12th October 1828 - Sarah, daughter of Benjamin and *Mary Talbot*, victualler, Old Hill.
9th April 1831 - Elizabeth, daughter of Benjamin and *Mary Talbot*, victualler, Old Hill.
28th April 1833 - William, son of Benjamin and *Mary Talbot*, victualler, Old Hill.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 6/9/1848

“On Monday, before the sitting magistrates, T. Badger, C. Cartwright, and J. Roberts, Esqs, two young men named Thomas Hackett (nailer) and David Ridley (collier) were charged with setting fire to a hay rick at Old Hill, in the parish of Rowley, the property of Mrs. *Talbot*, of the PIG AND WHISTLE, on the night of Wednesday last, the 30th ult.

Mrs. *Talbot* was first examined, but her evidence was not important.

William *Talbot*, son of the prosecutrix, deposed that he saw the rick safe about eight o'clock in the evening of Wednesday last, and about a quarter to twelve o'clock the same night he was called out of bed in consequence of the rick having been discovered to be on fire. He immediately got up and assisted in extinguishing the flames, which was accomplished in about an hour, and after about 10cwt of hay had been destroyed. On Monday, the 28th ult (two days previous to the fire) the witness stated that the two prisoners were at his mother's public house, where he played with them at a game called 'pitch and rattle,' and on that occasion he had some angry words with them about a leg of mutton, which it appeared had been stolen about six weeks before from witness's mother's house. The prisoner Ridley observed to witness, 'It shall be above £20 out of your road,' to which the other prisoner, Hackett, immediately added, 'Yes, I'll go to hell if it shan't.' This was said about midday on Monday. The prisoners, it appeared, lived next door to each other, at a distance of about sixty yards from the rick. The prisoner Hackett lodged with a nailer named Daniel Smart, and the other prisoner, Ridley, with a man named Abel Siviter. The prisoners did not assist in putting out the fire, and some time after the fire was extinguished Daniel Smart and his wife passed witness's house, crying out, '*Talbot*'s rick's on fire.' Witness saw Hackett come out of Smart's house about four o'clock in the morning of Thursday, he had neither shoes nor stockings on, and he then asked him how it was he did not render assistance to put out the fire, to which he made no reply. In about half an hour afterwards witness saw Ridley on the foot road near the rick, but he said nothing to him about the fire. There were footmarks in the direction of the rick from a gap in the hedge near to Smart's house. The rick was thatched about six weeks ago; it was of good hay, and did not fire spontaneously; there were three several places where the rick had been fired.

By the Bench: The prisoners and witness were often differing.

John Joynson, sub-inspector of police, said he was on duty at Old Hill about eleven o'clock on the night in question, and the rick then seemed perfectly safe; about four o'clock in the morning witness was again at Old Hill, when he observed the rick had been on fire; he was satisfied that the rick had been wilfully set fire to in three several places. Witness traced footsteps to the gap near Smart's house, but could not trace them further. About seven o'clock the same morning he saw the prisoners at Smart's house, and examined the soles of their shoes, which were wet, but the upper leathers were dry. Witness did not say anything to them about the fire.

Police-constable Shuker deposed to seeing the rick on fire in company with another officer named Wakefield, about a quarter to twelve on Wednesday night; there were two or three persons at the rick at that time, but witness did not know them, and could not tell them again. Young *Talbot* came up immediately after witness reached the spot. Witness went with *Talbot* to Smart's house, the door was shut, when *Talbot* looked through the window and said the two prisoners (mentioning their names) were sitting by the fire. Witness did not look through the window himself. *Talbot* said he suspected the two prisoners.

Talbot was recalled by the Bench and denied telling the police officer that he saw the prisoners through the window sitting by the fire as stated by him, when the Magistrates remarked that they were fearful that he (*Talbot*) had suppressed a portion of his evidence, and even that which he had given differed from the information received in the first instance on oath before the Magistrates.

Mrs. *Talbot*, the prosecutrix, stated that she was a widow and had been robbed many times, and she was afraid if she pressed the present charge that some further mischief or injury would be done to her.

Mr. Shipman, for the defence, called Daniel Smart, and proved that the prisoner Hackett went to bed about half-past nine o'clock on the night in question, and did not get up till wakened by him about four o'clock the following morning, at which time witness saw young *Talbot* and first heard of the fire. *Talbot* then said the prisoners had set the rick on fire.

Abel Siviter, with whom the other prisoner Ridley, lodged, likewise proved that Ridley went to bed about a quarter past nine o'clock on the Wednesday night, and got up about twelve o'clock, having been wakened by witness, who stated he was rapped up in consequence of the fire.

The Bench remarked that it was a case of very strong suspicion, and remanded the prisoners till Thursday next.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 3/10/1849

“*Mary Talbot*, of the PIG AND WHISTLE, Old Hill, in the parish of Rowley, was fined 5s and costs for keeping her house open for the sale of liquors during divine service in the afternoon of Sunday, the 16th ult. The police stated that the house was generally well conducted.”

1851 Census

Old Hill

- [1] *Mary Talbott* (57), widow, innkeeper, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Benjamin Talbott (25), son, corn and flour dealer, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Mary Talbott (23), daughter, housemaid, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Sarah Talbott (21), daughter, housemaid, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Elizabeth Talbott (20), daughter, housemaid, born Rowley Regis;

[6] William Talbott (18), son, general labourer, born Rowley Regis;

[7] William Danks (7), grand-son, born Rowley Regis:

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 2/10/1853

“Edmunds and Malpass. We have received a further deposit of £2 10s a side for this match. The next is to be forwarded by Lucy Talbot, of the PIG AND WHISTLE, Old Hill, on Tuesday next.”

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 1/4/1855

“W. Talbot of the Angel and Trumpet, Old Hill, Rowley Regis (commonly called the Infant) will accept H. Aston’s challenge to run any man within 10 miles of Kingswinford, of 16 stone weight, 10 yards, for £5 a side. Money always ready at the PIG AND WHISTLE, Old Hill, Rowley.”

County Advertiser 25/6/1859 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Building Land, part of the Pig and Whistle Estate, at Old Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Bateman, on Wednesday, the 29th day of June, 1859, at Six o’clock in the Evening, at the house of Mrs. *Talbot*, the PIG AND WHISLE INN, at Old Hill, aforesaid, (and subject to conditions then to be produced).

Twenty Lots of very valuable Freehold Building Land, situate at Old Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, being part of the Pig and Whistle Estate, having excellent frontages to the Dudley, Halesowen, and Bromsgrove Turnpike Roads, and varying in quantity from 200 to 500 square yards in each lot.

Lithographed plans and particulars will be distributed ten days prior to the sale, and may be had with any further information, from Messrs. W. & Brooke Robinson, Solicitors; or the Auctioneer, Dudley; and at the place of sale.”

County Advertiser 28/7/1860

“Joseph Crompton was charged with stealing a sovereign, the property of Enoch Westwood, on the 18th instant. The prosecutor stated that on the night in question he was in the PIG AND WHISTLE public house, at Old Hill, in company with the prisoner, Richard Taylor, and another man whom he did not know. The prisoner commenced ‘to chaff’ him that he could not show a sovereign; upon which he put his hand in his pocket and pulled one out. He was about to lay it on the table, when the prisoner snatched it out of his hand, and put it into his mouth. He (prosecutor) at once seized him by the collar, and thrust his finger into his mouth for the purpose of recovering the coin, but was glad to withdraw his digit without accomplishing his end, in consequence of the prisoner biting hard. He at once sent for a police-constable, and in the interim a search was made about the room for the sovereign, as the prisoner denied he had it. A man named Henry Pugh came to him last night, telling him that the prisoner would give him back the sovereign if he would not press the case.

Richard Taylor was called, and told a story substantially the same as the above.

Police-constable Farmer stated that he went to the public house about ten o’clock, and took the prisoner into custody. He searched him and found four half-crowns upon him and 2½d. He denied having the sovereign, and said that Taylor had taken some money from him, and he must have it. Witness had at the same time searched Taylor, but found only two shillings in his hand, which he admitted taking from the prisoner.

The prisoner, through his attorney, Mr. Burbury, denied having possession of the sovereign, and also that he had deputed any one to offer condonation to the prosecutor. The case was adjourned till next week, for the purpose of getting Pugh’s evidence.”

[At the adjourned hearing Henry Pugh said that he had gone to Westwood on his own account and made him the offer simply from a feeling of friendship to the prisoner. The case was dismissed.]

1861 Census

Old Hill – PIG AND WHISTLE

[1] *Mary Talbott* (68), widow, born Rowley;

[2] Benjamin Talbott (36), son, corn dealer, born Rowley;

[3] William Talbott (29), son, corn dealer, born Rowley;

[4] Mary A. Danks (18), grand-daughter, servant, born Rowley:

County Advertiser 25/8/1866

“At the Police Court, on Wednesday, Enoch Chambley, who some years ago was stationmaster at Brettell Lane, was brought up charged with stealing a silver watch, the property of *Mary Talbot*, of the PIG AND WHISTLE public house, Old Hill.

It appeared from the evidence brought forward that on Monday night the prisoner asked to be accommodated with a bed at the public house, and that early next morning he decamped without paying for the same. This excited some suspicion, and on a search of the room being made, it was discovered that one of two watches which had been placed in the looking-glass draw was missing. No one besides the prisoner had been in the room since the previous Friday. Prisoner returned to the neighbourhood of the public house about mid-day, and was at once taken into custody. He denied all knowledge of the watch. The police asked for a remand for a week, in order that a search for the watch might be instituted. The Bench granted the application, at the same time expressing their willingness to accept substantial bail.”

[At the adjourned hearing no evidence was offered and the prisoner was discharged – see below.]

County Advertiser 1/9/1866 - Letter

“To the Editor, of the *Advertiser*.

Sir, I wish to lay before your numerous readers the particulars of a case reported in your impression of Saturday last. The facts are as follow. On Monday evening, the 20th ult, being in the neighbourhood of Old Hill, in the parish of Rowley, I called at the house of *Mary Talbot*, sign of the PIG AND WHISTLE, and got a night's lodging. The next morning when I got up I saw a man sitting in the house, who, I believe, is the brewer. I asked for a glass of something to drink. He then went upstairs, I suppose either to get the mistress up as well as down stairs; but being some time away I went to another public house, in the same street, kept by a person named Morgan. I stopped there some time, and then walked as far as the National Schools, Netherton, with one of her daughters, who is a pupil teacher there, and whom I found to be very intelligent. I then retraced my steps towards where I had lodged, for I had not paid the 6d, the landlady, as I said before, not being up. I called at Mrs. Cooksey's, who keeps the HOTEL at Old Hill, and had a bit of dinner. Mrs. Cooksey's house adjoins the Police Station. I then went to find the house where I had slept, but missed it, and went to the next house. I had not been there long before I was rather roughly handled by a police officer, who collared me, his knuckles coming rather closer in contact with my ears than was pleasant, and dragged me to the police station, and locked me up. I then asked what offence I was charged with. He said for stealing a silver watch from *Mary Talbot*, at the PIG AND WHISTLE public house. I told him he was mistaken, quite. Oh no, he said, we know you well. There I was in 'durance vile,' and few can imagine or tell what my feelings were. This was on Tuesday, the 21st August, about twelve o'clock, noon. Well, the next day, Wednesday, I was taken from the lock-up before the magistrates, and a young girl produced a box, which I had never seen before, and said she had seen two watches in that box on the Friday previous – mind you, this was on the Wednesday following – and said that no person had been in the room from the said Friday till the Tuesday following. Now, there was not a particle of evidence to connect me with this watch, even if one was really missing, which I don't for a moment believe; but in steps the police (who are always paramount on these occasions), and states that the prisoner was only apprehended yesterday, and they wanted a remand for a week, only to find the property, of which they had no doubt. This was granted, and therefore I had the horrors of another eight days and nights before me on the bare boards.

Well, I wrote to my wife, who came, with my sister, on the Friday to see me; but they were only permitted to converse with me through an aperture of the door about six inches square. I thought this a great hardship, and what was said was obliged to be heard by a policeman. I wrote a letter on the Sunday to my wife, and gave it to the lock-up keeper, who promised to post it; but it never got to its destination (nor has yet even).

On Sunday afternoon my brother came to see me, from Westbromwich; but no conversation could be held without the presence of a policeman. I wrote to my brother on the Monday; but the police officer must read the letter before it went from the station.

On the Tuesday morning previous to the hearing on Wednesday, I had a little information from the police that no evidence would be offered against me the next day. What, said I, no evidence offered against me, after suffering all the discomforts and privations I have been put to? He replied that the watch (if ever lost) was not found; therefore there would be no evidence offered.

Well, the next day I went before the magistrates, and, as is very unusual in Courts of this nature, where assaults and other minor offences come off first, the course was altered on this occasion, and I was ordered merely to stand up and hear the words, 'Prisoner, you are discharged;' and all this after being dragged, shook, incarcerated, lying on bare boards for nine days and eight nights. You are discharged! Well, so much for the liberty of the subject in Old England.

Now, what is it to recompense me for all the inconvenience and uneasiness both to myself and family. I am rather of a stern temperament, and if it had not been for the conscious integrity of innocence, which was my stay and fortress under these trying circumstances, I don't even know what might have been the consequences; I must either have gone a maniac or a lunatic, for it is beyond my power to describe the mental anguish I endured during the time I was in the lock-up, besides inconvenience to wife and family, relations and friends; exposed in police reports to some persons who may see your next edition, ridicule from prejudiced parties, remarks made in the streets as you pass up and down, and other innumerable annoyances I have been subjected to. This demands some further explanation than merely to be discharged from a country lock-up.

However, I have laid the whole case before the Secretary of State for the Home Department, and, on his reply, shall take ulterior proceedings to vindicate my character, and to seek from a Jury of my countrymen those damages which, as an injured and most cruelly-treated person, I am entitled to.

Excuse me trespassing further on your space till next week, when I shall have the Secretary of State's reply, which I will forward as soon as received.

Your respectfully, Enoch Chambley, Wollaston, August 30th, 1866."

Mary Talbot died in the 2nd quarter of 1867.

County Express 10/8/1867

"The following licenses were allowed to be transferred.....

PIG AND WHISTLE from the executors of the late Mrs. *Talbot* to *John Parks*."

County Express 12/10/1867

"*Maria Round* was charged with assaulting *John Parkes*, on the 2nd instant, at the OLD PIG AND WHISTLE. Complainant said the defendant was coming across his premises for water. He ordered her back and afterwards pushed her, upon which she assaulted him, and pelted him with stones. The defendant said it was a public road and had been used for years, and the complainant had no right to stop her. The case was dismissed."

County Advertiser 18/1/1868

"*Joseph Neal* was charged with assaulting *John Parkes*, on the 7th inst. Complainant is landlord of the PIG AND WHISTLE, Old Hill, and on the day in question the defendant went to the house and asked to be supplied with some ale. Complainant refused to let him have any, upon which defendant became very violent, and assaulted the complainant. He also struck the servant girl, and

broke a cup and glass. Fined 2s 6d and costs, or fourteen days.

There was a second charge against defendant of maliciously damaging the articles before-mentioned. In this case he was ordered to pay costs.”

County Advertiser 8/2/1868 - Advert

“To Let, with immediate possession, that well-known Old-licensed Public House, the PIG AND WHISTLE, Old Hill, with Two Cottages and about Ten Acres of Land, situate in a densely-populated chain-making district, and fronting the Dudley and Halesowen turnpike road. Coming-in about £60. Rent, £73 per annum.

For particulars, apply on the premises, or to Mr. Hawkins, Auctioneer, Publicans’ Valuer, &c, Brierley Hill and Oldbury.”

Stourbridge Observer 15/2/1868 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale at the PIG AND WHISTLE, Old Hill, Near the Turnpike Gate.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. John Stokes, on Monday Next, February 17th, 1868, the Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the above-named house, together with the Household Furniture, capital Brewing Plant, Casks, Stock, Cart (nearly new), Four-wheel Phaeton, and other Effects, belonging to Mr. *John Parkes* (under an authority).

The Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession will be offered for Sale at Twelve o’clock precisely.

The Sale to commence precisely at Eleven o’clock in the Morning.”

County Advertiser 29/5/1869

“Edward Weldon, collier, was charged with stealing a photograph portrait, on the 17th February, 1868, the property of *John Parkes*. In the early part of last year prosecutor was landlord of the PIG AND WHISTLE public house, and on or about the date named in the charge an execution for rent was put in. While the bailiffs were in possession, the portrait and a few other things were missed. A day or two ago prosecutor obtained a search warrant against the defendant, and found the portrait – which, by the by, was one of the prosecutor – hung up in his house. The Bench dismissed the case, on the ground that when the portrait was lost it was not the prosecutor’s own property.”

1871 Census

Halesowen Road – PIG AND WHISTLE

[1] *William Robinson* (46), publican, born Wickcoven, Herefordshire;

[2] *Betsy Robinson* (33), wife, born Yarkhill, Herefordshire;

[3] *Alicamlea Gower* (16), domestic servant, born Dudley;

[4] *Joseph William Harper* (3), boarder, born Dudley:

County Advertiser 29/7/1871

“A man named Benjamin Bates was charged with having obtained 30s from *William Robinson*, landlord of the PIG AND WHISTLE public house, Old Hill.

The prosecutor stated that on the previous Friday night the prisoner and another man went to his house about half-past ten o’clock, and asked if he could be provided with beds for four men and himself, and stabling for four horses. He said he had contracted for the ‘fetching in’ and ‘taking out’ for Mr. Chavasse, brickmaker, Old Hill, and on witness agreeing to accommodate him he stayed at the house. After having had breakfast on the following morning, he said he had to go to a bank at Birmingham and receive £48. As he was about to start he said he had some tonnage to pay on the way, and asked witness to give him half a sovereign’s worth of change. He expected to receive the half sovereign for the silver, but the prisoner went away, saying he would make it right when he returned in the evening. He came back about half-past five the same day and said he had to fetch some hay from Dudley. He then asked witness to lend him 25s more, and the latter lent him £1. Witness would not have advanced him that money had he not said that the men and horses would arrive that night. In consequence of something he heard about two hours after, he went to Mason’s public house, Reddall Hill, and found the prisoner with an empty half-gallon jug before him. He asked him for his money, and upon his doing so prisoner wanted to know what was the matter. Witness then sent for a policeman and gave him into custody.

John Tranter, manager of Mr. Chavasse’s Brick Works, denied all knowledge of prisoner.

Warwick Plant, a fishmonger, said that prisoner rode with him and his father to Birmingham on the 22nd inst. They started about five minutes past six in the morning, and on arriving at Oldbury prisoner purchased two pounds of beefsteak, which they had cooked at a public house. He also supplied them with plenty of ale and porter, and stood treat for the whole fourteen people then in the room. At night witness was with the prisoner at Mason’s public house. Prisoner was standing treat all round. He paid for two gallons of ale, two glasses of brandy, two glasses of whiskey, sixpennyworth of bread and butter, and five bottles of ginger beer.

Sergeant Powner apprehended the prisoner, and upon searching him found 16s 4½d.

Prisoner, who had been convicted twice for a similar offences, was committed for trial to the next Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.”

County Advertiser 21/10/1871

“Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Benjamin Bate (38), boatman, was charged with obtaining by false pretences, from *William Robinson*, on 22nd July, 1871, the sum of £1 10s, with intent to defraud. Found guilty, and sentenced to six months’ imprisonment.”

County Advertiser 7/12/1872 - Advert

“The PIG AND WHISTLE, Old Hill. To Publicans, Brokers, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. John Bent, on Tuesday, December the 10th, 1872, the whole of the Pubic House Fixtures and Brewing Utensils, comprising excellent Pair of Cooling Vats, 14-bushel Mash Tub, Coolers, well-seasoned Hogshead and Half-hogshead Casks, Mash Rules, Wort Sieves, Rail-back Benches, 14 Drinking Tables, Four-pull Beer Machine, Cup Shelving, Tap Table, Pewter Ale Measures, Cups, Jugs, and Glasses; Malt Crusher, Hops, Three healthy Store Pigs, and other Effects, belonging to Mr. *W. Robinson*, who is declining business.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.”

*probably the same person

Enoch Morris married Sarah Hodgetts.

They were the parents of Reuben (BUSH, Lower Gornal).

Birmingham Daily Post 11/10/1878 - Advert

“Dog. Found, at Old Hill, on the 5th, a half-bred black Retriever Dog. If not claimed in three days will be sold. Apply, PIG AND WHISTLE INN, Old Hill.”

County Express 22/11/1879

“A large number of persons were summoned for selling bread otherwise than by weight.

Sarah Morris, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, was charged with selling bread otherwise than by weight. Mr. Stokes, who defended, brought evidence to show in this case that the defendant told the purchaser that she had no bakers' bread, but she had 3d loaves, and he took one of these, paying 3d for it. Mr. Stokes in this case contended that if the purchaser did not ask for the loaf to be weighed the seller was not obliged to weigh it. The Clerk said they were not obliged to weight it, if it had been weighed before; but if it was afterwards found to be short weight the seller was liable. This case was also adjourned for seven days.”

County Express 29/11/1879

“*Sarah Morris*, publican, Old Hill, was ordered to pay costs for selling bread otherwise by weight.”

County Advertiser 6/12/1879

“The transfer of the license of the PIG AND WHISTLE, Old Hill, from *Edward Morris* (deceased) to *Sarah Morris*, was granted.”
OR

County Express 6/12/1879

“The following transfer was allowed: PIG AND WHISTLE INN, Old Hill, from *Enoch Morris* (deceased) to *Sarah Morris*.”

Dudley Herald 14/2/1880

“*Sarah Morris*, landlady of the PIG AND WHISTLE, Old Hill, was charged with unlawfully permitting drunkenness on the 31st ult. Mr. Stokes defended.

Inspector Walters said on the 31st ult he saw a man named William Grove led out of the house by defendant's son, and another young man. He was helplessly drunk.

William Grove said he was at defendant's house, and had two pints of fourpenny. He was not drunk, neither was he sober. He had been working double shifts all the week, and been sitting up every night with his wife. He was very tired and exhausted, and sat quietly in the room. About an hour after the landlord [sic] came into the kitchen, and, seeing he was sleepy, told him to go home. He did so.

The Bench said there was no doubt but that Grove got drunk on the defendant's premises, but the evidence was not strong enough for a conviction, and not wishing to do the defendant an injustice, who had kept the house eleven years without any complaint having been preferred against him [sic], they would dismiss the case.”

County Advertiser 4/12/1880

“The Miners and the Employers' Liability Act.

On Thursday night a meeting was held at the PIG AND WHISTLE INN, Old Hill, for the purpose of discussing the Employers' Liability Bill. Mr. William Breakwell attended and addressed the meeting, and a resolution, in keeping with those already passed in the district, affirming that it would not be desirable for miners to contract themselves out of the Act, was unanimously passed.”

Dudley and District News 5/3/1881

“A meeting of miners was held on Wednesday evening at the PIG AND WHISTLE, to receive a deputation from South Yorkshire. Mr. W. Breakwell presided, and in introducing the deputation said they came from a district where from 12,000 to 15,000 workmen were at play for an advance of wages to the extent of 10 per cent. The deputation, consisting of two delegates, then addressed the meeting, explaining their object, which was to raise funds to enable them to continue the strike until they obtained the rise sought. They in South Staffordshire had lately got a rise, and if the colliers in South Yorkshire were unsuccessful in the present struggle, South Staffordshire would be in danger of losing the advantage they had succeeded in getting. On that ground they asked for assistance, and also on the ground that South Yorkshire had always been ready to lend a helping hand to other districts when they were fighting their battles.”

1881 Census

30, Halesowen Road

[1] *Sarah Morris* (59), widow, publican, born Gornal;

[2] Susan Morris (15), daughter, dressmaker, born Gornal;

[3] Mary Weston (21), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 25/6/1881

“Thomas *Morris*, PIG AND WHISTLE INN, Old Hill, was charged by Police-constable Wickstead with being drunk and disorderly, and was fined 5s and costs, or fourteen days’ imprisonment.”

County Express 30/9/1882

“Thomas *Morris* was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of his mother, *Sarah Morris*, the PIG AND WHISTLE INN, Old Hill. There were previous convictions against the defendant, and he was now fined 10s and costs, or fourteen days’ imprisonment.”

Dudley and District News 5/1/1884

“*Sarah Morris*, landlady of the PIG AND WHISTLE INN, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on the 15th ult. Mr. Waldron prosecuted, and Mr. Cooksey defended.

PS Williams stated that about nine o’clock on the night of the 15th ult he visited the defendant’s house, in company with PC Booth, in plain clothes, and remained there until ten o’clock. When he went into the room he saw there a man named Stevens who was drunk, and he was supplied with beer. Two other men who were drunk were supplied with beer by the servant girl.

PC Booth gave corroborative evidence.

Inspector Walters stated that on the night in question he received a communication from PC Booth, and went to the defendant’s premises. In the tap-room he found a man named Stevens drunk. He called the landlady’s attention to him, and she said that she did not know that there was a drunken man there; she had been in the bar the whole of the night. In answer to Mr. Cooksey, Inspector Walters said that as soon as the landlady’s attention was called to Stevens’ condition she ordered him to leave.

Mr. Cooksey, addressing the Bench, said that Stevens was only supplied with a pint of ale at the house, and that when he was supplied there was nothing to show that he was anything but sober.

Several witnesses were called for the defence, who stated that Stevens was not intoxicated, and there was no one drunk in the house. A fine of £5 and costs was imposed.”

Dudley and District News 12/1/1884

“Joseph Jones and Joseph Stevens, miners, of Old Hill, were fined 5s and costs for being drunk on the licensed premises of *Sarah Morris*, known as the PIG AND WHISTLE INN, Halesowen Road, Old Hill.

PS Williams and PC Booth proved both cases.”

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 presented the black list.....

Sarah Morris, PIG AND WHISTLE INN, Halesowen Road, Old Hill applied for the renewal of her license. The Bench refused the application.”

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. James Willetts, BLUE BALL, Enoch Westwood, OLD ENGINE, *Sarah Morris*, PIG AND WHISTLE, Old Hill, Philip Mansell, BULLS HEAD, Windmill End, and Elisha Waring, SEVEN STARS, Tividale.”

County Advertiser 5/11/1887

“On Monday night a meeting of miners was held at the PIG AND WHISTLE INN, Old Hill. A miner presided. Mr. B. Winwood addressed the meeting upon the questions of the wages, restriction of labour, and the Mines Drainage Act. He contended that wages of the miners were miserably low, and inadequate to meet the social requirements of the miners’ households. When they asked for a little more wages they were told by the great iron and coal rings that trade was bad, and he thought if such men retained their position of monopoly it would always be the same, as it no doubt suited their purpose to keep the price of coal down. They must, therefore, unite and restrict the output. He condemned the action of the Mines Drainage Commissioners as humbug, being detrimental to the best interests of miners and the public. Afterwards resolutions were passed in favour of going in for an advance of wages, and restricting the output of coal by working less days per week, also protesting against the further borrowing of money by the Mines Drainage Commissioners.”

Dudley Mercury 7/1/1888

“On Wednesday night a mass meeting of miners was held at the PIG AND WHISTLE, Old Hill. A miner presided. Mr. B. Winwood addressed the meeting; and resolutions were passed in favour of steps being taken to secure the allowance coal, an automatic system to regulate miners’ wages and settling local disputes, and organisation. The meeting agreed to contribute funds to carry on the agitation.”

County Express 24/3/1888

“A meeting of miners was held at the PIG AND WHISTLE INN, Old Hill, on Tuesday evening, to consider the new rules. Mr. B. Winwood said during the last few days much disappointment and dissatisfaction had arisen amongst the miners, owing to the special rules not containing the alterations desired by the men. The altered condition of Rule 87, relating to the engine tender, was such that the miners could not understand. Rule 23 remained unaltered, but an intimation had been received to the effect that it assumed more the form of a contract than any thing else. The only course to take was to demand that they should have a voice in making the bye-laws which were to constitute a contract, and which, when made, the employers would expect them to obey; or they should obtain a definite answer as to how far contract men were expected to keep the roads secure.”

Walsall Observer 8/9/1888

“On Monday night a representative meeting of miners was held at the PIG AND WHISTLE INN, Old Hill, when delegates attended from Old Hill, Black Heath, Rowley, Hales Owen, Lye Waste, Quarry Bank, Cradley Heath, Netherton, and surrounding districts. It was decided to take action with a view to an advance in wages.”

County Express 25/5/1889

“*Jonah Round*, landlord of the PIG AND WHISTLE, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, was charged with being drunk and disorderly on the 17th inst, and also with being drunk on his licensed premises on the 18th inst.

Police-constable Pailing said he received a complaint that defendant had been assaulting his wife on the 17th inst, and upon going near the defendant’s house saw him drunk in the street.

Inspector Walters said he went to the defendant’s house on the 18th inst, and saw him helplessly drunk in the back kitchen. His wife complained to witness of his conduct. Defendant was very seldom sober.

In the first case defendant was fined 5s and costs, and in the second 10s and costs.”

Dudley Mercury 31/8/1889

“The annual licensing session was held on Wednesday.....

The Black List contained the names of.....

Jonah Round, PIG AND WHISLE, Old Hill, drunk and disorderly, fined 5s and costs, and for being drunk on his licensed premises 10s and costs.....

None of these licenses were renewed.”

Dudley Mercury 28/9/1889

“Adjourned Licensing Session. These sessions were held at Old Hill, on Wednesday. At the annual licensing sessions the magistrates decided to refuse to the licenses of those publicans who had been convicted during the past year, and at Wednesday’s meeting the persons referred to applied for their renewals.....

George Wakeman, of the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Wrights Lane, and *Jonah Round*, of the PIG AND WHISTLE INN, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, were granted renewals after being cautioned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/4/1890

“Bankruptcy Proceedings.....

Re *Jonah Round*, late publican, PIG AND WHISTLE, Halesowen Road, Old Hill.

Yesterday, at the Dudley County Court, a receiving order was made in the above matter.

Messrs. Warmington and Thompson are the solicitors to the debtor.”

County Express 2/8/1890

“The members of the lodge of the Old Hill and District Miners’ Association, who meet at the PIG AND WHISTLE INN, Old Hill, held a supper at their society house on Saturday night. After supper a meeting was held, at which a miner presided.....”

1891 Census

30, Halesowen Road – PIG AND WHISTLE

[1] *Ellen Cartwright* (45), widow, licensed victualler, born Kingswinford;

[2] David Cartwright (22), son, coal miner, born Kingswinford;

[3] Clara Cartwright (12), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Frederick Cartwright (10), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

Birmingham Daily Post 7/5/1891

“Yesterday, at Old Hill Police Court.....

Ellen Cartwright, landlady of the PIG AND WHISTLE INN, Halesowen Road, was charged with permitting drunkenness on her licensed premises on the 25th ult, and was fined £5 and costs. Thomas Stinton, Garratts Lane, was also fined 10s and costs for being drunk on the above licensed premises.”

AND

County Express 9/5/1891

“*Ellen Cartwright*, landlady of the PIG AND WHISTLE INN, Old Hill, was charged with permitting drunkenness on licensed premises. Mr. Waldron prosecuted, and Mr. Lawrence (Wolverhampton) defended.

Mr. Waldron said on April 25th Police-constables Insley and Davies visited the house at 10.30pm. In the bar there were two men

named Tromans and Stinton. Tromans was staggering about the bar, and had a glass of ale in his hand, which he offered to the policemen to drink. Tromans drank the ale himself. Stinton was sitting down, with a jug in front of him half full of beer. The landlady's attention was called to the men. She said Stinton had only been served with twopenny worth of gin, and that he had knocked it off the table with his elbow. The defendant took Stinton outside, and when he got to the door he fell down, and it was with very great difficulty that the officers got him to the station. As to Tromans, the explanation was that he had been drinking club beer. Not only the law but common sense was against the people entrusted with licenses if they did not use due diligence to prevent drunkenness in their houses. Police-constables Insley and Davies, and Inspector Bishop gave evidence in support of the charge.

Mr. Lawrence said no doubt a technical offence had been committed, but this was the first time a complaint had been made against the defendant, and a very small penalty would meet the case.

Defendant was called, and said she had kept the house over twelve months.

Cross-examined: Tromans was sober, but Stinton was drunk.

The Bench were of opinion that drunkenness did take place, and they inflicted a fine of £5 and £1 13s 6d costs."

County Express 23/5/1891

"John Tromans, Garratts Lane, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of the PIG AND WHISTLE, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, and was fined 10s and the costs."

County Advertiser 29/8/1891

"The annual licensing sessions for Rowley Petty Sessional Division were held last Wednesday.....

The magistrates said they were pleased to learn that there had been a decrease in the drunken cases. They then proceeded to consider the 'black list'.....

Mr. Lawrence applied for a renewal of the license of the PIG AND WHISTLE INN, Old Hill, to *Ellen Cartwright*, who had been convicted on the 6th of May of this year for permitting drunkenness, and fined £5 and costs. He said the applicant's conduct before and after her conviction was good, and pointed out that there was no endorsement of the license Adjourned."

County Express 3/10/1891

"Old Hill Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. W. Bassano said the only case in which they proposed not to renew the license was in the case of the CROSS INN, Old Hill.....

Mr. Ward asked if all the other licenses were granted without any special application being necessary. Mr. Bassano said this was so. Of course they had, in the exercise of their discretion, thought there were several cases in which they might reasonably withhold the license, and the Bench had had a long discussion that morning before coming into Court as to whether they should do so in the case of a man fined £10 and costs. However, they had decided to grant the whole of the licenses this year, and they gave an intimation that in future the Bench would deal very stringently in cases of conviction under the licensing laws, both as regards the amount of fines and endorsements, and in the cases of endorsements they would deal more stringently. In plain English, this meant that a person with an endorsement against the house would in future have a very small chance indeed of getting his license renewed. They hoped the licensed victuallers and other licensed persons in the district would take a warning from that."

County Express 25/9/1897 - Advert

"The Attention of Brewers, Syndicates, Spirit Merchants, Maltsters, Licensed Victuallers, and Others, is particularly directed to the undermentioned Valuable Freehold Licensed Properties.

Mr. Herbert Humphries, FAI, has pleasure in announcing instructions from the Trustees of the late James Holcroft, Esq, to Submit to Public Competition, at the DUDLEY ARMS HOTEL, Dudley, on Tuesday, September 28th, 1897, at Six for Seven o'clock in the Evening.....

Lot 2. All that Well-known Freehold Fully-Licensed Inn and Premises, the PIG AND WHISTLE, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, in the occupation of Mrs. *Cartwright*, which, without doubt, is one, if not the oldest-established Licensed Inn in the district, and which enjoys an unbroken record of prosperity.

The Premises comprise spacious Vaults, Tap Room, Smoke Room, Cooking Kitchen, Wash-house, Bed Chambers, Club Room, and the usual Out-buildings.

The total area of Land will be 1,800 square yards or thereabouts, including the site of the buildings, and a frontage of 30 yards to the main road.

The importance and value of the above Valuable Property will be considerably enhanced by the great development which will shortly be made, and it will be converted, in all probability, into a most commanding corner position. Early possession may be had."

County Express 2/10/1897

"On Tuesday evening Mr. Herbert Humphries, auctioneer, of Brierley Hill and Stourbridge, held a most successful sale of licensed property at the DUDLEY ARMS HOTEL, Dudley.

The first three lots submitted were by order of the trustees of the late Mr. James Holcroft.....

Lot 2, the PIG AND WHISTLE INN, Old Hill, was purchased by Mr. D. Rollinson at £1,700....."

Dudley Herald 27/8/1898

"The annual Licensing Sessions of the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division was held at the Old Hill Police Court on Wednes-

day.....

Mr. Ensor, of Dudley, applied for the sanction of the magistrates for the alterations to be carried out at the PIG AND WHISTLE INN, Halesowen Road, on behalf of Messrs. Rollason and Sons, brewers, who have acquired the premises.

The magistrates said according to the plans there would be more accommodation for holding concerts than the provision for the proper supply of refreshments. Certain alterations were suggested, and Mr. Ensor said he would see that they were carried out. Subject to the alterations being carried out as suggested the magistrates granted the application."

[1900]

Its name was changed to VICTORIA HOTEL. [1901]

County Express 9/3/1901

"The miners in the Old Hill district who are connected with the National Federation, celebrated the anniversary by a dinner at the VICTORIA HOTEL, on Saturday. After a number of toasts had been honoured, Mr. B. Winwood (miners' agent) said, whilst he admitted the fact that the Black Country miners' wages stood at that time higher directly than any period since 1873, when thick coal men were paid 5s 6d per day, as against the present rate of 5s 4d; he denied that piece-workers got 10s a day on the average, as it could easily be proved that there were more working at from 6s to 7s a day than over that amount, and there were others who were working for considerably less – (hear, hear). If Sir Alfred Hickman, MP, who had spoken so bitterly against the improvement in the miners' position, was forced to make up the difference in the amounts which were alleged to be paid in wages, he would no doubt sing another song or play a different tune – (hear, hear). He was glad the Eight Hour Bill had been carried with thirteen majority, in spite of the opposition raised against that Bill, and the untrue remarks made that men only worked from six to six and a half hours a day. Those who were responsible for such statements ought to be more accurate in future. He hoped in June next the Bill would pass its third reading. He urged the miners to stand firm to each other, so that if the employers called upon them to submit to an enormous reduction in wages, they would be in a position to refuse to accept the employers' terms. Resolution was passed in favour of combination and the Eight Hour Bill."

1901 Census

32, Halesowen Road

- [1] *Philip Chatwin* (51), publican, born Halesowen;
- [2] *Sarah Chatwin* (46), wife, born Halesowen;
- [3] *Bertha Chatwin* (17), daughter, born Halesowen;
- [4] *Phineas Parsons* (74), father-in-law, widower, born Halesowen;
- [5] *Mary Blunt* (25), domestic servant, born Old Hill;
- [6] *William Partridge* (40), lodger, born Halesowen:

County Advertiser 6/7/1901 - Advert

"Old Hill, Staffs. Monday, July 8th, 1901.

Important Sale of Horses, Carriages, Harness, &c.

Alfred Hill will Sell by Auction, on Monday Next, at the VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill, as under.

12 Useful and Valuable Cobs; 10 Capital Cart Horses and Vanners; 30 Vehicles, including Brakes, Wagonettes, Phaetons, Gigs, Dog Carts, and useful Business Carts, chiefly by eminent makers, with up-to-date appointments; 20 Sets of Second-hand Single and Double Harness, and Gent's Riding Saddle, all in good condition.

Sale to commence at 11.30 prompt.

For full particulars see Catalogues, which may be had of the Auctioneer, Old Hill, Staffs."

County Express 30/11/1901

"The first smoking concert in connection with the Old Hill Cricket Club was held at the VICTORIA HOTEL on Monday, and was in every way a success. Mr. J. Priest presided over a large attendance, to whom the following programme gave every satisfaction: Quartet, Messrs. H. and S. Cornock, and F. and H. Bridgwater; song, 'My first cricket match,' Mr. J. Pickard; recitation, Mr. S. Cross; song, 'Mary of Argyle,' Mr. G. Plimmer; ventriloquial sketch, Mr. S. Johnson; song, 'This is your train, sir,' Mr. J. Pickard; quartet, Messrs. H. and S. Cornock, and F. and H. Bridgwater; recitation, Mr. S. Cross; song, 'Flight of ages,' Mr. G. Plimmer; song, 'Out first smoker,' Mr. J. Pickard; quartet, Messrs. H. and S. Cornock, and F. and H. Bridgwater."

County Advertiser 14/12/1901

"On Saturday night a largely-attended meeting of miners was held at the VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill, with reference to an agitation which has arisen amongst the men in consequence of the posting up of notices at the various pits in the district respecting the South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire Workmen's Compensation Scheme.....

After considerable discussion, resolutions were passed unanimously protesting against the course pursued by the employers in posting the notices, and deciding in favour of working under the Compensation Act 1897 whenever it was found possible to do so."

County Express 15/2/1902

"There was a meeting of the Old Hill branch of the National Amalgamated Union of enginemen, cranemen, tram drivers, boiler-firemen, etc, at the VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill, on Saturday evening, when an address was given by Mr. G. H. Copley on

'Trades Unionism and the ca-canny correspondence of The Times.' There was large attendance, over which Mr. J. Harris presided....."

County Express 19/7/1902

"On Wednesday morning the Old Hill Police received information of the death of a young woman named Sarah Ann Shaw (23), wife of a postman residing at Wellington Street, Old Hill, which occurred at her home under sad circumstances. Upon her husband returning home from work about nine o'clock, he discovered his wife's body in a cistern containing four feet of water. The body was then quickly recovered from the water, and although still alive, the woman died before medical aid could be summoned. It is supposed that the deceased fell into the cistern.

The inquest was held on Thursday afternoon, at the VICTORIA HOTEL, before Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner). It appeared that deceased arose early on Wednesday morning for the purpose of doing her washing, but when her husband, James Shaw, who is a postman, returned from his work shortly after nine o'clock, deceased was found by her husband in a cistern containing four feet of water. Dr. Mountford was called in, but he pronounced life extinct. It was supposed that while leaning over the cistern deceased overbalanced herself and fell in.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and the coroner complimented the witness, McDonald, upon his plucky conduct in getting the body out of the cistern, remarking that he deserved their thanks and commendation."

County Advertiser 13/6/1903

"The following licenses were transferred.....

VICTORIA HOTEL, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, from *Philip Chatwin* (deceased) to his widow, *Sarah Chatwin*."

County Advertiser 27/8/1904

"On Sunday afternoon the eighth annual parade and service arranged by the various friendly societies in the Old Hill district took place under favourable circumstances. The proceedings commenced with a large procession.....

The Cradley Heath Town Prize Band started from COOKSEY'S HOTEL and proceeded along Halesowen Road, calling at the VICTORIA HOTEL for societies. Afterwards they marched to High Street, where they called at the DUKE WILLIAM INN for societies and afterwards went on to the field.....

Upon arrival at the field a grand procession was formed This paraded the principal streets of the locality for some time, after which they proceeded to a field in High Street, kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. A. E. Sidaway. Here a service was held, the chair being occupied by Dr. T. E. Mitchell. Notwithstanding the threatening state of the weather there was a large attendance..... A collection was made upon the route, and at the service, on behalf of the Dudley Guest Hospital, Dudley Dispensary, Birmingham Eye Hospital, Birmingham General Hospital, Birmingham Ear and Throat Hospital, and the Old Hill Nurses Fund."

Staffordshire Sentinel 17/10/1904

"On Saturday night, at the VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill, a meeting of ironworkers from all parts of the Midlands was held for the purpose of considering the wages question and also the proposal to revise the sliding scale. There was a large attendance of delegates, but the proceedings were conducted in private. The Chairman (Mr. Hill) informed the representatives that it had been decided to submit to the employers' section of the Wages Board a scheme for the revision of the sliding scale, after which it would be made public. It has been arranged for a series of meetings to be held in various parts of the country."

County Advertiser 9/12/1905 - Advert

"Sale at Short Notice, under an advance, at the VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill, on Monday Next, December 11th, 1905.

Sale at Twelve Noon sharp (if not previously disposed of).

Richard Nicklin will Sell by Auction, without Reserve, the remaining Portion of Household Furniture and Stock, removed for Convenience of Sale....."

County Advertiser 17/11/1906

"On Saturday last the annual dinner and prize distribution in connection with the Old Hill and District Homing Society was held at the VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill. About a 150 persons sat down to an excellent repast provided by the host and hostess (Mr. and Mrs. *Pearson*). After dinner the chair was occupied by the president (Mr. J. Billingham)....."

County Advertiser 27/4/1907

"Last Saturday over thirty customers of the VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill, enjoyed a visit to London as their annual excursion. They left Old Hill at 5-50am, arriving in London at 9-45. The party then broke up, the majority of them paying a visit to the Crystal Palace for the cup final. They afterwards visited places of amusement in the city. Mr. J. Danks was the secretary."

County Advertiser 11/5/1907

"The first annual prize distribution and smoking concert of the Old Hill and District Conservative Billiard League was held on Saturday night at the VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill. There was a large attendance, and Mr. H. Staveley-Hill, MP, who was accompanied by Mrs. Staveley-Hill, presided....."

Tipton Herald 9/1/1909

"On Saturday evening last the workmen and friends of Mr. John Hill, coal and breeze merchant, of the Darby End works, were invited to supper at the house of Mr. *J. Pearson*, the VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill, when upwards of 40 sat down to an excellent

repast, to which ample justice was done. After the cloth had been drawn the company were entertained with songs, recitations &c. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Hill for his generosity, and also to the host and hostess for the able manner in which they had catered for the company. Mr. Hill and Mr. *Pearson* briefly responded. The remainder of the evening was passed in conviviality.”

Tipton Herald 9/1/1909 - Advert

“Wanted, good General Servant; references required.
Apply Mrs. *James Pearson*, VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill.”

Tipton Herald 23/1/1909

“Councillor Rolinson, of Netherton, has announced his intention to retire from the directorate of Rolinson’s Brewery, and by way of marking the event and showing their esteem for him, the firm’s tenants have decided to make him a presentation. This will take place at the VICTORIA HOTEL next Wednesday evening. Councillor Rolinson was one of the successful Conservative candidates in the recent municipal election in the Netherton Ward of Dudley.

At the Old Hill Court House on Wednesday, Mr. *James Pearson*, landlord of the hotel mentioned, applied for a music license and an extension of time. The license was granted, but extension of time was refused.”

Tipton Herald 30/1/1909

“A gathering of a highly interesting character took place at the VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill, on Wednesday evening last, the occasion being a pleasing presentation, consisting of very handsome silver coffee and tea services to Councillor Daniel Rolinson, who for many years past has occupied the position of managing director of the well-known brewing firm of Messrs. John Rollinson and Son Ltd, Five Ways, Netherton.

A very excellent dinner was served up by Mr. *J. Pearson*, the host, and his efforts in this direction were highly appreciated in every respect.”

Tipton Herald 3/4/1909

“A meeting under the auspices of the Old Hill and District Homing Society was held on Saturday in the VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill, the occasion being the closing of last season’s account and prize distribution. The president (Mr. James Billingham) was unable to attend, and the prizes were distributed by Mr. John Wheeler, the chairman of the committee.”

Tipton Herald 5/6/1909

“Readers will regret to hear of the serious illness of Mr. Joseph Woodhall, of Netherton, who for some years was the landlord of the CASTLE INN, Old Hill. Since he went to live at Netherton Mr. Woodhall has suffered from gangrene in the foot, and is being attended by Dr. Mitchell. In view of the circumstances in which he and his wife are placed a number of Old Hill friends have agreed to arrange a benefit concert, to be held in the clubroom at the VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill, on June 30th. A subscription list will be opened this weekend, and in the course of a few days tickets for the concert will be on sale. A committee has been appointed to carry out the arrangements.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/8/1910

“A large meeting of clay workers was held last night at the VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill, under the auspices of the National Union of Gasworkers and General Labourers, and it was decided to form a branch of the union for the Rowley and Old Hill districts. Several workmen referred to the strike that had taken place at Messrs. Doulton’s Pottery Works, Springfield, Rowley, and complaints were made that the Labour Exchange had provided ‘blacklegs’ to take the places of some of the strikers. Mr. J. Firth (District Secretary of the National Union of Gasworkers and General Labourers) stated that he did not think the Labour Exchange officials would knowingly send men to works to take the places of strikers. A speaker said he knew that the supply of men to Messrs. Doulton’s works had been stopped. The men who have come out on strike at Messrs. Doulton’s works against the new system of working, which, they allege, imposes a reduction in wages, will hold a meeting today to decide upon future action. It was stated last night that owing to the strike upwards of 400 men in other parts of the works have been thrown out of employment.”

1911 Census

44, Halesowen Road

[1] *James Pearson* (58), hotel proprietor, born Brierley Hill;

[2] Zipporah Pearson (51), wife, married 22 years, assisting in business, born Stourbridge;

[3] Ethel E. Pearson (21), daughter, assistant teacher, born Old Hill;

[4] Edith Bradley (24), domestic servant, born Old Hill:

County Express 9/9/1911

“A meeting of the Old Hill branch of the Enginemen’s And Firemen’s Society was held at the VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill, on Saturday night, and was addressed by Mr. J. Wright (general secretary), who said he thought it was quite time that winding enginemen of this district were put on an eight hours’ day in view of the great responsibility that was attached to them. He thought also that the working of twenty-four hours every week, which was done on purpose for winding enginemen to change turns, ought not to be allowed.

The members passed a resolution to the effect that the colliery enginemen and firemen of the Old Hill and Dudley districts should

not be left out of the Bill now before the House of Commons for the safety of the mines and miners, and expressing the opinion that it was most essential both for the safety of the mines and also the miners who have to be lowered and raised from the pit every day.

Copies of this resolution were sent to all local members of Parliament, and also to the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, and others.”

County Express 15/6/1912 - Advert

“Old Hill and Netherton. Sale of Highly Valuable Freehold Properties and Land.

E. O. Nightingale has received instructions to Sell by Auction, at the VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill, on Monday, the 17th day of June, 1912, at 7 o'clock in the Evening, subject to Conditions of Sale then to be produced.....”

Staffordshire Sentinel 5/3/1914

“A meeting of miners and engine-winders was held at the VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill, on Wednesday night, to discuss the question of the amalgamation of the two associations. Mr. J. W. Wright, who presided, moved a resolution welcoming the amalgamation, and said they were not combining for the purpose of carrying out a policy of strikes, but to prevent them. Mr. G. Thomas seconded the motion, which was supported by the miners' agent (Mr. S. Edwards), and carried.”

Evening Despatch 27/1/1915

“A meeting of the licensed victuallers of Rowley Regis was held last night at the VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill, when the curtailment of hours in the district was again considered. The closing of licensed houses and clubs between the hours of 10pm and 8am has, it is stated, caused great inconvenience to license-holders, especially to those who chance to live on the borders of Staffordshire and Worcestershire. The chairman of the Dudley Licensed Victuallers' Association, Councillor J. W. J. George, himself a licensed victualler in Tipton, declares that some of the houses in that district have dropped £20 a week in their takings. License-holders in Rowley Regis complain bitterly of the hardship, and emphatically declare that there is no need for the curtailment. A well-known barrister has been engaged to fight their case next Wednesday, when the annual licensing sessions will be held, and a petition against the decision of the magistrates is being extensively signed.”

George Henry Smith – check also GRAPES, Tipton.

Boxing matches were held here in the 1930s.

Frederick Crumpton = Frederick Crampton

Birmingham Daily Gazette 9/10/1930

“Many further contributions towards the *Birmingham Gazette* and *Evening Despatch* fund for the relief of the dependants – 12 widows and 24 children – of the miners who lost their lives in the explosion at Grove Pit, Norton Canes, reached our offices yesterday.....

Mr. and Mrs. *Fred Crampton*, VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill, £0 10s 0d.”

Dudley Herald 28/11/1931 - Advert

“The Annual General Meeting of the Netherton & Old Hill Iron Works State Benefit Society will be held in the Assembly Rooms (VICTORIA HOTEL), Old Hill, on Saturday, December 12th, at 6.30pm.

Business: Report of the Committee. Election of Officers. Committee of Management and Visitors. Any Other Business.

By Order, Geo. Holmes, Secretary.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/11/1933

“The Assembly Rooms at the VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill, echoed last night with the song of birds. It was the occasion of the annual show of the South Staffordshire Roller Canary Club, and no fewer than 330 sweet-throated singers, from all parts of the country, were staged.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/1/1935

“At a meeting of business and professional men held last night at the VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill, it was unanimously decided to form a Rotary Club for Rowley Regis area.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/2/1935

“Cups won in connection with the South Staffordshire Roller Canary Club were presented at the annual dinner of the club, held at the VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill, on Saturday night.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 23/7/1935

“I prophesy that this will be one of the best Rotary Clubs in No.6 district,’ said Ald. Frank Jones, of Smethwick, yesterday, when presenting the Rotary Charter to the Mayor of Rowley Regis (Ald. B. Hobbs), who is president of the Rowley Regis Rotary Club. There were about 100 Rotarians present at a luncheon at the VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill. ‘You have got together a bunch of fellows who have so absorbed the spirit of Rotary that it is bound to do good for this district,’ said Ald. Jones. ‘This club will assuredly be a great help to the local authority and the district in general.’

Speaking of the effect of Rotary in international affairs, Ald. Jones said Rotary eschewed party politics and sectarian religion, but pursued a policy of goodwill and understanding between all peoples. Such a policy would be the greatest movement towards world peace.

Particular mention was made of Mr. T. T. Dineen, who has been responsible for all the spade work in the formation of the Rowley Regis Rotary Club.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/12/1935

“An entry of 338 birds in the annual two-day exhibition of the South Staffordshire Roller Canary Club, which opened at the VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill, yesterday, is the biggest since the inception of the club 16 years ago.....”

John Samuel Walter Sidney Foley – see also ALBION, Tividale.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/1/1937

“There are entries from as far afield as London, Leeds, Carlisle, Gateshead-on-Tyne and Dunfermline at the annual open exhibition of roller canaries held in connection with the South Staffordshire Roller Canary Club at the VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill.....”

Jack Hudson – see also HOLLY BUSH, Cradley Heath.

Sports Argus 18/2/1939 - Advert

“Smethwick, Warley and District 8th Annual Amateur Championship Show, Saturday, March 4th, VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill, near GWR Station. Buses also to door.

Particulars: Dog Show Secretary, 30, Downing Street, Handsworth, Birmingham 29. Splendid Trophies.”

Evening Despatch 7/3/1939

“The Smethwick, Warley, and District eighth annual dog show, held at the VICTORIA HOTEL, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, attracted more than 200 entries. Twenty-six classes were run, and high-class exhibits from many districts were on view.....”

Evening Despatch 5/7/1939

“At last night’s annual smoking concert of the Cradley Heath and District Football League, held at the VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill, seven large cups, 12 sets each of a dozen miniatures, and two sets of medals and two shields were distributed.....”

1939 Register

Halesowen Road – VICTORIA HOTEL

[1] *Hugh A. Sherratt*, date of birth 9/10/1892, licensed victualler manager, married;

[2] *Martha L. J. Sherratt*, dob 5/10/1901, hotel manageress, married;

Birmingham Daily Post 4/7/1942 - Advert

“Halesowen & Springfield, Rowley Regis, Announcement of Sale by Auction of an exceedingly Valuable Freehold Estate, known as the Lodgefield Farm, Halesowen.....

Ernest L. Fletcher, FAI, will offer the above at the VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill, on Wednesday, July 22, at Seven pm.

Plans and detailed particulars may be had from the Auctioneer, High Street, Cradley Heath (Tel.6470).”

Ben Homer, a local pig breeder, kept his pigs in a rented sty at the rear of the pub, during World War 2.

Percy Benjamin Hackett – see also BRITISH OAK.

The Victoria Bird Auction was held here in its early days.

Ex-boxer Henry Attwood worked as a doorman here, in the 1950s.

Birmingham Daily Post 1/4/1954 - Advert

“Auction Sale at VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill, Staffs, on Monday Next, April 5, at 7pm.

By Messrs. Taylor & Taylor, who will offer Freehold Investment Properties at Cradley, Netherton and Dudley.....”

Tipton Herald 6/10/1956

“A cup valued at 60 guineas is the main prize in a darts competition to be run in aid of the Old Hill Hot Pot Fund, for which entries are now invited. Applications should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. Rock, at 2, Dudley Street, Old Hill or to the VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill. The teams comprise five players and two reserves and there is a competition fee of 7s 6d. There are 14 prizes in all for winners and runners-up.

Sunday is the closing date for entries.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/2/1959

“Today’s Events.....

Rowley Regis Rotary Club, VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill 1.0.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/4/1959 - Advert

“Musical Instruments.

Selmer Clavoline for Sale.

Apply VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill. Phone Cradley Heath 69860.”

Birmingham Daily Post 13/4/1963 - Advert

“By Instructions from the West Midlands Gas Board.

T. Leslie Tibbetts & Company have received instructions to Sell by Auction at the VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill, on Friday, 26th April, 1963, at 7 o'clock prompt.

A very important Freehold Property known as Rowley Regis Gas Works.....”

A team from here took part in the Cradley Heath Darts League. [1970]

Halesowen News 15/7/1999 - Advert

“Car Boot. VICTORIA Pub, Halesowen Road, Oldhill. Sunday 18th July. 7am Start.”

[2003]

Closed

It was demolished in April 2004.

A shop was built on the site.

VINE

11, High Street, BLACKHEATH

OWNERS

City Brewery Co. (Lichfield) Ltd. [1949]

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

George Taylor [1865] – [1881]

William Henry Taylor [1890] – **1922**);

Fred Thomas (**1922 – 1926**);

Thomas Dudley (**1926 – 1931**);

William Tansley (**1931**);

Guy Hunt Robey (**1931 – 1933**);

Harold Biddle (**1933 – 1948**);

William Henry Marshall (**1948 – 1955**);

Bertie Sheef (**1955 – 1958**);

Albert Clifford Hawkins (**1958 – 1960**);

Albert Frank Major Comley (**1960 – 1965**);

Henry Slim (**1965 – []**)

Kenneth ‘Ken’ Platt (**1968 – 1986**)

Ben Bloomer [1986]

Jacqueline Dipple [2007]

Paul Shepherd [2019]

NOTES

It had an ante ‘69 beerhouse license.

Stourbridge Observer 7/10/1865

“At the Petty Sessions at Old Hill, on Wednesday, before F. W. G. Barrs and J. Pursey, Esqrs, a man named William Adams, a rivet maker, was charged with violently assaulting one David Bennett, on the 13th ult. Mr. Addison appeared for the complainant, and

Mr. Shakespeare for the defendant.

The statement of the prosecutor was to the effect that he, on the afternoon of the above day, walked into the VINE INN, Blackheath, where he saw one of his companions, named Joe Gadd, pitching for some ale. He tapped Gadd on the shoulder, which interrupted his pitching.

The landlord, Mr. *Taylor*, was then sitting in the kitchen, but he immediately got up and caught hold of complainant and was putting him out, when the defendant Adams came in the passage and struck him a violent blow upon the face, and when they got outside the landlord threw complainant down, upon which defendant came and kicked him several times on the face, breaking his jaw and bruising him on other parts of the body. Complainant called three witnesses, the first of which named Gadd, directly corroborated his statement, but the other two said they saw the kick but could not tell what part of the body was kicked. One of them, an old woman, when asked if complainant was drunk, replied that he did not seem 'toxicated'.

For the defence, Mr. Shakespeare urged that the complainant did not receive the injuries complained of at the hands of the defendant, but at the hands of his companion, Gadd. Mr. Shakespeare owned that defendant did strike complainant once in self-defence. He said the landlord when putting out complainant, was assaulted by complainant, and was necessitated to call help out of the house. Adams came out and got the complainant off the landlord, whereupon the complainant in a moment commenced an assault upon Adams, who in self-defence struck complainant, but only once. Four witnesses were examined for the defence. Their evidence was in direct contradiction to that given on behalf of the complainant; so much so that the Bench intimated that wilful and direct perjury was being committed on one side or the other. They swore that defendant received the injuries at Bowater's public house, Rowley.

The Bench thought that the charge of brutal assault had not been proved, but they thought that defendant was guilty of a common assault, they should therefore fine him 1s and costs, amounting to 3s 6d; in default 14 days' hard labour."

George Taylor, beer retailer, High Street, Blackheath. [1868], [1870], [1872]

He was also described as a boot and shoe maker. [1868], [1870]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/8/1869

"The annual licensing meeting for Rowley Regis division was held on Friday, at COOKSEY'S HOTEL, Old Hill.....

The following applications were made for alehouse licenses.....

George Taylor, VINE, Blackheath. Application refused."

County Advertiser 27/8/1870

"The annual licensing meeting for the Old Hill Petty Sessional Division was held yesterday.....

There were eight applications for spirit licenses made by the following beerhouse keepers.....

George Taylor, Blackheath. Refused."

Stourbridge Observer 18/3/1871

"Mary Plant was charged with obtaining four pairs of boots by false pretences on the 9th inst, the property of James Bennett, at Blackheath.

Mary Bennett, wife of prosecutor, said she lived at Blackheath. Prosecutor is a master shoemaker. On the above date prisoner went to their shop, and asked witness if she would send Mrs. *Taylor*, at the public house, some boots to look at. She said she wanted kid elastics, and a pair for her grandchild. She said the girl was 18, and would take about the same size as she (prisoner) would. Witness sent a pair No.1. Prisoner said she had nothing to put them in, and witness lent her a handkerchief. She took four pairs away. The two pairs produced were their property. She identified them by the mark 'CH' on the bottom. The value of the boots was £1 4s 3d. She had never seen prisoner since. Mrs. *Taylor* had sent for shoes.

Prisoner said she had three pairs out of the shop, but did not have them under false pretences.

Mrs. *Taylor*, of the VINE INN, Blackheath, said she knew the prisoner when she lived at Blackheath. She was not living with her on the 9th of March. She lived at Blackheath about four years ago. Did not send her to Mr. Bennett's for shoes. Witness had sent to prosecutor's for shoes, but not lately.

Joseph Hackett, pawnbroker, Old Hill, said on the evening of the 9th inst prisoner went to his shop, and pledged a pair of boots.

He gave her 2s 2½d. The boots produced are the same. She gave the name of Maria Davis, Old Hill.

Annie Gardener said she lived with Richard Raybould, pawnbroker, at Netherton. She was assistant. On the morning of the 10th March, about nine o'clock, prisoner went to their shop. She offered the pair of boots produced for pledge. She asked 3s 6d on the boots, and witness gave her 3s 2½d. She gave the name of Susan Palmer.

Police-constable Ison proved apprehending prisoner on the 12th instant, at Netherton, and in reply to the charge, she said she had not had any boots, and did not know anything about them. He found the purse produced on her, containing a pawn ticket.

Prisoner did not make any defence.

Police-sergeant Powner said prisoner was convicted at Stafford Sessions in January for a similar offence.

Prisoner was committed to take her trial at the next Stafford Sessions."

[At Staffordshire Quarter Sessions Mary Plant pleaded guilty and was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment.]

1871 Census

High Street

[1] *George Taylor* (54), beer seller, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Elizabeth Taylor (55), wife, born Halesowen;

[3] Ellen Rose (12), grandchild, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[4] William Taylor (5), grandson, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 13/10/1877

“On Tuesday evening a fairly-attended meeting of the local miners was held at Mr. *Taylor*'s, VINE INN, Blackheath, under the presidency of Mr. Ashman. Resolutions were agreed to (1) That we do not accept the 3d on the 1s advance of coal, which the masters have offered; (2) That we do not have any scale except on a proper basis.”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/11/1878 - Advert

“Blackheath, Rowley. To Let double-fronted shop, situate Short Street.
Apply, *G. Taylor*, VINE, Blackheath.”

Dudley and District News 23/10/1880

“A meeting of ratepayers was held on Tuesday night, at the VINE HOTEL, Blackheath, to consider the advisability of forming a Ratepayers' Protection Society for the parish of Rowley. Mr. T. Emery presided, and stated that it was proposed to form the association for the consideration of parochial matters only, to the exclusion of both religious and political questions. A branch had already been formed at Tividale, and thirty members had been enrolled there. (Hear, hear.) Mr. S. Cave (Cradley Heath) addressed the meeting, urging the desirability of dividing the parish into wards. Mr. B. Hadley moved that a branch of the Rowley Ratepayers' Protection Society be formed at Blackheath. This was seconded by Mr. Grove, and carried.”

Dudley and District News 20/11/1880

“On Wednesday night last a miners' meeting was held at the VINE INN, Blackheath, to consider the necessity of unity among the men. A miner was voted to the chair, who, after explaining the object of the meeting, called upon Mr. Brakewell to address the meeting. Mr. Brakewell said the meeting was called for discussing three things which materially affected the mining population of that district. One was the low wages miners were receiving, which might be altered if the men were thoroughly united; another was the Employers' Liability Bill, which had been passed not only for the benefit of miners, but for all classes of working men. He was afraid there were thousands of miners who did not understand, who were totally ignorant of the essence of this bill. He was there that night to throw some light upon the benefits they would derive from this measure if they were united. To illustrate this point, he said, as the law stood now, if a man lost his life the widow could get no compensation, but if they were united when the bill became law the masters would have to pay compensation, just the same as if he lost his life on the railway. Mr. Brakewell then went on to enumerate the privileges they once enjoyed, but which were now lost for want of unity. Formerly, he said, the custom of giving coal was, for every twenty-four days a young man worked, one ton of coal; whereas now it was only the elderly men who had it, and they had to work forty-eight days before it was granted.

The following resolutions were passed: ‘That, in the opinion of this meeting, no insurance be acceptable to us, and we use all our efforts to prevent the miners in this district making mutual insurance with the masters,’ and ‘That every effort be used to get the men united.’

A similar meeting was held on the Thursday night at the house of Mr. John Talbot, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, at which the same resolutions were passed.”

1881 Census

11, High Street

[1] *George Taylor* (65), publican, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Elizabeth Taylor* (64), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *William Taylor* (15), grandson, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

Dudley and District News 22/4/1882

“On Thursday evening a very numerous meeting of miner was held at the VINE INN, Blackheath. A miner was voted to preside, and Mr. William Breakwell (miners' agent) and others addressed the meeting.

Mr. Breakwell, who was received with loud applause, remarking upon the masters having said that the coal trade was not remunerative to them, pointed out that the fault lay entirely with themselves; for if the masters had a coalmasters' association, instead of the coal trade being ruled by a few ironmasters, as it was now, then, he thought, the prices would be better than they were at the present time. Another thing which caused the coal trade to be unremunerative was the liability coal companies underselling the private firms, and so bringing down the price of coal, and then calling on their men to make sacrifices for their foolish acts in the market. (Hear, hear.) To prevent this he urged the men to get thoroughly organised, as they who produced the commodity had a greater interest than the capitalists in the matter; and his opinion was that if the employers were so foolish as to give the material away, the mines ought to be so organised as to prevent over-production in the market. (Applause.)

The following resolutions were then unanimously carried: 1st That the miners' representatives be requested to take the necessary steps for the formation of a Board of Conciliation, to be composed of an equal number of employers and workmen. 2nd That the men of the South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire districts be urged to play on Mondays, with a view of preventing over-production, and the consequent lowering of wages; and, for the purpose of effecting this, all pledge themselves to join the Union.

The meeting was very enthusiastic, and terminated with the customary votes of thanks.”

Birmingham Daily Post 31/10/1888

“A meeting of nailers' delegates was held at the VINE INN, Blackheath, on Monday night, Mr. H. Lee presiding, for the purpose of receiving reports from the various districts as to the prices being paid. It was reported that one large firm had not been paying

the price agreed upon at the meeting of masters in Birmingham, the difference being 2d and 3d per bundle. The firm in question had been waited upon by representatives of the association, and they at once agreed to refund the money, and to pay the list price in future to their operatives. It was also reported that some of the employers were keeping their employes short of work. It was intimated that it was the intention of the delegates to agitate shortly for another advance of wages, as it was contended that nailers could not live upon the present rate of wages, as the price of coal and other articles was increasing, and had already swallowed up the 10 per cent advance recently conceded. It was decided that a public testimonial fund should be opened with a view to recognising the services rendered by the late president, Mr. John Price, who has been chairman of the association for over forty years."

Birmingham Daily Post 5/2/1889

"At a meeting of Liberals in the North-East division of Rowley, held at the VINE INN, High Street, Black Heath, it was decided to form a working men's Liberal club similar to the one recently established at Old Hill. Addresses were delivered by Messrs. B. Hadley and I. Cashmore, and a large committee was appointed to carry out the proposal."

Birmingham Daily Post 24/5/1889

"Last night a meeting of rivetmakers was held at the VINE INN, Blackheath, under the presidency of Mr. Cashmore. The Chairman explained that a short time ago notice was given for a return to the 4s list, but arrangements were made and a price fixed upon for a period of three months. The arrangement would terminate on the 8th ult. It was the intention of the operatives to give notice next Saturday for a reconsideration of the list of prices. The men would claim the 4s list, which represented an increase of between 10 and 12 per cent upon the prices at present paid. During the time the notice was running endeavours would be made to arrange a conference between masters and men, for the purpose of settling the matter in an amicable manner, and thus prevent one of those disastrous strikes which had frequently taken place in the trade. It was decided to give the notice referred to by the chairman tomorrow."

Birmingham Daily Post 24/6/1889

"On Saturday Mr. I. Cashmore waited upon the employers in the rivet trade in the Rowley, Blackheath, and Old Hill districts, and presented an appeal, prepared by Mr. Green, of Old Hill, with regard to the claim of the operatives for an advance of wages. The whole of the masters, with one exception, signed the appeal, and thereby agreed to pay their workmen the 4s list prices, which represents an increase of about 10 per cent. On Saturday afternoon a meeting of the men on strike was held at the VINE INN, High Street, Blackheath, when Mr. Cashmore reported the result of his interview with the employers. His report was considered highly satisfactory, and it was resolved to resume work today."

County Express 11/1/1890

"*William Henry Taylor*, VINE INN, Blackheath, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 11th December.

Police-sergeant Hayward deposed to visiting the house at 11.5 on the night named, and to finding man named Evans drunk, and lying asleep across a table. On the table there was a large can containing beer, and also a jug containing beer near too. Witness found the defendant in the smoke room playing cards. He called his attention to the man, and the defendant ordered him off. Mr. Waldron, for the defence said that assuming all the prosecution had said was true, there was no case against his client, inasmuch as the latter had not the slightest knowledge that the man Evans was on the premises. In support of this he proposed to call defendant and several witnesses. The witnesses would state that the man Evans went into the house drunk, and lay down and fell asleep upon the premises. The case was dismissed."

1891 Census

11, High Street – VINE INN

- [1] *William H. Taylor* (25), publican, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Mary Taylor* (27), wife, born West Bromwich;
- [3] *Mabel Taylor* (1), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Frederick Sippitts* (66), father-in-law, widower, assistant brewer, born Grinstead, Sussex;
- [5] *Flora Sippitts* (5), niece, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Mary Priest* (15), domestic servant (nurse), born Rowley Regis:

William Henry Taylor, beer retailer, 11, High Street. [1896], [1912]

Worcestershire Chronicle 25/11/1899 - Advert

"General Wanted, thoroughly experienced, 20 to 25, for business house; fond of children; girl kept; no washing or baking; good reference required; commence at £15.

Taylor, VINE INN, Blackheath, Dudley."

1901 Census

12, High Street – VINE INN

- [1] *William H. Taylor* (35), widower, publican, born Blackheath;
- [2] *Mabel M. Taylor* (11), daughter, born Blackheath;
- [3] *Frederick G. Taylor* (9), son, born Blackheath;
- [4] *Jessie Taylor* (8), daughter, born Blackheath;

- [5] William H. Taylor (5), son, born Blackheath;
[6] Joseph Taylor (4), son, born Blackheath;
[7] Mary Wharton (22), housekeeper, born Blackheath:

County Advertiser 15/8/1903

“Blackheath. VINE INN Angling Society. A contest recently took place amongst the members of this society at Wyre Piddle, near Pershore, under very favourable conditions. The prize winners were: 1st Mr. Rawbone; 2nd Mr. Hampton; 3rd Mr. Woolrich; 4th Mr. Nicholls; 5th Mr. Mason; 6th Mr. Hatton; and 7th Mr. Jones. Mr. Rawbone captured fish weighing 2lb 13oz, and an extra prize was awarded to Mr. Hampton for the largest fish.”

County Advertiser 23/4/1904

“On Monday night Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest at the VINE INN, High Street, respecting the death of John William Jinks (15), whose parents reside at Beet Street, and whose death occurred under singular circumstances. It appeared from the evidence of the mother of the deceased and a fellow workman, that the youth was employed at Messrs. Stewart and Lloyd’s tube works at Coombs Wood, in the paint department. On February 22nd deceased scratched his knee against an iron paint can. Three days later he complained to his mother of pain in his knee. Dr. McQueen attended him, and he left his work on February 26th. Blood poisoning set in, and although an operation was performed, he gradually sank, and died on Saturday. Dr. McQueen attributed death to exhaustion, following blood poisoning, the result of the scratch on the knee. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

County Advertiser 14/5/1904

“Recently, in connection with the A.O.F. at Blackheath, a very pleasant evening was spent by the members of court Mistletoe Bough, held at the VINE INN, High Street. Bro. W. Lewis, CR, presided, and there was a good attendance of members. Addresses were given by Bro. D. M. Chapman, DS, and Bro. S. Priest, PDCR. During the proceedings Bro. W. Nock, the court secretary, presented to Bro. S. Portman, the retiring CR, with an emblem of the Order, very handsomely framed in oak; and the DS further presented to Bro. Portman a PCR ribbon. Other speeches followed, and the evening passed very pleasantly.”

County Advertiser 2/7/1904

“A sensation was caused in Blackheath district on Tuesday evening by the arrest of a man named William Windsor (26), nut and bolt maker, of High Street, Blackheath, on a charge of attempting to murder his wife, Emily Windsor. It appears that the parties have been married about four years, but have, it is said, lived rather unhappily together for some considerable time past. On Tuesday afternoon Windsor left his employment at Messrs. Lench’s shortly after two o’clock, but before going home he called at the VINE INN, High Street, Blackheath. Mrs. Windsor apparently got to know that her husband was at the public house, for she sent a lad to the premises with a message for him to come home. Prisoner absolutely refused to go home, and subsequently Mrs. Windsor went to the public house and repeated her request in person. Some words passed between the parties, as a result of which the prisoner told his wife to go home. She did so, and was followed a little later by her husband. Mrs. Windsor carries on business as a greengrocer and general dealer, and upon arrival at the shop the quarrel appears to have been renewed. Then it is alleged that Windsor suddenly seized a large carving knife, used for the purpose of cutting bacon, and drew it across his wife’s throat. Fortunately, the knife was not very sharp, or else the woman must have been badly wounded, if not killed outright. However, a wound was inflicted on the side of the neck. The wound is rather deep, is about two inches in length, and approaches close to the jugular vein. The woman escaped from the house, and made her way to the Police Station in Halesowen Street, where she was seen by Police-constable Orme. The police-constable bandaged the woman’s wound, from which blood was flowing freely. In the meantime Dr. McQueen was called, and after the wound had been dressed the woman was removed to her home. The wound is not of a dangerous character. Immediately afterwards Police-sergeant Bentley and Police-constable Orme arrested the husband in Halesowen Street, and he was charged with attempting to murder his wife. In reply to the charge he made a statement. He was then locked up.

Prisoner was brought before Messrs. J. Green and C. A. Lloyd at the Police Court on Wednesday morning, and was charged with the attempted murder of his wife. Police-sergeant Bentley stated that from information he received he apprehended the prisoner on Tuesday night. He was charged with attempting to murder his wife, and made the following statement in reply, ‘I came home from work at two o’clock. I called in Mr. Taylor’s at the VINE INN. My wife sent a lad after me. Then my wife came whilst I was talking to a party. She drank my beer. I said to her, ‘Go on up home.’ We went home, my wife struck me. I went into the front place to cut some bacon, and I must have slung the knife which cut her.’ Sergeant Bentley added that the woman had received a deep wound in the side of the neck, but that it was not of a dangerous character. She was under the care of Dr. McQueen, and was unable to be present at the Court.

Superintendent Hodgkinson applied for a remand for seven days which was granted by the magistrates. No application was made for bail by the prisoner.”

Oxford Times 9/7/1904

“Charged with drawing a carving-knife across his wife’s throat because she sent for him from a public house, William Windsor was on Wednesday ordered three months’ imprisonment at Rowley, Staffordshire.”

County Advertiser 9/9/1905

“On Wednesday night, Mr. William Taylor, landlord of the VINE INN, High Street, Blackheath, gave a supper to about 90 of his customers and friends. An excellent repast was provided to which full justice was done by the company. Afterwards Mr. J. Ding-

ley presided over the gathering, and the vice-chair was occupied by Mr. W. Lewis. After the loyal toast had been honoured, the chairman proposed the health of the host and also moved a vote of thanks to him for his generosity. He remarked that Mr. *Taylor* was a capital host and also a friend of the poor in the Blackheath district. He always endeavoured to do his duty, and was ready and willing to assist in any charitable movement in the district. The toast was supported by the vice-chairman and Messrs. G. Swain and W. Hewitt, and was received in an enthusiastic manner. Mr. *Taylor*, in responding, thanked the chairman and others for their remarks. He was very proud and pleased to meet them and hoped they had all spent an enjoyable time. During the evening a capital music programme was gone through. Songs were rendered by Messrs. Enoch Moore, W. Holloway, R. Ashman, C. Hadley, H. Wood, J. Mole, F. Wood, C. Whitehouse, S. Smith, J. Williams, J. Haywood, and W. Ashman, whilst recitations were given by Mr. E. Westwood.”

1911 Census

11, High Street – VINE INN

- [1] *William Henry Taylor* (45), brewer, born Blackheath;
- [2] *Mary Taylor* (32), wife, married 9 years, assisting in the business, born Blackheath;
- [3] *Mabel Mary Taylor* (21), daughter, assisting in the business, born Blackheath;
- [4] *Jessie Taylor* (18), daughter, assisting in the business, born Blackheath;
- [5] *William Henry Taylor* (15), son, assisting in the business, born Blackheath;
- [6] *Joseph Taylor* (14), son, school, born Blackheath;
- [7] *Albert Edward Taylor* (9), son, born Blackheath;
- [8] *May Taylor* (8), daughter, born Blackheath;
- [9] *Samuel Taylor* (6), son, born Blackheath;
- [10] *Hugh Cecil Taylor* (4), son, born Blackheath;
- [11] *Howard Taylor* (3), son, born Blackheath;
- [12] *Charles Taylor* (1), son, born Blackheath:

William Henry Taylor was also a brewer. [1921]

Fred Thomas, beer retailer, 11, High Street. [1924]

Thomas Dudley – check also BULLS HEAD.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 8/10/1932

“People among the aristocracy and in humble walks of life will now be in a state of varying degrees of suspense till next Wednesday (when the race is to be run) as a result of the draw yesterday for horses in connection with the Irish Hospitals Sweepstake on the Cesarewitch. The luck of the Midlands – as in former Irish Sweepstakes – has held good. Of the 621 counterfoils drawn yesterday for horses nearly 40 belong to the Midlands, including nine in Birmingham. The total amount available for prizes is £2,378, 939 – £481,622 less than in the Derby draw. There are again romantic stories behind the holding of some of the winning tickets.....

Blackheath. ‘Rummy’ which covers the identity of Mr. *Guy Robey*, licensee of the VINE INN, Blackheath, has drawn Saphir with the only ticket he purchased. He had previously bought tickets in sweeps, without having luck. His former nom-de-plume was ‘Black Cat’ and he changed this to ‘Rummy’ on the suggestion of Mrs. *Robey*, who had played rummy at cards.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/10/1934

“Old Hill Licensing Justice yesterday granted a music and dancing license in respect of the new Liberal Club, Cradley Heath. Permission was also given for structural alterations at the VINE INN, Blackheath, the OLD DUN COW, Gorsty Hill, and the BULLS HEAD, Rowley.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/3/1935

“Plans for structural alterations at the VINE INN, Blackheath, were approved at yesterday’s adjourned meeting of the Rowley Regis Licensing Justices.”

Demolished

Rebuilt

A wine license was granted on 3rd March 1937.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/3/1937

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

‘Wine licenses are of importance because it is common knowledge that at Christmas time a great deal of drunkenness was due to the terrible stuff which people were getting from cheap so-called British wines,’ said Mr. W. H. Thompson, solicitor, when applying for a wine license for the VINE INN, High Street, Blackheath.

The application was granted, as was also a similar one in respect of the MANCHESTER HOUSE, High Street, Blackheath.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 1/5/1937

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

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

VINE INN, Blackheath, Rowley Regis.....

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

1939 Register

11, High Street

[1] *Harold Biddle*, date of birth 4/4/1898, licensee, married;

[2] Ruby Biddle, dob 17/11/1898, unpaid domestic duties, married;

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/11/1943

“A cheque for £72 has been handed to the Red Cross by Mrs. *H. Biddle*, proprietress of the VINE INN, Blackheath, as a result of a special ‘Effort Week’ organised by the customers.

On the final Tuesday night a concert was staged, thanks being extended to all concerned for giving their services. The chairman was Mr. L Bird and those taking part were Harper and Blaydon, Mrs. Barratt, Reg King, Bill Field, Bill Cumley, Mrs. Pigot, Ivy Fletcher, A. Dearn, and C. Parkes.”

William Henry Marshall – see also COOKSEY.

A Publican’s license was granted on 2nd February 1949.

It was transferred to a Full License on 27th April 1949.

Ken Platt was married to Maureen.

See also BEECH TREE, Blackheath and BIRD IN HAND, Netherton.

Halesowen News 12/4/2007

“A 64-year-old man suffered injuries to his nose after being repeatedly kicked in the face during a brutal attack in Blackheath.

The man was assaulted by three men shortly after leaving the VINE public house at 11.15pm on Thursday April 5. Officers say the man fell to the floor after being hit on the head as he walked down Short Street and was then kicked several times. His attackers stole £40 before running off in the direction of Henderson Way. Police are hoping to trace a person who dialled the emergency services after witnessing the attack.”

Express & Star 22/3/2021

“Pubs group Marston’s has issued a list of pubs set to reopen in the Black Country on April 12th. In the Express & Star circulation area this takes in 93. Due to coronavirus restrictions they will only be able to accommodate customers in outdoor areas including beer gardens and seated areas. To accompany table service, Marston’s has introduced an online ordering system called ‘Marston’s Tap’. The online platform is available across the majority of Marston’s pubs for guests to use. Bookings are being accepted and guests can reserve a table via each pub’s website. Wolverhampton-based Marston’s has an estate of around 1,400 pubs across the UK and not all in England are able to reopen in April due to not having an outdoor space.....

VINE INN, High Street, Rowley Regis.

[2019]

VINE

Corngreaves Road / Prince Street, (20, King Street), CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

Mrs. Barley, Cradley Heath

Hereford and Tredegar Breweries Ltd.

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. (acquired on 14th January 1939)

LICENSEES

Edward Probert [1865]
Wilkins [1866]
Herbert Hingley [1868] – [1870]
John Poole [1871] – **1882**;
Joseph Foley (**1882** – [1893]
Mrs. Louisa Foley [1894] – [1901]
Frances Ellen Foley (**1904**);
James Brown (**1904 – 1909**);
Nelson Watts (**1909 – 1918**)
Garnett Watts []
John Watts [1919] – **1921**);
John Turner (**1921 – 1923**);
George Frederick Wale (**1923 – 1925**);
Richard Jones (**1925 – 1929**);
Frank Coley (**1929 – 1930**);
William Alfred Baker (**1930**);
Reginald 'Reg' Johnson (**1930 – 1935**);
Alf Burnell [c.1934] ?
Henry John Parkes (**1935 – 1940**);
George Lewis (**1940 – 1947**);
Annie Eliza Lewis (**1947 – 1951**);
Martin Ridley Barnsley (**1951**);
George Arthur Edge (**1951** – [1981]
Stephen James Morley [] – **1985**);
Martin Andrew Ritchie (**1985 – 1988**);
George Lacey (**1988** – []

NOTES

King Street [1866], [1871], [1891], [1951]
20, King Street [*1881*], [1881], [1891], [1911], [*1912*], [*1916*], [*1921*], [*1924*], [1939], [*1940*]

It had a beerhouse license.

Wolverhampton Chronicle 25/4/1855

“An adjourned inquest was held on Monday evening (April 23), before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, coroner, at the VINE INN, Cradley Heath, Rowley Regis, on the body of Joseph Westwood. The deceased was a chainmaker, and on the 14th April he was at work in his usual good health. He quitted the shop for a few minutes, when he was found in the garden, a short distance from the shop, quite insensible and frothing from the mouth. He was immediately conveyed into the house, and expired in a few minutes. Mr. Higgs, surgeon, who was called in, afterwards made a post mortem examination, stated the death was produced by apoplexy. Verdict in accordance with medical evidence.”

County Advertiser 15/4/1865

“On Monday last Joseph Guest, aged 29, was killed by a fall of coal in a pit belonging to Mr. W. H. Dawes, at Withymoor, near Dudley. On Wednesday an inquest was held on his body by Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, at the VINE INN, Cradley Heath. Mr. J. P. Baker, Government Mine Inspector, was present, and Mr. Gill attended on behalf of Mr. Dawes. The evidence was to the effect that on the day in question the deceased and another man were at work in the gate-road, and that about twenty minutes to eleven o'clock a lump of coal, about two hundred weight, fell upon deceased's neck, and killed him on the spot. The gate-road was nine feet wide at the bottom, and six feet six at the top; no timber was required at the working. A 'bumping' had been heard in the pit that morning, but the 'deputy' had carefully examined all the workings. It was shown that the rules of the colliery were frequently read over to the men. Mr. Inspector Baker stated that he had examined the pit, and found that the fall of coal was caused by the superincumbent weight. He considered that the pit was well and properly worked, but recommended that there should always be a liberal supply of timber. Mr. Gill, on behalf of Mr. Dawes, said that this suggestion should be carried out. The jury immediately returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

London Gazette 30/1/1866

“*Edward Probert*, formerly of the Woolpack Inn, Saint Nicholas-street, Hereford, in the county of Hereford, Licensed Victualler, but now of the VINE INN, Fourways, Cradley Heath, in the county of Stafford, Beerhouse Keeper, adjudicated bankrupt on the 12th day of December, 1865. An Order of Discharge was granted by the County Court of Herefordshire, holden at Hereford, on the 26th day of January, 1866.”

Stourbridge Observer 5/5/1866

“VINE INN, King Street, Cradley Heath.

Mr. W. Hinton will Sell by Auction on Monday Next, May 7th 1866, on the Premises as above, the Stock and Fixtures, consisting of 160 and 60 gallon Iron Boilers, 16-strike Mash Tub, Gathering Tubs, 6 Rum Puncheons, 4 half hogsheads, and several smaller casks, part of a Pocket of Hops, Malt Crusher, several pieces of Furniture and a large quantity of Useful Effects, belonging to Mr. *Wilkins*, under a Bill of Sale.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/5/1866 - Advert

“To be Let, with immediate possession, VINE INN, Cradley Heath, near Corngreaves Iron Works. Coming-in low; and is situated in a well populated neighbourhood, and fitted up with every convenience. A Person of business habits would find this a good opportunity.

Apply, T. Burley, and Mr. Chandler, Auctioneer.”

County Advertiser 22/9/1866 - Advert

“VINE INN, King Street, Cradley Heath.

To be Let, with immediate possession, the above Corner House, which is situate at the junction of three roads, and near to Corngreaves Iron Works. A pushing man of business would find this a good investment, the house being very roomy and admirably adapted, from its excellent situation, for the business. Coming-in about £25. Present proprietor is retiring from the trade.

Apply to Mr. Chandler, Publicans' Valuer, &c, Cradley Heath.”

Hereford Journal 20/10/1866 - Advert

“Advertisement of Dividend Meeting in Newspaper. The Bankruptcy Act, 1861.

In the County Court of Herefordshire, holden at Hereford, in the matter of *Edward Probert*, formerly of the Wool Pack Inn, Saint Nicholas Street, Hereford, in the County of Hereford, Licensed Victualler, but now of the VINE INN, Fourways, Cradley Heath, in the County of Stafford, Beerhouse keeper, adjudicated Bankrupt on the Twelfth day of December, 185. A meeting of the Creditors of this Bankrupt will be held before the Registrar, at the County Court Office, Hereford, on the Sixth day of November, 1866, at Eleven o'clock in the Forenoon precisely, for the purpose of declaring a dividend, and also whether any allowance shall be made to the bankrupt. Proofs of debts will be received, and Creditors who have not yet proved, and do not then prove, will be excluded the benefit of the dividend.

John James Reynolds, Registrar.”

County Express 6/7/1867 - Advert

“VINE INN, King Street, Cradley Heath.

To be Let, with immediate possession, the above Corner House, which is situate at the junction of three roads, and near to Corngreaves Ironworks. The House being very roomy is admirably adapted from its excellent position for the business. Coming-in low.

Apply to Mr. Chandler, Publicans' Valuer, &c, Cradley Heath.”

Stourbridge Observer 26/9/1868

“*Herbert Hingley*, landlord of the VINE INN, Cradley Heath, was charged by Superintendent Mills with keeping his house open for the sale of beer on the 21st ult, at twelve o'clock. Mr. Ponton defended.

Police-constable Thompson said that he visited the house a few minutes past twelve o'clock. He saw a gallon bottle and another bottle filled with ale, and carried away.

Mr. Ponton addressed the Bench for the defence, and contended that it had not been proved in evidence that any sale took place, and that it was the defendant's brother who was there, and he (defendant) gave him the beer in the two bottles to take home.

Ordered to pay costs.”

Stourbridge Observer 28/1/1871

“On Wednesday last one of those gatherings took place at the house of Mr. *John Poole*, VINE INN, which are rather popular in this district, known as a 'Housewarming,' which is understood to be a warming or benefit to the worthy host. In this instance the housewarming was fully carried out. A goodly number mustered at 2.30, amongst whom we noticed Mr. B. Bissell, Mr. Henry Barber, Mr. B. Danks, Mr. W. Willetts, Mr. T. Poole, Mr. I. Hall, Mr. T. Parsons, Mr. Sturman, Mr. W. Smith, Mr. T. Burley, Mr. W. Field, Mr. J. Bunn, &c, &c, the number increasing during the afternoon to about 40. An excellent spread having been duly honoured, Mr. W. Field was voted to the chair, and Mr. H. Priest to the vice chair. The Queen and the Royal Family were toasted. As usual the remaining portion of the list was of a more general character.

We should not close this notice without remarking that an excellent sprinkling of vocal talent was present; in fact, it was an evening of enjoyment long to be remembered by those present.”

Stourbridge Observer 11/3/1871 - Advert

“The VINE INN, Corngreaves, Cradley Heath.

John Poole Begg to inform the Public that he has taken to the above Old-Established Inn, where he will be glad to see his Old and New Friends.

Home-Brewed and Burton Ales, and Dublin Stout, Of the Best Quality.

Free and Easy Every Night.

Don't Forget the Address.”

1871 Census

King Street – VINE INN

[1] *John Poole* (50), engine driver at colliery and beer seller, born Netherton;

[2] *Phebe Poole* (48), wife, born Netherton;

[3] *David Poole* (22), son, labourer, born Netherton;

[4] *Thomas Poole* (20), son, engine driver, born Netherton:

County Advertiser 8/7/1871

“On Tuesday evening about thirty friends met at the house of Mr. *John Poole*, the VINE INN, where a capital dinner was served up. The cloth being removed, a chairman was appointed, and the usual loyal toasts and sentiments given and responded to. The musical proceedings were opened by the Netherton String Band, consisting of the following: Mr. *David Poole*, 1st violin; Mr. *Jesse Poole*, 2nd violin; Mr. *John Prince*, violincello; Mr. *Thomas Poole*, double bass; and Mr. *William Cooper* ably assisted on the pianoforte. The overture to the ‘*Caliph of Bagdad*’ was the first performance, and was followed through the evening by other overtures, airs, solos, &c, which were executed in a masterly manner. At intervals Mr. *John Poole*, Mr. *Thomas Poole*, and Mr. *Samuel Sturman*, sang some popular songs; and these were interspersed with recitations. A very enjoyable evening was spent by all present.”

Stourbridge Observer 10/2/1872

“*John Poole*, landlord of the VINE INN beerhouse, was charged with selling drink during prohibited hours on the 26th ult. Police-constable Craddock proved seeing two lads come out of defendant’s house with some ale on the night in question, a few minutes to twelve. He went inside, and found two men in the back kitchen. They had a quart jug and a glass before them. The glass was half full of ale.

This was the first case against the defendant, who was ordered to pay costs.”

Stourbridge Herald 14/12/1872

“*John Poole*, beerhouse keeper, was summoned by Superintendent Miss for permitting gambling in his house, on the 30th. Mr. Shakespeare defended.

Police-constable Bailey said he visited the defendant’s house at 9.45. As soon as he got into the kitchen he saw some scuffling going on with two boys. Heard ‘ten’ called out, and saw defendant’s son-in-law putting something down on a raffle sheet. Witness then took the two dice now produced out of one of the boy’s hands, and the cup out of the other boy’s pocket. Witness asked the landlord to let him look at the sheet. He showed it to witness, who took possession of it, and told him he should report it. Defendant said he hoped not. Did not see any gambling or anything on the table.

Defendant was dismissed with a caution, and the dice and cup forfeited.”

County Express 3/1/1874

“*Joseph Williams* was charged with having been, upon the 14th ult, disorderly upon licenses premises, and refusing to quit, when requested by the landlord, *John Poole*. The complainant said he kept the VINE INN, Cradley Heath, and upon the night in question the defendant refused to leave his house when he requested him to do so. Complainant would not press the charge and the defendant was fined 1s and costs, or seven days’ hard labour.”

County Advertiser 13/3/1875 - Advert

“On Sale, a good serviceable Trap. Price £4 10s.

Apply at Mr. *John Poole*’s, VINE INN, Cradley.”

County Advertiser 27/3/1875 - Deaths

“On the 23rd inst, *Phoebe*, wife of Mr. *John Poole*, of the VINE INN, King Street, Cradley Heath, aged 51 years; deeply regretted.”

County Express 14/8/1875

“The anniversary of the No.2 Court of the Independent Order of Foresters, was held at the court house, Mr. *John Poole*’s, VINE INN, on Monday last. Dinner was served up in Mr. *Poole*’s usually excellent style. Thirty members sat down.....”

County Advertiser 18/3/1876 - Advert

“Independent Order of Foresters.

The Committee of No.2 Court of the above Order, beg to announce that they have made arrangements for a Grand Evening Concert (under the Patronage of the Nobility of the district), on Tuesday Evening, March 28th, 1876, in the High Town Ragged School, Cradley, for the benefit of the Widows and Orphans Fund in connection with the above Court.

Principal Vocalists: Miss Hampton; Miss Court; Mr. *Jno. Poole*; Mr. *Jos. Poole*; Mr. *T. Poole*; and Mr. *J. Fry*.

A Glee Party will also be in attendance.

Solo Flautist, Mr. *T. Bryant*; Solo Cornet, Mr. *J. Westwood*; Solo Pianoforte, Miss *M. Broughall*; Accompanist, Mr. *Billingham*.

Chair to be taken by *J. Broughall*, Esq, Colley Gate.

Prices of Admission – Reserved Seats, 1s; Unreserved Seats, 6d. Doors open at 6.30, Concert to commence at 7pm.

Tickets may be had of *J. Broughall*, Esq, Colley Gate; Messrs. *J. Poole*, VINE INN; *T. Homer*, D, Cordwell, High Street; *J.*

Thompson, Queen Street, Cradley Heath; or any Members of the Court.”

County Advertiser 6/5/1876

“Benjamin Hodgetts was charged with bring disorderly on the licensed premises of *John Poole*, and refusing to quit when ordered to do so, on the 26th ult. Prosecutor said defendant came into his house, the VINE INN, Cradley Heath, drunk, and was very disorderly. He refused to quit the house when witness ordered him to do so, and was finally ejected by force. Fined 2s 6d and costs.”

County Express 12/8/1876

“On Monday last No.2 Court of the Ancient Order of Foresters, held their annual meeting at their Court House, Mr. *John Poole*’s, VINE INN, Cradley Heath. At two o’clock a large number of members sat down to dinner, bountifully supplied, and served up in good style. The balance sheet presented by the Secretary showed the Society to be in a flourishing condition, the funds and number of members being considerably larger than last year. The evening was spent in a very pleasing manner. The usual toasts were proposed and drunk with musical honours. After supper, songs, solos, glees, &c, were given by several of the members, concluding with the National Anthem.”

County Express 30/12/1876

“Charles Westwood was charged with having refused to quit a licensed house kept by *John Poole*. The landlord supplied defendant with some ale, but finding he had had enough already, refused to allow him to drink, and ordered him to leave. Defendant refused to do so and created a disturbance. Defendant was fined 5s and costs or 14 days.”

County Express 3/8/1878

“On Monday last, the members of No.2 Court of the Ancient Order of Foresters, held their annual meeting at the court house, Mr. *J. Poole*’s, VINE INN, Cradley Heath. Dinner was served up in the host’s usually excellent style.....”

County Express 16/8/1879

“On Monday last the annual meeting of the Independent Order of Foresters, Court No.2, was held at the house of Mr. *John Poole*, VINE INN. A sumptuous dinner was prepared by the host for which the most hearty thanks of the members – about fifty in number – were tendered him. After dinner the court was opened for the transaction of business. The various officers were elected for the ensuing year, Mr. H. B. Thompson, surgeon of Cradley, being unanimously appointed medical attendant. The Secretary then read the financial statement, which revealed the society as being in a state of prosperity. Business over and the court declared closed, the members proceeded to enjoy themselves. Songs and recitations were given by various members, and the National Anthem terminated a very pleasantly spent evening.”

1881 Census

20, King Street – VINE INN

[1] *John Poole* (59), widower, commercial traveller, born Dudley;

[2] Anne Round (17), general servant, born Dudley:

AND

[1] Thomas Poole (30), brewer’s agent, born Dudley;

[2] Harriet Poole (30), wife, born Dudley;

[3] Phebe Hannah Poole (8), daughter, scholar born Dudley;

[4] John Thomas Poole (7), son, scholar, born Dudley;

[5] Anne Beatris Poole (4), daughter, scholar, born Dudley;

[6] Florence Elizabeth Poole (1), daughter, born Dudley;

AND

Inn Timber Yard

[1] Caroline Elizabeth Burley (48), widow, coach builder, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Samuel Foley (20), nephew, coach wheelwright, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Lewis Jones (17), apprentice wheelwright’s smith, born Dudley;

[4] Walter Stewart Hingley (15), nephew, assistant wheelwright’s smith, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Judy Ruby Hingley (7), visitor, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

Ford’s Household Almanack for 1881 - Advert

“VINE INN Concert Hall, 20, King Street, Cradley Heath. Proprietor *John Poole*.

A Good Company will Appear each Evening at the above Hall.

A Change of Artistes Every Week.

No Charge for Admission.

Refreshments of Superior Quality.

Agent for Charrington and Co’s Burton Ales.

London Stout.

Cigars of the Best Brands.

Ale Fining Manufacturer.”

County Advertiser 24/6/1882 - Advert

“To Publicans, Brokers, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. T. Homer, on Wednesday Next, the 28th day of June, 1882, at the VINE INN, King Street, Cradley Heath, several Half-hogsheads and other Casks, in good condition; Drinking Tables, Village Dog Cart (nearly new), Two Spring Traps, Chestnut Horse, Set of Harness, capital Sewing Machine, &c, &c, belonging to Mr. *J. Poole*, who is leaving the premises. Sale to commence at Two o'clock.”

County Advertiser 12/11/1887

“The members of the Judge and Jury Club held their harvest festival at the house of Mr. *Joseph Foley*, VINE INN, King Street, on the 6th and 7th inst. The sale of goods took place on Tuesday, and the proceeds, amounting to £2 2s, were forwarded to the Guest Hospital, on Wednesday evening.”

County Advertiser 26/4/1890

“*Joseph Foley*, landlord of the VINE INN, Corngreaves Road, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 8th inst. Mr. Waldron prosecuted, and Mr. Tanfield defended.

The facts were that on the date named Police-constables Davis and Collier visited defendant’s spirit vaults, and found there a number of men who were drinking, among whom were four men very much under the influence of drink. One of them was named Hingley. The landlord was present. They went away and reported to their inspector, who returned with Police-constable Davies and Wynn. He (the inspector) asked the men to stand up, but it was with great difficulty that they could do so. They saw the men come out and they staggered.

Inspector Bishop, Police-sergeant Hayward, and Police-constables Wynn and Collier corroborated.

Mr. Tanfield urged that the men had only had three pints of ale between them, and that there was nothing in their manner to show that they were drunk. A number of witnesses were called, who stated that the men were sober. Inspector Bishop stated that defendant had kept the house satisfactorily to the police for a good many years. The Bench inflicted a penalty of £5 and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/8/1890

“Old Hill. The Licensing Session for the division was held yesterday.....

Police-inspector Bishop reported that there were 163 license-holders in the division. Thirty-eight transfers had taken place since last licensing meeting. Five licensed victuallers and four beerhouse keepers had been fined, and 403 persons had been charged with drunkenness, three of whom were discharged. Mr. Bassano (presiding magistrate) said The report for the year was not at all satisfactory, as it reflected discreditably upon the licensed victuallers. He pointed out that it was becoming a very serious matter to have an increase of 138 cases of drunkenness in one year. All the licenses would be renewed with the exception of..... *Joseph Foley*, of the VINE INN, Cradley Heath.”

[The license was renewed at the Adjourned Licensing Sessions in September.]

County Advertiser 4/10/1890

“On Tuesday afternoon Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the VINE INN, Corngreaves Road, respecting the death of William Norwood (63), chainmaker of Corngreaves Road, who was found dead in bed on Sunday afternoon. It was stated that deceased received 4s a week as wages and had to pay 1s for lodgings. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

1891 Census

20, King Street – VINE INN

- [1] *Joseph Foley* (58), publican, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Laura Foley (55), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Thomas Foley (29), son, brewer, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Marion Foley (25), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Joseph Edward Foley (18), son, wheelwright, born Stoke Edith, Herefordshire;
- [6] Amy Priscilla Foley (13), daughter, born Stoke Edith, Herefordshire:

AND

- [1] Caroline E. Burley (60), widow, master coach builder, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Sarah Hancox (59), boarder, born Dudley;
- [3] Walter Stuart Hingley (26), nephew, journeyman painter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Joseph Price (22), boarder, journeyman blacksmith, born Dudley:

County Express 15/8/1891

“At the Police Court, on Wednesday, *Joseph Foley*, landlord of the VINE INN, King Street, Cradley Heath, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 26th ult. Mr. Waldron prosecuted, and Mr. Ward defended.

Mr. Waldron, in opening the case, said Police-constables Wynn and Collier visited the defendant’s house at 9.30 on the above evening. In the bar they saw a man named Thomas Price, who was very drunk, leaning on the counter, and dozing – apparently asleep. In front of Price was a pint cup containing a quantity of ale. Wynn called the defendant’s attention and his wife’s to Price’s state. They were both in the bar, and both conversant with what was going on. Mrs. *Foley*, in the presence of her husband, said she had only filled the man a pint of ale, and that she had not noticed he was so drunk as he was. She also said he had only been in a little time. Price was then ordered out by the defendant, who, whilst going down the passage, had to steady himself against the wall. Having regard to the day, and the condition of the man, it appeared to him to be rather a bad case against the defendant. The defendant evidently knew he had committed an offence, because on the next day, about twelve o’clock, he went to

Wynn and said he hoped 'nothing would come of the job at his house.' Defendant had no right to say that to the officer. He asked for an exemplary punishment for this offence, because publicans must know, and must be taught that a public house was licensed for the sale and consumption of liquors, but not to be a drinking shop, and to allow working people to drink every penny they had for the enrichment of the publican.

Police-constable Wynn gave evidence bearing out Mr. Waldron's statement.

In answer to Mr. Ward, witness said he went to the house in consequence of a complaint he received from Price's wife, and a person named Homer. Defendant did not say he was not aware that there was nothing the matter with the man. Price asked if he was drunk and witness informed him that he was.

Police-constable Collier corroborated.

Mr. Ward said there was a peculiarity in this case which would possibly justify, in a great measure, the action of the police in bringing the case for investigation to that Court, while, at the same time, he ventured to hope it would enable him to prove to the satisfaction of the Court that while the officers were doing their duty they went to the house expecting to find a drunken person, and also that their judgement as to Price's condition was, to put in mildly, exaggerated. Many cases which had come before the Court had arisen in consequence of the complaints of wives, and no doubt in many cases had it not been for these complaints no police officer would have noticed the case. Landlords in that district were being persecuted, or he should say were being looked up very smartly. Publicans were entitled to justice. Mrs. Homer, one of the persons who made the complaint, had been subpoenaed by the police, and had not been called to give evidence.

Mr. Waldron said the whole thing was a fabrication.

Mr. Ward: Those are my instructions.

Mr. Waldron: It only shows how inaccurately you are instructed then.

Defendant was then called, and said Price was perfectly sober when he came in and when he went out. He did not ask Wynn to look the matter over the next day.

Cross-examined: On April 23rd witness was convicted and fined £5 and costs for permitting drunkenness.

Mr. Waldron: Do you consider that you have been at all persecuted by the police?

Mr. Ward: I object.

Mr. Waldron: You introduced it, and said this was a persecuted district.

Inspector Bishop: I consider it is most unbecoming of a professional gentleman like Mr. Ward to make such a statement. I am responsible for this place.

Mr. Ward: The Court will agree that I used that expression and moderated it immediately.

Mr. Waldron: Do you withdraw it or not?

Mr. Hickman said the Bench at that place looked to the police to go to public houses to find where drunkenness was encouraged. If publicans did not supply poor working men with a lot of beer, there would not be any necessity for them to be brought before the magistrates and fined heavily for drunkenness. The police were entitled to take every opportunity of tracing it to the publicans. The Bench had nothing at all against publicans. The majority of them, no doubt, were a most respectable body of men.

Mr. Ward: I agree with that, and I am entitled to say this, that in using that word persecuted I immediately moderated it.

Mr. Waldron: Do you withdraw it?

Mr. Ward: I am making a statement to the Bench.

Mr. Hickman: The shorthand writers have got it, and it goes forth to the public.

Mr. Ward: I said the police did their duty only, and I moderated the other word I used.

Mr. Waldron: You said it was a persecuted district.

Mr. Ward: It was a word that slipped, and I moderated it.

Mr. Waldron: Do you withdraw it?

Mr. Ward: Don't ask me any questions.

Inspector Bishop: I must ask Mr. Ward to withdraw those remarks, or state a single case where there has been persecution.

Mr. Ward: I immediately moderated that. In using the word persecuted I did not mean to say for a moment that the police went beyond their duty.

Mr. Hickman: There is only one meaning of the word persecution, and that goes to the public,

Mr. Ward: I say unreservedly the police did not go beyond their duty, and they cannot have anything more ample than that.

Inspector Bishop: I cannot say I am satisfied with that. I want Mr. Ward to quote a case, if he persists in saying the publicans have been persecuted. I am responsible for this district, and am surprised to hear such a remark fall from a gentleman like Mr. Ward.

Mr. Ward: If it can be any personal relief to the inspector I'll say that he has done no more than his duty, and therefore there can be no persecution.

Mr. Hickman: I think such a remark should be withdrawn.

Mr. Ward: It was purely a slip, and I immediately moderated it.

Mr. Hickman: We have never heard anything in Court like this before.

Mr. Ward: I hope it will not prejudice this case. For Inspector Bishop's satisfaction I say he always does his duty.

Mr. Goodman: The word persecution, no doubt, ought not to have been used.

Mr. Ward: Oh, no; and I immediately moderated it.

Louisa *Foley*, wife of defendant; Joseph Brettell, George Attwood, and William Hackett, swore that Price was perfectly sober.

Zipporah Richards said she saw Price at 9.30, and he then appeared sober.

Cross-examined: She had not told the inspector that Price was helplessly drunk.

Elizabeth Homer said she accompanied Mrs. Price to the police station on the Sunday night in question. At half-past seven Price was sober.

Thomas Price was called, and said in consequence of a quarrel with his wife, she did not come home all day on Sunday. He went to the defendant's house shortly before two, and had a pint of beer, and also took a pint home. He went again and had a pint of ale which was paid for by Brettell.

Cross-examined: He went to bed and got up at seven. When he came downstairs he was in a good temper. He threw the sugar on the fire.

Inspector Bishop said since the previous convection defendant had conducted the house exceedingly well. and he had not received a complaint.

Mr. Ward: I hope the press will take it.

The Bench said they had carefully considered the case, and they came to the conclusion that there was a case against the defendant, but as the police said the house had been well conducted, they would not endorse the license. They would not increase the fine, and defendant would be fined £5 and £1 19s costs.

The Bench desired to say after what had occurred in reference to the police, that the magistrates were anxious for the police to take up cases against publicans who allowed drunkenness. It would save a great deal of the cases of drunk and disorderly which came before the Bench every week.

Mr. Ward: Inspector Bishop knows I always consider he does his duty.

Inspector Bishop: Thank you.

Thomas Price, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, was fined 2s 6d and costs, for being drunk on the licensed premises."

County Express 29/8/1891

"The annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis division of Staffordshire were held at the Police Court, Old Hill, on Wednesday.....

Mr. Waldron appeared for *Joseph Foley*, of the VINE INN, who was fined £5 and costs in August last, and £5 and costs for permitting drunkenness in September last. Adjourned."

AND

County Advertiser 29/8/1891

"The annual licensing sessions for Rowley Petty Sessional Division were held last Wednesday.....

The magistrates said they were pleased to learn that there had been a decrease in the drunken cases. They then proceeded to consider the 'black list'.....

Joseph Foley, of the VINE INN, was fined £5 and costs on the 30th April, 1890, for permitting drunkenness, and there was another conviction against him....."

County Express 3/10/1891

"Old Hill Adjourned Licensing Sessions.....

Mr. W. Bassano said the only case in which they proposed not to renew the license was in the case of the CROSS INN, Old Hill.....

Mr. Ward asked if all the other licenses were granted without any special application being necessary. Mr. Bassano said this was so. Of course they had, in the exercise of their discretion, thought there were several cases in which they might reasonably withhold the license, and the Bench had had a long discussion that morning before coming into Court as to whether they should do so in the case of a man fined £10 and costs. However, they had decided to grant the whole of the licenses this year, and they gave an intimation that in future the Bench would deal very stringently in cases of conviction under the licensing laws, both as regards the amount of fines and endorsements, and in the cases of endorsements they would deal more stringently. In plain English, this meant that a person with an endorsement against the house would in future have a very small chance indeed of getting his license renewed. They hoped the licensed victuallers and other licensed persons in the district would take a warning from that."

Joseph Foley died on 20th May 1893 and was buried at St. Luke's Church, Cradley Heath.

County Advertiser 27/5/1893

"On Saturday *Joseph Foley*, of the VINE INN, King Street, Cradley Heath, died suddenly. Deceased was conveying a load of coal from Whitley Wharf, and while passing near Overend he fell off the cart. He was speedily conveyed home, but life was found to be extinct, death being attributable to heart disease."

County Advertiser 13/1/1894

"On Monday night a well-attended meeting of representatives from football clubs in the Staffordshire district was held at the VINE INN, Cradley Heath, under the presidency of Mr. Giles, for the purpose of considering a proposal to establish a junior league for Staffordshire. It was decided to form a league for junior clubs in South Staffordshire, and 7s 6d per club was fixed as the entrance fee. It was stated that about thirteen clubs had joined the league. The following officers were elected: President, Councillor Round; secretary, J. Dearns; treasurer, S. Griffiths."

County Advertiser 12/5/1894

"John Westwood, chainmaker, Cradley Heath, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of *Louisa Foley*, VINE INN, Cradley Heath, on the 5th inst. Police-constable Bennett proved the case, and defendant was fined 10s and costs."

County Advertiser 26/5/1894 - In Memoriam

"In loving memory of *Joseph Foley*, the beloved husband of *Louisa Foley*, of Cradley Heath, who died May 20th, 1893."

Birmingham Daily Post 4/9/1894

“The Closing of Corngreaves Ironworks.

Yesterday a meeting of the promoters of the scheme for the relief of the men who have been thrown out of employment through the closing of the above works was held at the VINE INN, Cradley Heath. About £14, which has been collected from manufacturers and tradesmen in the district, was divided amongst the men. There were over a hundred recipients, and each man was paid 2s 9d, whilst the lads received 1s 4½d each. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the subscribers to the fund.”

County Advertiser 29/9/1894

“The Closing of Corngreaves Ironworks.

A meeting of the men who have been thrown of employment through the closing of these works was held on Monday last, at the VINE INN, King Street, Cradley Heath, Mr. B. Homer presiding. Complaints were made that several of the workmen had been collecting subscriptions without their books, and the public were requested to see that their donations were entered in a properly registered book. Altogether about £21, which had been collected from the various manufacturers, tradesmen, and others in the district was distributed amongst 112 men as follows: married men, 4s; single men, 3s; boys, 1s. This shows an increase of 1s in the cases of the married and single men upon last week’s relief. Votes of thanks were accorded the subscribers.”

Birmingham Daily Post 11/12//1894

“The Closing of Corngreaves Ironworks.

Yesterday a meeting of the operatives who have been thrown out of work through the closing of the above works was held at the VINE INN, Cradley Heath, Mr. Homer presiding. It was reported that the amount subscribed during the last week was £30, and this was distributed in the usual ratio amongst 140 men and youths.”

Birmingham Daily Post 23/4/1895

“The Unemployed at Cradley Heath.

Yesterday a meeting of the operatives thrown out of employment through the closing of the Corngreaves Ironworks was held at the VINE INN, Cradley Heath. Mr. B. Homer, who presided, remarked that they had now reached a sad crisis, and the total amount which could be granted to married men was 2s worth of provisions. The men were getting tired of living upon and craving for charity, and unless some employment was found for them they would be compelled to seek parish relief. This week they had only £10 9s 1d to distribute amongst nearly 100 men. It was decided to give married men provisions of the value of 2s and single men 1s worth each. The former were also presented with a packet of tea, and the latter with a packet of Cadbury’s cocoa. It is expected that the ranks of the unemployed in the district will be still further increased shortly by the stoppages of another industry.”

County Advertiser 25/5/1895

“The Closing of Corngreaves Ironworks.

On Monday a meeting of the men thrown out of employment through the closing of the above works was held at the VINE INN, King Street, Cradley Heath. Mr. B. Homer presided. The chairman announced another decrease in the subscriptions. The number of men seeking the relief had also decreased, some of them having found temporary employment. The number of applicants this week was 70, amongst whom £7 10s 4d was divided.”

County Advertiser 8/2/1896 - Advert

“Advertisement of Cancelling.

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 5th day of February, 1896, Cancelled the Registry of the Equitable Loan and Investment Society (Register No.2282), held at the VINE INN, King Street, Cradley Heath, in the County of Stafford, at its request.

The Society (subject to the right of appeal given by the said Act) ceases to enjoy the privileges of a Registered Society, but without prejudice to any liability incurred by the Society, which may be enforced against it as if such cancelling had not taken place. E. W. Brabrook, Chief Registrar.”

County Advertiser 14/8/1897

“Yesterday afternoon Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the VINE INN, King Street, Cradley Heath, concerning the death of Joseph Oldacre (3), who resided with his mother in Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath, and who was found drowned in a cistern near his home on Wednesday last. The child went out to play and was subsequently missed. On search being made his dead body was found in a cistern, which was covered with an iron plate. Sophia Lander, who discovered the body, said she had ten children, and the coroner reminded her she might have lost one in the same way, and that as she never complained to the landlord about the danger of the cistern, nor left the locality, she might in case of the loss of a child be in an awkward position. Police-constable Hughes described the place as dangerous. The covering plate weighed 107lbs. The property belonged to Mr. William Tibbetts. The jury found a verdict of Accidental Death.”

County Advertiser 19/2/1898

“A very successful smoking concert was held at the VINE INN, King Street, on Monday last, Mr. Oliver, of Stourbridge, presiding. The following gentlemen took part in a good programme: Messrs. S. Foley, D. Richards, J. Taylor, J. Stringer, J. Hackett, Farmer, J. E. Foley, E. Butler, S. Evans, and T. Foley.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 18/11/1899

“Worcestershire Autumn Assizes.....

William Lambkin (19), barman, was indicted for burglariously entering the dwelling house of William Feller, at Dudley, on August 9, and stealing therefrom £15 10s, the monies of the Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries' Company Ltd. Mr. J. R. V. Marchant prosecuted.

Prosecutor, manager of the STATION HOTEL, Dudley, one of the Company's houses, stated that at one time prisoner was in his employ as 'boots,' and in that capacity had access to witness's room. On the morning of August 9 prosecutor found that a desk in his room had been opened and the money abstracted. The lock had been burned out. He found a pencil on the floor, which was afterwards identified as the property of prisoner.

William Whitehouse, tram guard, said that prisoner left the car opposite the STATION HOTEL on the night in question.

Mary Ann Pearson, barmaid at the VINE INN, Cradley Heath, said that prisoner was engaged there also for 13 days, leaving on August 6th. She identified the lead pencil found near the rifled desk.

Caleb Harris, puddler, Cradley Heath, said that prisoner lived next door to him in August last, leaving on the 7th. He lent him 6s, and had not yet been repaid.

Dr. Higgs gave evidence to the effect that PS White, a witness, could not attend, as he was confined to his bed with a broken leg. His depositions were read. In them he stated that he found evidence from which he drew the inference that prisoner had effected an entrance by means of the window in the manager's room.

PC Shilvock produced tickets, etc, which showed that prisoner went to London after August 9th, attended several places of amusement, and had his photograph taken. In reply to the charge, prisoner said he had only committed the offence out of spite.

Prisoner put in a long written statement, in which he denied the offence, but admitted having taken a few shillings 'by mistake.' When he went to London he tried to get work, and applied to the Captain of the Church Army, who advertised for several Christian young men. He was rejected, however, as he had not had sufficient experience.

The Jury returned a verdict of guilty. He had been previously convicted, and Inspector Hinde said that for some years prisoner had been in trouble with the police, and was the associate of convicted thieves. Prisoner recently committed a robbery and afterwards set fire to the premises. He was sent to penal servitude for three years.”

County Advertiser 12/1/1901

“The members of the Cradley Heath St. Luke's Football Club had a supper on Saturday evening last at the VINE HOTEL, Cradley Heath. About forty members sat down to a substantial repast provided by Mrs. *Foley*, and there were also present the Rev. E. A. Cooke (vicar of the parish), W. L. O. Ward (curate), H. L. Langley (Leicester, and former curate at St. Luke's), and Mr. Stanley Smith (Handsworth League secretary). After supper the Rev. E. A. Cooke occupied the chair, and submitted the toast of 'The Queen.' He referred to the success the club had gained since its formation, and noted the fact that they had not been beaten on their own ground since the club started, which was, in his opinion, a splendid record. They had also drawn that afternoon with one of the strongest clubs in the Handsworth League. The speaker also alluded to the advantages to be derived from such clubs if properly managed. The games were conducive to the moral and physical training of the men engaged in them. He assured the club of his hearty wishes and support. The toast was duly honoured.

Appropriate speeches were also given by the Revs. W. L. Ward and H. L. Langley, and the League Secretary.

A musical programme, arranged by Mr. T. Grice, followed, and was heartily enjoyed. The following members and friends contributed to the programme: Messrs. J. Foley, T. Grice, E. Davis, Butler, Round, Dingley, and Smith (ventriloquist).

A vote of thanks to the clergy and to Mr. Grice closed a very enjoyable evening.”

1901 Census

King Street – VINE INN

[1] *Louisa Foley* (65), widow, publican, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Marion Foley (35), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Emily Foley (33), daughter, milliner, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Frances E. Foley (25), daughter, dressmaker, born Stoke Edith, Herefordshire;

[5] Amy P. Foley (23), daughter, dressmaker, born Stoke Edith, Herefordshire:

AND

20, King Street

[1] Caroline E. Burley (70), wheelwright, born Cradley Heath;

[2] Sarah Hancox (68), visitor, born Cradley Heath:

Tipton Herald 22/8/1903

“Mr. H. A. Pearson (Coroner) held an inquest at the VINE INN, Cradley Heath, on Wednesday afternoon relative to the death of Lucy Willetts, who resided with her parents at 27, Corngreaves Road, and who was supposed to have committed suicide on Tuesday night by jumping down the well at the rear of her home. The details are given in the following evidence.

Lucy Willetts, wife of Solomon Willetts, and mother of the deceased, stated that her husband was a chainmaker, and the deceased was 29 years of age. She lived with them at Corngreaves Road. She assisted witness in her household duties. She enjoyed good health. On the 17th inst she did her work as usual.

The Coroner: Had she any trouble? – Witness: None that I know of.

Continuing, witness said that about 11.15pm on the 17th they were talking before going to bed when the deceased got up and went out of the house.

Coroner: Where do you think she was going to? – Witness: We thought she was going to the brewhouse.

The Coroner: How did you miss her? – Witness: She was a long time away, so her two sisters, Lois and Alice, went after her, but could not find her.

The Coroner: Did you find any shoes in the house the next day? – Witness: Yes sir.

The Coroner: There is a well at the back of your house? – Witness: Yes sir.

In answer to further questions witness said her husband and other daughters went up the yard and found one of the doors of the well open. This door was always kept shut.

The Coroner: Has there been anything strange in her manner? – Witness: Yes sir. She has been very strange of late. My husband said he thought she was going the wrong way.

The Coroner: In what way was she strange? – Witness: She would not dine with us, nor go to bed. She would sit up all night.

The Coroner: Has she ever threatened to commit suicide? – Witness: Never to my knowledge.

Continuing, witness said that deceased was recovered from the well two hours later by PS Pitcher.

Lois Willetts, sister of the deceased, and daughter of the last witness, stated that she was a domestic servant at Cradley Vicarage, but at the time was on holiday. They were, on the night in question, having a chat before going to bed, when the deceased left the house. She went by the back door, and they thought she had gone to the brewhouse. As she did not return witness and another sister went in search of her. She knew of no trouble that would cause the deceased to commit suicide.

Police Sergeant Pitcher stated that he was passing the house in Corngreaves Road about a quarter past twelve in the early part of Wednesday morning, and hearing the last witness crying, asked them what was the matter. They informed him that deceased was missing, and that they thought she might be down the well. He at once began dragging the well and found the body after half an hour. She was fully dressed with the exception of her shoes. There was a slight bruise on the left elbow. The well was 21 yards deep, and there were eight yards of water in it.

A Juryman: No people went to this well at night, for water, to your knowledge.

Witness: I think not. The water in the well is not used for drinking purposes, but for cleaning.

The mother, recalled, stated that the deceased had no need to go to the well as they had a tap in the brewhouse. They did not use the water in the well for drinking purposes, in fact, they never went to it only when the brewhouse tap was off.

PS Pitcher further stated that the drag caught in the heel of the deceased, so he judged from that she must have fell in head first.

Dr. E. Fryer, of Cradley Heath, stated that he had that day made a post-mortem. Death, in his opinion, was due to drowning.

The Coroner, in summing up, said there was no evidence to show what was the cause of the girl being in the well. The jury saw by the evidence that she had no trouble. The question was whether the deceased accidentally fell in, or whether she committed suicide. They had evidence of the boots being found in the brewhouse, and the door of the well being open, and further, the evidence of the police officer that she was found head downwards.

The jury returned a verdict of Suicide whilst of Unsound Mind.”

Louisa Foley died in the 1st quarter of 1904 and was buried at St. Luke’s Church, Cradley Heath.

County Advertiser 5/11/1904 - Advert

“On Tuesday Next. VINE INN, King Street, Cradley Heath.

Unreserved Sale of the Household Furniture, Pianofortes, Harmonium, and Effects, by order of the Exors. of the late Mrs. *Louisa Foley*.

E. O. Nightingale will Sell by Auction, as above, on Tuesday, 8th November, 1904, at 11am, the Household Furniture, including Birch and Iron Bedsteads, Palliasses, Bedding, Wash Stands and Dressing Tables, Mahogany and other Swing Glasses, Toilet Ware, Towel Rail, Mahogany and other Chests of Drawers, Night Chair, Cane-seated, Arm, and other Chairs; Mahogany Sofa, Oak-grained Screen, Mahogany Loo and other Tables, Overmantel in gilt frame; Full-Compass Trichord Pianoforte, by Murdoch and Co., London, in light Walnut Case; ditto by Leakey and Co., London, in Burr Walnut Case; Large Harmonium, with Organ Pedals, by Sames; Two 30-hour Grand-father’s Clocks in Oak Cases, Clocks, Barometer, Excellent Treadle Sewing Machine, Bassinette, Fenders and Fire-irons, Pictures, Books, Ornaments, Crockery and Glassware, Hanging and other Lamps, Water Filter, Urn, Oil Stove, Cooking Utensils, Wringer, Pair Steps, Counter, Flour Scales and Weights, 14 Tea Cannisters, Carpenter’s Bench with Vice, Grindstone, large Pig Bench, 4 Iron Pig Troughs, Set of Harness, Cart Tackle, Chains, large Iron Street Lamp Bracket, quantity Iron, Wood, Firebricks, and other Effects.

Auctioneer’s Offices: High Street, Cradley Heath.”

Nelson Watts was also a chainmaker.

1911 Census

20, King Street – VINE INN

[1] *Nelson Watts* (28), publican, born Cradley Heath;

[2] *Rachel Watts* (28), wife, married 8 years, born Cradley;

[3] *Alice May Watts* (7), daughter, school, born Cradley;

[4] *Ernest Watts* (2), son, born Cradley Heath;

[5] *Garnett Watts* (16), brother, brewer, born Cradley;

[6] *Lily Brown* (12), adopted daughter, school, born Cradley Heath;

[7] *Sarah Ann Cox* (16), domestic servant, born Cradley Heath:

AND

King Street

- [1] Caroline Burley (80), widow, born Cradley Heath;
- [2] Walter Stuart Hingley (45), nephew, married, coach builder, born Cradley Heath;
- [3] Sarah Hingley (41), niece, married 17 years, born Cradley Heath;
- [4] Edwin J. P. Hingley (14), grand-nephew, born Cradley Heath;
- [5] Walter Stuart Hingley (11), grand-nephew, born Cradley Heath;
- [6] Caroline E. Hingley (8), grand-niece, born Cradley Heath;
- [7] Louisa E. Hingley (6), grand-niece, born Cradley Heath:

County Express 13/1/1912

“Dividend Clubs..... VINE INN, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath.

On Monday week between 30 and 40 members assembling. Afterwards Mr. S. Woodhouse was voted to the chair, with Mr. Alex Mallen vice-chairman. Mr. W. Morris (secretary) presented a satisfactory report, and a dividend of 17s 4d was declared. Songs were rendered by Messrs. J. Smith, Joe Mallen, J. Green, H. Brookes, W. Dunn, and Sam Cole; and gramophone selections added to the pleasure of the evening. Thanks were accorded to the host and hostess (Mr. and Mrs. *Nelson Watts*), the supper being voted the best they had ever had.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/2/1912

“The Sessions for Old Hill division were held on Wednesday. Supt. Johnson reported that the number of licenses for renewal was 147, showing a decrease of two alehouses and one beerhouse, dealt with by the Compensation Authority. The Bench renewed the licenses of the WAGGON AND HORSES, Old Hill, the HOLLY BUSH, High Street, Cradley Heath, and the VINE INN, Cradley Heath, but the Chairman warned the holders to be more careful about the manner in which the houses were managed.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 16/12/1914

“Thee Days More To Say ‘Thank You’ by Sending a Cheery Message with a *Gazette* Christmas Box.

Three Days More and the opportunity will be lost. Send today one of the famous *Gazette* Christmas Boxes and a cheery greeting to a friend or to a lonely soldier in the fighting line, or a sailor facing the dangers of the sea.....

The Box weighs four pounds and is worth 12s 9d. The duty is saved on the Cigarettes and Tobacco and the goods are supplied at cost. The gift will only cost you 5s.....

The articles will be enclosed in a Special Box with a Christmas Label, and an addressed postcard enclosed with each gift for the soldiers’ or sailors’ acknowledgement.

The contents of the Christmas Box: Life Ray Cigarettes, Black Cat Cigarettes, Black Cat Tobacco, Briar Pipe, Eating Chocolate, Box of Peppermints, Stationery and Matches.

Subscriptions.....

Mr. *Nelson Watts*, VINE INN, Cradley Heath, 2 Boxes, 10s.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 26/12/1914

“The Closing Day. Midlands’ Gifts for Soldiers and Sailors on Service.

Many readers of the *Gazette* will earn the deep thanks of the soldiers at the front. Over 3,000 very acceptable Christmas Boxes have been sent off, and the majority were in possession of the soldiers and sailors yesterday. One can imagine the feeling of the men in the trenches upon receiving the gift from home.

Late subscriptions will be used to send gifts which will arrive for the New Year. These should reach us not later than today, when the lists will close. So, if you have not sent already, and feel that something is due to the men who have made Christmas possible, you should send at once.

Subscriptions.....

Nelson Watts, VINE INN, King Street, Cradley Heath, 1 Box, 5s.”

Garnett Watts brewed his own beer, and was also the local bookmaker.

County Express 10/9/1921

“At Old Hill Police Court on Wednesday, Mr. E. W. Waldron made an application on behalf of Messrs Plants Brewery Co. for the transfer of the license of the VINE INN, Cradley Heath, from Walter [sic] *Watts* to *John Turner*. Mr. Waldron explained that there was a particular reason why they must have possession of the house, and applicant’s wife was now serving at the house. The outgoing manager said he had no desire to stop in the house, but complained that he had tried to obtain fresh premises, and had been unable to do so, and he and his family looked like being turned out. This was a matter between the outgoing tenant and his clients. The company had offered to allow the man to remain at the house as a lodger, but *Watts* wanted them to give a definite arrangement in writing, which they would not do.

It was stated that *Watts* had declined to sign the transfer papers, and he replied that it was only because he was likely to be thrown out of the house. If they would give him an undertaking not to turn him out he would sign the papers.

The Bench granted the application, and *Watts* was advised to sign the papers.

The Chairman (Mr. C. W. Bassano) said the Bench had nothing to do with the question of housing *Watts*, and it was a matter of arrangement between the parties.”

John Turner – see also BELL.

George F. Wale, beer retailer, 20, King Street. [1924]

Dudley Chronicle 13/2/1924

“The Adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Old Hill Petty Session Division was held at the Police Court on March 5.....
The licenses of the VINE INN, Cradley Heath which had been adjourned from the annual sessions, would be renewed.”

Richard Jones – see also BELL.

Reg Johnson played football for Cradley Heath St. Lukes [1925/1926], Fulham and Swindon Town.

1939 Register

20, King Street

[1] *Henry J. Parkes*, date of birth 22/1/1903, machinist (engineer), married;

[2] *May Parkes*, dob 26/1/1906, unpaid domestic duties, married;

George Lewis married *Annie Harris*.

A Publican's license was granted on 7th February 1951.

A team from here took part in the Cradley Heath Domino League. [1960]

A team from here took part in the Cradley Heath Darts League. [1970]

News Telephone 10/9/1970

“Large families usually get together ‘once in a blue moon’ to celebrate some great happening – but not so the Taylors of Cradley Heath.

All 15 of them – Mum and Dad, five daughters and eight sons – meet regularly at the VINE INN.

They have been locals at the pub in Prince Street, Cradley Heath, ever since eldest daughter *Nancy* and her husband, *George Edge*, took over nearly 20 years ago. But although family ties first attracted the rest to drink at the VINE, *Nancy* has remained a non-drinker and non-smoker.....”

Sports Argus 28/4/1973

“Glade, the powerful Coventry outfit won the M&B darts championship when they defeated VINE INN, Cradley Heath, 5-4 in the final at the New Inns, Handsworth. They left the stage after the presentation ceremony with the silver cup they will hold for 12 months, a replica of the trophy for each player, and a £400 cheque. It was the richest prize in West Midlands darts history and even the runners-up received £200.....”

[1990]

Closed

Converted into flats. [1993]

VINE

Highgate Street, (22, High Street), (98, Garratts Lane) / Regent Street, (Queen Street), OLD HILL

OWNERS

Shadrach Talbot [1874]

Elizabeth Talbot [1886]

Shadrach Benjamin Talbot [1910]

Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

A. E. Sidaway, Old Hill

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. (acquired on 14th August 1941)

LICENSEES

Shadrach Benjamin Talbot [1874] – [1910]

Mrs. Emily Talbot [1911]

William Scriven [] – 1914);

Harry Jones (1914 – 1941);
Clarence Edward ‘Clarry’ Price (1941 – 1958);
Harry Beasley (1958 – 1959);
Albert Raymond Parkes (1959 – 1965);
Albert Alan Comley (1965 – []
L W D Stirling [1976]
Mrs. M Smith [1993]

NOTES

98, Garratts Lane [1881], [1891], [1901]
22, High Street [1911], [1940]
22, Highgate Street

It had an ante '69 beerhouse license.

It had a double frontage directly on the footpath.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/8/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for Rowley Regis division was held on Friday, at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill.....
The following persons made applications for beerhouse licenses.....
Shadrack Benjamin Talbot, Old Hill They were all refused.”

County Advertiser 30/8/1873

“The annual licensing meeting for the division of Rowley Regis, was held at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, yesterday.....
Shadrach Benjamin Talbot, provision dealer, High Street, Old Hill, made an application for a license to sell beer and cider by retail to be drunk on the premises. Mr. Stokes appeared to support the application, and in doing so said his client was known as a very respectable man, and one who was likely to conduct a house well. Mr. Addison, in opposing on behalf of Mr. Allport, the application, said than there was no necessity for this application being granted. The object of the act was to prevent these licenses being so easily obtained, and the multiplication of beerhouses. There were already too many houses in the neighbourhood. The application was refused.”

County Express 8/8/1874 - Notice

“To the Overseers of the Poor, and the Superintendent of Police, of the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, and to all whom it may concern.
I, *Shadrach Benjamin Talbot*, Provision Dealer, Chainmaker, and the holder of a License to sell beer by Retail to be consumed off the premises, now residing at High Street, Old Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, do Hereby Give Notice that it is my intention to Apply, at the General Annual Licensing Meeting, for the Division of Rowley Regis, to be holden at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, at Old Hill, in the said County, on the 28th day of August, next ensuing, at the hour of Eleven o’clock in the forenoon of the same day, for a Six Days License to hold an Excise License to Sell Beer and Cider by retail, to be drunk and consumed in and upon the house and premises thereunto belonging, situate at High Street, Old Hill, in the parish of Rowley Regis aforesaid, in pursuance of the Acts II Geo.IV, and I Wm.IV c.64, and Acts amending the same, and which said premises are duly rated for the relief of the poor as by law is required, of which house and premises (a) one *Shadrach Talbot* is the owner, and the same are now in my occupation.
Given under my hand this 20th day of July, 1874.
Shadrach Benjamin Talbot.”

County Express 29/8/1874

“The annual Brewster Sessions was held at COOKSEY’S HOTEL yesterday morning.....
Shadrach Benjamin Talbot, a provision dealer, High Street, Old Hill, applied for a six days license to sell beer by retail off [sic] the premises which was granted.”

County Express 7/10/1876

“David Williams was charged with being disorderly and refusing to quit a licensed house kept by *Benjamin Talbot*. Complainant said defendant came into his house drunk and refused to quit on being requested so to do. He did not wish to press the case as the defendant’s wife said defendant had received injury to the head and was unable to control himself when under the influence of drink.

Mr. Hingley: I am afraid there are too many of those cases, but if people would drink more water and less ale their heads would be stronger.

Defendant: I had been at work in the wet, and I had a drop to keep the wet out.

Mr. Hingley: And that made it too wet. (Laughter.) I must fine you 1s and costs.”

County Express 1/12/1877

“On Monday last the members of the Old Hill Cricket Club held their annual dinner at the VINE INN. The dinner, which was given by the host (Mr. *Benjamin Talbot*) was served up in excellent style. After the withdrawal of the cloth Mr. W. Jones was voted to the chair, and Mr. Joseph Weston to the vice-chair. The Secretary, Mr. S. Smith, read the report of the past season, and this showed that 17 matches had been arranged, of which 10 had been won, 3 lost, 1 drawn, and 3 not played. There remained in the Treasurer’s hands a balance of £1 4s 6d to be carried to next year’s account. The officers for the next year having been elected, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman, Vice-chairman, Secretary, and retiring officers having been given, the remainder of the evening was spent convivially.”

County Express 23/11/1878

“On Monday evening, November 11th, the members of the Beaconsfield Cricket Club held their annual dinner at Mr. *Benjamin Talbot*’s, VINE INN. The repast, which was served up in Mr. *Talbot*’s well-known style, gave satisfaction to all present. After the withdrawal of the cloth Mr. W. Jones was voted to the chair, and Mr. William Lewis to the vice-chair. The secretary, Mr. Wesson, read the report for the past year. This showed the club to be in a good condition, and with a fair balance in treasurer’s hands. Thirteen matches had been played during the season; out of these four had been won, two drawn in favour of the Club, and seven lost. During the year the members had increased 15. Votes of thanks were passed to the retiring officers, and new ones were elected. During the evening several toasts were duly honoured, including ‘The Queen and Royal Family’ and ‘Success to the Beaconsfield Cricket Club,’ and songs, recitations, &c were given by the members.”

Dudley Herald 15/11/1879

“Noah Allport was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of *S. B. Talbot*, landlord of the VINE INN, High Street, Old Hill, on the 3rd inst. PC Johnson said he visited the VINE INN and saw the defendant there drunk. Fined 1s and costs, or in default, 14 days.”

Dudley Herald 26/6/1880

“The Local Colliers and the Birmingham Agreement.....

On Thursday, another numerously-attended meeting was held at the VINE INN, Old Hill, when a working man was appointed chairman. After a few remarks by the Chairman, he called upon Mr. Southall to address the meeting.

Mr. Southall gave an account of the conference held at Great Bridge, on May 3rd, of which he was the chairman, and remarked that a resolution was arrived at to terminate the Birmingham agreement by 38 votes to 10, but on the 20th May the Council met and refused to comply with the resolution of the conference. He advised the men to continue to agitate until notice be given to terminate the Birmingham agreement, after which the following resolution was unanimously carried: ‘That it is the opinion of this meeting that we condemn the action of the Council in not carrying out the resolution of the conference, and that we ask the miners of other districts to co-operate with us in carrying out the same object.’

The Chairman called upon Mr. W. Breakwell to address the meeting.

Mr. Breakwell pointed out the necessity of better organisation to assist the miners of other districts to get the Employers’ Liability Bill passed in its present form.

After which the following resolutions were passed: ‘That no compensation bill would be satisfactory to the miners that did away with the principle of common employment.’ ‘That all the miners subscribe at the pits to form a fund to carry on the agitation, and are kindly requested to forward all moneys collected to the WHITE HORSE INN, Quarry Bank.’”

Stourbridge Observer 11/2/1881

“A meeting of miners in the Old Hill district was held on Thursday evening, at the VINE INN, there.

Mr. W. Breakwell (miners’ agent) addressed those present, and afterwards a resolution was passed disapproving of the sliding scale in its present form, and resolving to agitate with different parts of the district to get it altered.

Another resolution expressed approval of a general miners’ association being formed for South Staffordshire, East Worcestershire, North Staffordshire, Salop, and Cannock Chase; and a third resolution set forth that there was a necessity for additional mines inspectors, to be appointed out of the ranks of the working men.”

Dudley and District News 12/3/1881

“On Tuesday night, at ROYAL EXCHANGE, Netherton, a capital meeting of miners was held, Mr. Breakwell occupying the chair. A deputation from South Yorkshire attended to solicit aid for those on strike in that district. The Chairman briefly introduced the deputation, and called upon Mr. George Cragg, Chairman of the South Yorkshire Miners’ Association, who gave an interesting account of the condition of his association, and entered fully into the merits of the dispute at present prevailing.

Mr. John Bowen added a few remarks bearing upon the dispute.

Mr. Fletcher, another member of the deputation, delivered a powerful address upon the absolute necessity for, and the benefits arising from organization; he clearly demonstrated the evils which were growing among the men of various districts from the want of proper union, and made an urgent appeal on behalf of their fellow-craftsmen in South Yorkshire.

Mr. Bowen supported the appeal, and the following resolution was unanimously passed ‘That a contribution be raised at the various pits throughout this district on behalf of the men now on strike in the district of South Yorkshire; such subscriptions be forwarded to the committee every Saturday evening, at the house of Mr. William Foley, SWAN INN, Old Hill.’

A similar meeting was held at the house of *Benjamin Talbot*, VINE INN, Old Hill, last night, when a similar resolution was passed.”

1881 Census

98, Garratts Lane

[1] *Shadrach Talbot* (34), innkeeper, born Rowley;

[2] *Emily Talbot* (34), wife, born Netherton;

[3] Edith Talbot (10), daughter, scholar, born Rowley;

[4] Elizabeth Talbot (8), daughter, scholar, born Rowley:

Dudley and District News 10/9/1881

“At a meeting of miners, held on Wednesday evening, at the VINE INN, Old Hill, it was resolved, after an address from Mr. Breakwell, to solicit the miners of other districts to co-operate with them with the view of calling a conference for the purpose of getting those points in the sliding scale changed which do not give the miners a fair share in the rise of coal; and also to ask the masters for an advance of wages at once. The meeting, at the same time, determined to support and assist a case about to be tried in the Oldbury County Court, contending that a disabled miner is entitled to coal.”

Dudley and District News 22/10/1881

“Noah Allport, miner, Elbow Street, Old Hill, was charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the licensed premises of *Shadrach Benjamin Talbot*, Garratts Lane, on the previous Saturday night.

Mr. *Talbot* stated that prisoner came into his house drunk about half-past ten, and he ordered him out.

Prisoner: Tell the truth now, *Benjamin*.

Witness: I refused to supply him with anything. I have been continually pestered with him of late. He always persists in coming to my house when he gets drunk. He actually gets his drink at other places and comes to my house to drink it when I won't supply him.

Prisoner: Didn't I come to you house to pay my club when you set on to me.

The magistrates said prisoner was a very troublesome fellow, having been about 40 times previously convicted. This time he would be fined 40s and costs, or one month's hard labour.”

County Advertiser 18/3/1882

“A well-attended meeting of miners was held at the VINE INN, Old Hill, on Thursday evening, when a resolution was passed endorsing the notice which had been issued to the local miners, requesting them to give, on the 18th inst, fourteen days' notice to their employers for an advance in their wages of 6d and 3d per day respectively for thick and thin coal miners, in accordance with the resolution arrived at by the representative conference held on the 6th inst.”

Dudley and District News 13/1/1883

“Colliers' Strike at Old Hill.

On Thursday night a mass meeting of miners in the Old Hill district was held at the VINE INN, Garratts Lane, for the purpose of deciding what action should be taken in the above dispute. A working collier was called upon to preside, and the proceedings commenced with the assemblage, with uncovered heads, singing with great gusto, the 'Old '64 strike melody,' commencing Britannia's sons, though slaves you be,

God, your Creator, made you free;

He life to all and being gave,

But never, never, made a slave.

The Chairman stated that on Wednesday their employer told them that they might all go to work whenever they liked, and he would bear no malice against any of them, for 'he was not a man of that sort.' That morning, however, when they went to work, only six pikemen, five oddmen, and three bondsmen were allowed to work, and the others told to go home till they were sent for. Mr. Breakwell (delegate) spoke in indignant terms of the conduct of Mr. Collis, who, he said, had time after time tried to infringe the eight hours' system, thus occasioning the present dispute.

Another collier remarked that Mr. Collis agreed to concede their demands, and had stated plainly that all the men would have a share of what work there was; but this promise he had broken. Mr. Collis had set on a lot of blacklegs, and would soon dismiss the few men he had taken back as well as their comrades.

Mr. Breakwell said that until the men were legally discharged their employer was bound to employ them or pay them if there was no work. What sort of men was the pit filled with? – A voice: 'They be farm labourers.' – Another, 'They come from Rooshian Row.'

A resolution was passed by the 'outsiders' to support the Granville men, who in their turn agreed to turn out on strike again.”

Dudley and District News 2/6/1883 - Letter

“To the Editor of the *Dudley and District News*.

Sir. The object of writing this letter is to complain of the action of a great number of the Dudley miners. You know, sir, there has been considerable expense in connection with the arbitration case. Now, as all participate in the benefit, we at Netherton and Old Hill consider all ought to bear their share of the expense. And as a considerable sum of money will be required to do so, we hope and trust all will take the hint, and subscribe their pence, and forward them to Mr. *B. Talbot*, the VINE INN, Old Hill. All know, or should know, that a Wages' Board has to be formed at the expiration of the Birmingham agreement. We hope this hint will be enough, and that those we complain of will look after their own interest, and send what they can to the above address. Hoping you will give this an insertion in your next issue.

I remain, yours truly, Will-O-The Wisp. Netherton, May 29th, 1883.”

Birmingham Mail 14/1/1884

“Today a meeting of the miners who are on strike in the Old Hill district against the introduction of new rules was held at the VINE INN, Old Hill, Mr. Henry Southall presiding. Mr. B. Winwood said he had heard nothing about a settlement being made. He denied a statement which had been made by Messrs. Swindell and Colliss to the effect that the men employed at the Rowley Station Colliery and the Sandwell Colliery were working under the same rules as Messrs. Swindell and Colliss wish to enforce. He pointed out that the men employed at the above-mentioned collieries paid no field-pay. He observed that he was pleased to see that the subscriptions had come in well for the first week, and he believed if they contributed to the men and helped them in their fight they would be victorious. The Chairman addressed the men on the question of the Wages Board, and explained why their representatives withdrew from it. At the close of the meeting the following resolutions were unanimously passed: ‘That we play on until the old rules are reinstated, and that we do not contribute to the Wages Board’.”

County Advertiser 10/5/1884

“In connection with the British Mutual Loan and Investment Society, a supper was served up at the VINE INN, Garratts Lane, on Tuesday evening, Mr. Philemon Baker in the chair. Mr. R. Turner, secretary, announced that the society now numbered eighty-two members.”

Dudley and District News 20/9/1884

“A meeting of heathen-coal miners employed at the Pig and Whistle Colliery was held at the VINE INN, Old Hill, on Monday, for the purpose of considering alterations recently introduced, which it is alleged have had the effect of reducing the men’s wages. Mr. B. Winwood, agent, addressed the meeting, and pointed out that the pit had been at work during the strike at the old rate of wages, and now the masters wanted to make an alteration in the wages. It was unanimously resolved to strike against the reduction, or any other alterations.”

County Advertiser 4/7/1885

“At the Stourbridge Police Court yesterday, the following persons were fined in the sums after their names for drunkenness.....
Benjamin Talbot, publican, Old Hill, 2s 6d and costs.”

County Express 19/12/1885

“Forestry. On Tuesday evening the members of Court Benjamin (Dudley and Cradley Heath District A.O.F.) were entertained to a repast by their host, Mr. *Benjamin Talbot*, VINE INN, Old Hill. The chair was occupied by PDCR Bro. Isaac Cashmore; the vice-chair by Bro. Sadler, PCR, of Court Robin Hood’s Cave.

After the usual loyal and patriotic toasts of ‘Our Noble Order,’ and ‘Court Benjamin,’ were proposed by Bro. Benj. Palmer, and responded to by the Chairman, who at some length reviewed the history and progress of Forestry, showing many of its social advantages; and gave some excellent advice to the members present.

The Secretary (Bro. E. Lewis) wished the court every success.

The ‘Health of the Host and Hostess’ was next given with musical honours. The Host, in reply, said it gave him exceeding pleasure to entertain them; and in return he hoped that every member would do his utmost to make the society what he sincerely wished it to be – one of the best in the district. They might rest assured he would do all he possibly could to give them encouragement.

Songs, recitations, etc, followed, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.”

County Express 11/9/1886 - Notice

“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 or Division of Rowley Regis, in the said County, and to all whom it may concern.

I, *Shadrach Benjamin Talbot*, Beerhouse Keeper, the holder of a Six Days’ License, now residing at Garratts Lane, Old Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, Do Hereby Give Notice that it is my intention to apply, at the Adjourned General Annual Licensing Meeting, for the Division of Rowley Regis, to be holden at the Public Office, at Old Hill, in the said County, on the 29th day of September next ensuing, for a Seven Days’ License to hold an Excise License to Sell Beer and Cider by Retail, to be consumed on and off the Premises, situate at Garratts Lane, Old Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis aforesaid, known as the VINE, in pursuance of the Act 11 Geo.IV and Will.IV cap.64, and the Acts amending the same, of which said premises one Elizabeth Talbot is the owner, and the same are of the annual value by law required, and are now in my own occupation.

Given under my hand this 31st day of August, 1886.

Shadrach Benjamin Talbot.”

County Advertiser 2/10/1886

“Adjourned Licensing Day.....

Mr. Waldron applied for a seven days’ license for *Shadrach Benjamin Talbot*, landlord of the VINE INN, Blackheath. Mr. Waldron said that the facts in this case were similar to those in the last case [HANDEL HOTEL], with the addition that there had been five new streets made, and ninety-six new houses erected near to the applicant’s house. He had kept the house sixteen years, and bore an excellent character.

The applicant having given evidence, Mr. Bassano said he should be glad when the law was passed that no public houses should be opened on Sundays, but they would grant the license, though very unwillingly.”

County Express 8/6/1889

“On Saturday morning Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an enquiry on the body of David Cartwright (48), miner, Bank Street, Old Hill, at the VINE INN, Old Hill, who met with an accident whilst employed in Messrs. Pearson’s colliery, on the 28th ult. Mr. W. H. Pickering, assistant inspector, was present.

David Cartwright said that the deceased was his father, and worked at Messrs. Pearson’s Colliery as an overman. On Tuesday morning, the 28th, he was down the pit with his father at the time of the accident. He was in the back of the mine. Witness was getting up a piece of stone, and deceased was telling him how to do it. A piece of coal about 1cwt fell on the back of deceased’s neck, and knocked him down. It was deceased’s place to examine the pit, but witness did not see him do it. It was in a gate road, which was about six feet high. There were a few bars and trees set about the road. The fall of coal did not knock any of the trees out. There was a slip behind the coal, but it was not visible before the coal fell. There was no bump.

In answer to Mr. Pickering witness said that his father sent him to work there. If any timber had been required there were plenty to be had. Continuing, witness said his father was taken to the bottom of the pit on a stretcher. He was attended by Dr. Standish, and died on the following day.

Daniel Skidmore, Heath, Stourbridge, underground manager at the pit, said he was close to the deceased when the accident occurred, and was speaking to him about the working of the colliery. Witness heard something and saw the coal sliding off. He shouted to deceased, ‘Jump David.’ Deceased then jumped into witness’s arms, and said. ‘My neck is broke.’ Deceased could not walk, and had to be taken on a stretcher. He attributed the cause of the fall to a slip, which could be seen after the fall. Witness did not think he was hurt much at the time, and deceased spoke to him on several occasions. He (witness) produced a book which had the entry made by deceased that he had examined the colliery at half-past six on the same morning, and reported that he found the sides and roof all safe. There was no timber close to where the accident took place, because it was not large enough, and was being made larger to be timbered.

Mr. Pickering said he examined the pit on the 30th, and found that the accident happened in an air heading, which was being made into a gate road. There was a distinct slip behind it which would cause the accident. There was no infringement of the Mines Regulation Act.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

County Express 14/9/1889

“At the Rowley Police Court, on Wednesday, Benjamin Price, chain-master, Cradley Heath, was charged with furiously driving a horse and trap in High Street, Cradley Heath, on Sunday, the 1st inst.

Samuel Woodward stated that on the 1st September, at about 10.5, he was standing near the Cross, in company with a party of other men, suddenly he saw a horse and trap coming towards them at a furious pace – he should think about twelve miles an hour. He moved to get out of the way, when, before he knew where he was, the trap dashed on the pavement and passed over his body. He knew no more until he found himself at home some time after this, and had done no work since then.

A man named James Smart stated that he was by the Cross on the night named and saw all that took place. He was standing talking with Woodward and several others in the gutter, when a trap came dashing towards them at from ten to twelve miles an hour. They moved to avoid it, but it suddenly dashed to the pathway and knocked Woodward over.

Evidence was also given by a man named Mansell and others to the effect that the trap was being furiously driven.

Mr. Holberton (Messrs. Homfray and Holberton) defended, and called upon a man named *Talbot*, landlord of the VINE INN, High Street, who said that defendant was in his house on the night in question with another man, and after staying there a short time, left at about five minutes to ten o’clock. He saw them drive away in their trap, and were then going at about five miles an hour. The horse was only a small one, and not capable, he thought, of doing more than five or six miles an hour.

James Tromans said he was driving with defendant on the Sunday night, and also went to the VINE INN with him, but they both left that house about ten minutes to ten. He got home before ten o’clock. After leaving the VINE INN they passed down by the Cross, but were only driving at the rate of about five miles and hour. He also denied that they drove over anyone.

The Bench were satisfied that defendant did drive furiously, and they fined him 20s and costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 31/10/1889

“Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the VINE INN, Old Hill, yesterday, concerning the death of William Smith, aged four years and ten months, whose parents reside at Dudley Street, Old Hill, who was killed on the 28th inst by being caught in the spokes of a wheel of a wagon whilst swinging behind it in the Hales Owen Road. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

County Express 8/11/1890

“*Shadrach Benjamin Talbot*, landlord of the VINE INN, Garratts Lane, Old Hill, was charged with permitting drunkenness on his licensed premises on the 25th ult. Mr. Waldron defended.

The Bench considered they could not convict, and dismissed the case.”

County Express 17/1/1891 - Advert

“Notice Is Hereby Given that the Old Hill Industrial Mutual Loan and Investment Society, Register No.2280, held at the VINE INN, Old Hill, in the County of Stafford, is Dissolved by Instrument, registered at this office, the 13th day of January, 1891, unless within three months from the date of the Gazette in which this advertisement appears, proceedings be commenced by a member or other person interested in or having any Claim on the funds of the Society to set aside such dissolution, and the same be set aside accordingly.

G. M. Ludlow, Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.

28, Abingdon Street, Westminster, the 13th day of January, 1891.”

1891 Census

98, Garratts Lane

- [1] *Shadrach B. Talbot* (44), beerseller, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Emily Talbot* (43), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Shadrach Talbot* (22), son, boot and shoe maker, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Edith Talbot* (20), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Laura S. Talbot* (9), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

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 have been convicted during the year....

Shadrach B. Talbot, VINE, Old Hill, permitting drunkenness March 9th, 1892, fined £5 and costs.....

The renewal to *Shadrach Benjamin Talbot* was also granted, the Bench telling him to be careful in future.”

Birmingham Daily Post 12/1/1894

“At the Stourbridge County Court, yesterday, His Honour Sir Richard Harington, Bart, had before him a case in which *Shadrach Benjamin Talbot*, innkeeper and butcher, Old Hill, and his wife *Emily Talbot* sued James Bridge, horse-breaker, Hales Owen, for £50 damages for injuries alleged to be due to defendant’s negligence. There was also a separate action by *Shadrach B. Talbot* alone to recover £25 damages. Mr. R. H. Amphlett, instructed by Mr. Cooksey, appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. Vachell, instructed by Mr. Wright for defendant.

The plaintiff’s case was that while walking his horse and trap down Haden Hill, on August Bank Holiday, a man named Jones, who was in another vehicle, overtook and passed him. Afterwards he passed Jones, and soon after defendant, who it was alleged was driving a colt negligently in a horse-breaker’s vehicle, allowed the colt to run into plaintiffs’ trap, which was overturned. Plaintiff and his wife were both injured, Mrs. *Talbot* having her shoulder dislocated and receiving other hurts.

The defence, as far as it was gone into, was that the plaintiff and Jones were racing, that plaintiff’s horse was frightened thereby, and that this led to the accident.

After lasting several hours, the case was adjourned till next court.”

County Advertiser 12/1/1895

“The quarterly meeting of the Dudley and Cradley Heath District of the Ancient Order of Foresters’ Friendly Society, was held on Monday last, at the VINE INN, Old Hill, when a statement of the accounts was submitted, showing that there had been £195 paid for funeral allowance of sixteen members and seven members’ wives who had died during the past quarter, and also the sum of £311 13s paid for the reduced sickness allowance for members who had been on their Court funds for twelve months previously. The total worth of the District Funds is now £2,756 3s 5d. After the usual routine business an appeal was made on behalf of the members who were thrown out of employment by the stoppage of the Corngreaves Iron Works, and thereby unable to pay their contributions, when a statement was submitted by Bro. John Rock, of Cradley Heath, the valuer to the district, showing that there were 175 members affected in various courts, and it was unanimously resolved that a donation of £50 should be granted to assist them to retain their membership.”

County Express 21/8/1897

“The first of what is intended to be an annual demonstration of the friendly societies in the Old Hill district, was held on Sunday, the object in view being to help the funds of the Dudley Guest Hospital, Dudley Dispensary, and Birmingham Eye Hospital the day was bright and promising, and there were large numbers of people all along the route.

At one o’clock the 1st Worcestershire Volunteer Band started from the CROSS INN, proceeded across Halesowen Road, calling at Trinity Schools and GEORGE HOTEL; then across Lawrence Lane into Reddal Hill Road, calling at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, and proceeding to the Cross, where the final procession was formed. Meanwhile the Old Hill Brass and Red Band started from the WHITE LION INN, proceeded by way of Powke Lane and Garratts Lane to Wrights Lane (as far as the PRINCE OF WALES INN), and returned to Garratts Lane, calling for lodges at the BRITISH OAK INN, FOX HUNT INN, Tabernacle, DUKE WILLIAM INN, VINE INN, to the Cross. On the arrival of this contingent a huge line was formed, and very pretty it looked. Members of the various lodges wore their regalia, and these being interspersed with the more elaborate honorary members’ scarves, gave the line a very bright appearance.....”

County Advertiser 27/8/1898

“On Sunday afternoon the annual hospital parade and open-air service, arranged by the various friendly societies in Old Hill and the surrounding district took place. Processions were formed at different points of members of the Foresters, the Free Gardeners, and provident societies, numbering altogether about 1,000, and these, accompanied by the Blackheath, Halesowen Temperance, and Old Hill Bands, paraded the principal streets of the locality, after which they marched to a field in Garratts Lane, lent for the occasion by Mr. A. Sidaway, where a special service was held. Addresses were delivered by the Revs. E. Brewer, MA (vicar of Old Hill), and W. B. Cheshire (Primitive Methodist). A collection was made along the route and at the service in aid of the Guest Hospital, Dudley Dispensary, and Birmingham Eye Hospital, this realising £25 14s 5³/₄d.

The following was the order of procession issued by the committee. The Blackheath Village Band will start from the WHITE LION INN, Powke Lane, at 1-45 prompt, proceed down Garratts Lane, calling for societies at the BRITISH OAK INN, Taberna-

cle, DUKE WILLIAM INN, and VINE INN, turning across Queen Street on to the old football ground (by kind permission of Mr. W. H. Jarvis). The Halesowen Temperance Band will start from the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Wrights Lane, at 1-45 prompt, proceed round Cherry Orchard Street, into Wrights Lane, turning down Wagon Street, calling at the OLD ENGINE INN, proceeding down Elbow Street and King Street, across Halesowen Road, to the old football ground. The Old Hill Band will start from the CROSS INN at 1-45 prompt, calling for societies at Trinity Schools and GEORGE HOTEL, proceed across Lawrence Lane, turning up New Street, Ridding Street, Pear Tree Street, Pear Tree Lane, thence into Reddal Hill Road, calling at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, and proceeding to the old football ground. A grand procession will be formed as follows.....”

1901 Census

98, Garratts Lane

[1] *Shadrack B. Talbot* (55), publican, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Emily Talbot* (55), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Shadrack Talbot (32), son, butcher, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Beatrice Cavalier (19), domestic servant, born Dudley:

Staffordshire Advertiser 19/6/1909

“The principal meeting of the Staffordshire County Compensation Authority, adjourned from the 11th inst.

The decision of the local licensing magistrates to refuse the renewal of the FOX HUNT alehouse, Old Hill, tenant, Arthur E. Jew, was opposed.

Police Inspector John R. Needham admitted that there was another beerhouse, called the VINE, only 250 yards away from the FOX HUNT, which was also a butcher’s shop. The beerpulls were all among the meat. (Laughter.)

Mr. Milward: Then it is a question of whether you have a mutton-chop or a glass of beer? – Witness: Yes.

Witness also admitted that the FOX HUNT did a good trade. Mr. Waldron made a formal application for the renewal of the licence, and Mr. Milward called Mr. A. W. Dando, auctioneer and valuer, who said that there were other beerhouses – the VINE and the BEEHIVE – in the locality, which were much inferior to the FOX HUNT.”

County Express 25/2/1911 - Advert

“Preliminary. Old Hill, Staffs.

Alfred Hill has been instructed by the Trustees of the late Mr. *Shadrach Benjamin Talbot*, to Sell by Public Auction, on the Premises, on Monday, March 13th, 1911.

All that Well-known, Capitally-built, Commodious, Freehold Beerhouse, known as the VINE INN, High Street, Old Hill.

Also Plot of Excellent Building Land, situate at Garratts Lane, Old Hill.

One House, High Street, Old Hill.

One House, Wagon Street, Old Hill.

One House, Wellington Street, Old Hill.

Full particulars in due course.

Vendor’s Solicitors: Messrs. Thomas Cooksey and Co., Old Hill.”

County Express 11/3/1911- Advert

“On Monday Next. Old Hill, Staffs. To Brewers, Maltsters, The Trade, Investors and Others.

Alfred Hill, has been instructed by the Trustees of the late Mr. *Shadrach Benjamin Talbot*, and others, to Sell By Public Auction, at the house of Mrs. *Talbot*, the VINE INN, High Street, Old Hill, on Monday, March 13th, 1911, at 7.30 in the Evening precisely, subject to Conditions of Sale to be then read.

Lot 1. All that Highly Valuable, well-known, Commodious, Freehold Beerhouse, known as the VINE INN, situate at the corner of High Street and Queen Street, Old Hill, with a frontage of 31ft to High Street and a frontage of 78ft to Queen Street, and now occupied by Mrs. *Talbot*. The business accommodation comprises Entrance Hall with Vestibule; excellent Bar, 28ft by 12ft; large Club room, 29ft 6in by 14ft; Three good Cellars. Capital Retail Butcher’s Shop, Registered Slaughter House, 3-Stall Stable, with Loft over same; Coachhouse, Cartway into Paved Yard with Rolling-way to Cellars. The Private Accommodation comprises Two large Bed Rooms, Landing, Sitting Room, Living Kitchen, with Glass Top, Private Cellar-way, Scullery, and usual outbuildings. Special attention to the Trade and others are called to this excellent House (which is being Sold solely on account of death), its situation for business being one of the best in Old Hill, is entirely Free, in capital condition, and has been in the occupation of the late Mr. *Talbot* upwards of 42 years. Possession on completion.”

1911 Census

22, High Street

[1] *Emily Talbot* (63), widow, public business, born Rowley Regis;

[2] May Barnsley (15), general servant, born Darby End:

Birmingham Mail 20/4/1911

“Midland Wills.....

Mr. *Shadrach Benjamin Talbot*, of High Street, Old Hill, who died on October 9, left estate valued by the widow (Mrs. *Emily Talbot*), his son (Mr. *Shadrach Talbot*), both of High Street, and his daughters (Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Darby, of Blackheath, and Mrs. Laura Sophia Albut, of Spinners End, Cradley Heath), at £8,799.”

County Express 13/5/1911 - Advert

“On Monday Next. VINE INN, High Street, Old Hill.

To Furniture Buyers, Butchers, Brokers and Others.

Alfred Hill has been instructed by the Trustees of the late Mr. *Shadrach Benjamin Talbot*, to Sell by Public Auction, on the Premises as above, on Monday, the 15th day of May, 1911, the whole of the Excellent Household Furniture, Butcher’s Shop Fixtures, Horse, Vehicles, and Effects, comprising capital Mahogany Bureau Bookcase, Mahogany Leather-covered Sofa, Oak Corner Cupboard, Oak Folding Table, superior large Mahogany Chests of Drawers, Pairs of excellent Mahogany Dressing Tables, with plate-glass Mirrors, Jewel and other Drawers, Mahogany Marble-top Washstands, 8-Day Wall Clocks, Mahogany, Birch and Brass-rail Bedsteads, Prime Feather Beds, Wool Overlays, Straw Mattresses, Mahogany Swing Glasses, Windsor and other Chairs, large Mirror, Pictures, 2 expensive Edison Phonographs and Records, capital Over-strung Iron Frame Pianoforte (by Burling and Burling, London), Steel Fenders, Two Gas Stoves, Iron Stove and Piping, Linoleums, quantity of Cutlery and Crockeryware, Kitchen Dresser, etc;

Contents of Butcher’s Shop, comprising Counter, Window Board, Shelving with three large Drawers, Writing Desk, Butcher’s Scales and Weights, 4-Pull Beer Machine, Iron Hooks and Rods, large Meat Tins, etc;

Three Sets of Silver and Brass-mounted Harness, well-known Brown Cob (14-2, 6 years old), quiet, good worker, and believed to be sound; Two capital Rubber-tyred Dog Carts, suit cob 14-2 to 15 hands, one by Ridge’s, Wolverhampton; Excellent Four-wheel Rubber-tyred Dog Cart, suit cob 15 hands, by Butcher’s, Birmingham; Sound Business Trap, with cover; capital Lady’s Bicycle, Two Wheelbarrows, and other miscellaneous articles.

Sale to commence at 11 o’clock prompt.

Auctioneer’s Offices: Old Hill and Halesowen.”

1939 Register

High Street – VINE INN

[1] *Harry Jones*, date of birth 16/12/1875, publican, married;

[2] *Amy P. Jones*, dob 11/6/1877, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Edna F. Jones*, dob 15/8/1910, shorthand typist, Birmingham Canal transport, single:

A Publican’s license was granted on 1st February 1950.

[1996]

Closed

Demolished

VINE

Waterfall Lane, OLD HILL

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Mark Parsons [1851]

VINE

28, Rowley Village, ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Ann Walters [1857] – **1860**);

John Joseph Walters (**1860 – 1867**);

Joseph Walters (**1867 – [1892]**)

Mrs. Phoebe Walters [1896]

John Walters [1899] – 1906);
Noah Harris (1906 – 1931):

NOTES

Brierley Hill Advertiser 21/3/1857

“*Ann Walters*, licensed victualler, VINE INN, Rowley Regis, was charged by PO Barton, with having her house open for the sale of beer before one o’clock on Sunday morning, the 8th inst. The case was proved, and she was fined 10s and costs.”

County Advertiser 14/11/1857

“*Ann Walters*, licensed victualler, of the VINE INN, Rowley Regis, appeared to answer a charge preferred against her of allowing drunkenness and other disorderly conduct in her house, on Monday night, the 2nd inst.

PS Burton, in evidence, said that, at half-past ten o’clock on the above-named night, he found about forty or fifty men and women in defendant’s house, some of whom were drunk and uttering very bad language. He then left the place, and went again to it at twenty minutes before twelve o’clock, when the same parties were in the house, and similar conduct was seen as on the first occasion. He told defendant that she had a very disorderly house, and that she had better get the parties out of it, who appeared to be the cause. After a few more observations he left the house a second time. At a quarter past twelve o’clock he again went, but no alteration was visible; there was as much disorder and drunkenness as before, and it did not subside till about two o’clock.

This was, in a rather novel manner, corroborated by another officer, who had been with the last witness during his several visits to defendant’s house on the night in question.

Mr. Burbury, solicitor, who was present for defendant cross-examined the corroborating witness at considerable length, after which he contended that there had been a supper at defendant’s house on the night – that many persons were present, simply for the purpose of enjoying themselves – that no drunkenness or disorderly conduct transpired on the occasion. The bench considered the case proved, and defendant was fined, as it was the second offence, 20s with costs.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 18/1/1860

“Wordsley Public Office, Monday, Jan. 16.

The following transfers of licences were allowed.

VINE INN, Rowley Regis, from the late *Ann Walters* to *John Joseph Walters*.”

1861 Census

Rowley Village – VINE INN

[1] *John Walters* (31), married, victualler, born Lye;

[2] *Eliza Scringe* (45), general servant, born Queens County, Ireland:

Birmingham Journal 21/9/1861

“Fatal Accidents in Pits.

We may take this opportunity of referring to another fatal accident. A miner, named Joseph Whilde, whist at work at Messrs. Harper and Moore’s, Rowley Regis, was killed by a fall of coal. Mr. Hooper will hold an inquest today on the body, at Mr. *J. Walter*’s, the VINE INN.”

Stourbridge Observer 9/4/1870

“An inquest was held on Thursday last, at the VINE INN, Rowley, before E. Hooper, Esq, Coroner, on the body of William Bailey, three years of age, who met with his death on the previous Friday.

It appears deceased was playing with some other children, when he fell into a lot of boiling hot water.

After hearing the evidence, the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Stourbridge Observer 17/12/1870

“Thomas Ross, alias Turner, was charged with assaulting *Joseph Walters*, landlord of the VINE INN, Rowley, on Sunday last.

Complainant said defendant was in his house drunk, on the day in question. He went to turn him out, when defendant struck him, made his nose bleed, and blackened his eye.

Defendant pleaded guilty, and was fined 20s; in default one month.”

1871 Census

Rowley Village – VINE INN

[1] *Joseph Walters* (37), unmarried, licensed victualler, born Lye;

[2] *Caroline Hill* (24), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

29th March 1874 - *John*, son of *Joseph* and *Phoebe Walters*, publican, Village.

18th May 1875 - *Joseph*, son of *Joseph* and *Phoebe Walters*, publican, Village.

7th July 1876 - *Joseph*, son of *Joseph* and *Phoebe Walters*, publican, victualler, Village.

7th July 1876 - *Hannah* - daughter of *Joseph* and *Phoebe Walters*, victualler, Village.

13th September 1877 - William, son of *Joseph and Phoebe Walters*, publican, Village.

1st May 1879 - Anne, daughter of *Joseph and Phoebe Walters*, victualler, Village.

23rd July 1880 - George, son of *Joseph and Phoebe Walters*, victualler, Village.

12th July 1883 - William, son of *Joseph and Phoebe Walters*, licensed victualler, Village.

County Advertiser 14/4/1877

“Benjamin Sidaway was charged by *Joseph Walters* with being disorderly and refusing to leave his premises, the VINE INN, Rowley, on the 31st ult. The case was not pressed, and the defendant was discharged on paying costs. A charge against him of drunkenness in the highway was withdrawn by Mr. Superintendent Wollaston.”

1881 Census

28, Rowley Village – VINE INN

[1] *Joseph Walters* (47), licensed victualler, born Lye;

[2] *Phoebe Walters* (39), wife, born Halesowen;

[3] *John Walters* (7), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Ann Walters (1), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[5] George Walters (9 months), son, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Sarah Houghton (17), domestic servant, born Halesowen;

[7] Zella Preece (12), nurse, born Rowley Regis:

Lancashire Evening Post 8/9/1887

“*Joseph Walters*, brewer, was, at Rowley, yesterday, fined £10 for defrauding the inland revenue of fourpence. It was shown that after the defendant had used 28lbs of sugar in a brewing he used more after fermentation had taken place, and thus defrauded the inland revenue of fourpence. The defendant denied that he added the sugar, and the solicitor who defended said the question of officers receiving rewards for getting brewers convicted would be brought before the House of Commons.”

County Express 10/9/1887

“It will be news to most people that the Inland Revenue officers are in receipt of bonuses regulated according to the number of prosecutions they bring. This important fact was elicited by Mr. Waldron during the hearing of an excise case at Rowley on Wednesday last. We have now, of course, a key to the singular and hitherto inexplicable activity displayed by these officials in proceeding against licensed victuallers for infraction of the law which it is hardly too much to say are often more supposed than real. Take the case heard this week at Rowley. On what does the case for the prosecution rest? The evidence of the analysts of Somerset House – trained and expert persons no doubt – but like even more distinguished men liable to err. There is, be it remembered, no subject about which rival chemists will differ emphatically than the results of an analysis. The skilled chemist rarely dogmatizes on the matter. At the best he can but offer an opinion. Hence the Somerset House analyst who gave evidence on Wednesday, did not positively assert anything. Here is the opening sentence of his evidence as given in our report. ‘He considered (!) that the beer contained added sugar equal to three pounds per barrel of 36 gallons.’ Now we ask, is it fair, is it right, does it appeal to an Englishman’s sense of justice that a respectable licensed victualler’s good name and reputation should be at the mercy of what a bonus-paid Inland Revenue officer merely considers his beer may consist of. For a conviction to be recorded the evidence should be absolutely clear and conclusive, especially when, as is the present case, the defendant, a licensed victualler of long and unblemished reputation, who has kept the VINE INN, Rowley, for upwards of thirty years, emphatically denied the offence with which he was charged, viz, the illicit mixing of sugar with worts and beer.

Mr. J. B. Davies, supervisor of Inland Revenue, who prosecuted, boasted that the Somerset House analysts have never been known to make a mistake. Mr. Davies must imagine that licensed victuallers and the public generally are extremely verdant if he thinks they will swallow so rash a statement. We have ourselves heard the analysis of Somerset House officials strongly taken exception to by some of the first chemists in the kingdom. In the Roper prosecution at Stourbridge the evidence given by the analysts who had the advantage of being disassociated from Somerset House differed, it will be remembered, materially from that of the Government officials. In the case heard this week, however, no independent analysis appears to have been made. But the case is remarkable for the confession elicited from one of the witnesses that Inland Revenue officers are paid bonuses to bring these paltry prosecutions – in the present instance the amount alleged to be defrauded the Revenue was what Mr. Waldron happily called the miserable sum of fourpence! A system of premium-paid prosecutions is rotten to the core. Why are the magistrates’ clerks no longer paid by fees? Simply in order that they may not have an interest in trumped up prosecutions. Yet, strange to say, in the case of excise officers this pernicious principle still survives. A double wrong is done. The Inland Revenue officers are insulted by being offered an official bribe, and one of the most important trades in the country is exposed to all the abuses inevitable to an organised system of bonus-paid prosecutions. Nothing but evidence in a court of justice would ever have convinced us of the existence of so vicious a practice stamped with the seal of Somerset House! What if our police officers were paid the same way? The injustice of so scandalous a system would then come home sharply and swiftly to the general public. To the lasting disgrace of Somerset House the admission has gone forth that the motto of the Inland Revenue Commissioners is, ‘No prosecution, no bonus.’”

1891 Census

28, Village

[1] *Joseph Walters* (57), licensed victualler, born Lye;

[2] *Phoebe Walters* (49), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] *John Walters* (17), son, carpenter’s apprentice, born Rowley Regis;

- [4] Ann Walters (12), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] George Walters (10), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] William Walters (7), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Hannah Simpson (14), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 6/1/1894 - Deaths

“*Walters*. On the 1st inst, at his residence, the VINE INN, Rowley Regis, in his 60th year. Deeply lamented by wife, children, and friends.”

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

6th March 1899 - John Reginald Charles (b. 31/1/1899), son of *John* and Elizabeth *Walters*, publican and joiner, Rowley Village.
31st January 1900 - Phoebe Davis (b. 1/1/1900), daughter of *John* and Elizabeth *Walters*, joiner and publican, Rowley Village.
16th September 1901 - Alice (b. 11/8/1901), daughter of *John* and Elizabeth *Walters*, joiner and publican, Rowley Village.

County Advertiser 4/8/1900

“On Thursday morning Mr. H. A. A. Pearson (coroner), held an inquest at the VINE INN, Rowley, concerning the death of James Norman Hutton (4), whose parents reside at Rose Cottages, Cakemore, Blackheath, and who was accidentally suffocated on Tuesday afternoon. The evidence showed that the deceased, who was on a visit to his grandmother’s house at Rowley Village, was playing with a glass marble, out of a ginger beer bottle, when he accidentally swallowed it. The marble got jammed in the windpipe, and all efforts the mother of the lad and a woman named Elizabeth Parkes to remove it were unsuccessful. Mr. Walshe, the dispenser at Dr. Beasley’s surgery, was called in, and he extracted the marble, but death had then taken place some time. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1901 Census

28, Rowley Village

- [1] *John Walters* (27), publican, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Elizabeth Walters (27), wife, born Quinton;
- [3] Joseph Walters (3), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Phoebe Doris Walters (1), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Mary Ann Law (13), domestic servant, born Blackheath:

County Advertiser 30/6/1906

“Licensing Business.

An interim authority was granted to *Noah Harris* in respect to the VINE INN, Rowley Regis, from *John Walters*.”

1911 Census

28, Village – VINE INN

- [1] *Noah Harris* (34), blacksmith, born Halesowen;
- [2] Alice Harris (35), wife, married 16 years, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Joseph Harris (15), son, apprentice fitter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Mary Jane Harris (13), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Isaac Harris (11), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Thomas Harris (6), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Noah Harris (1), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] Mary Jane Whittall (43), domestic servant, born Perry’s Lake:

The license renewal was referred to the Compensation Authority on 4th February 1931.

Dudley Herald 7/3/1931

“The licensing justices, besides renewing several licenses, heard three cases in which the police recommended that the house should be referred to the Compensation Committee for closure. In two cases – those of the VINE INN, Rowley, and the BRITANNIA INN, Springfield – they referred to the committee, and in that of the ROYAL OAK INN, Banner Street, Cradley Heath, Mr. J. T. Higgs appeared on behalf of the licensee (Mr. Joseph Bennett) and opposed the closure of the house. Inspector Davison said the application was being made by the police on the grounds of redundancy. He considered that there were enough houses of a better class to serve that locality. After further statements had been made the Chairman said the Bench felt that there was no likelihood of the Compensation Committee entertaining the case, and the license would be renewed.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 23/5/1931

“The Licensing (Consolidation) Act, 1910. Notice of Principal Meeting. County of Stafford.

Notice is Hereby Given, that the Principal Meeting to be held pursuant to the Licensing Rules, 1901, by the Compensation Authority for the above Area, will be held at the Shire Hall, Stafford, on Monday, the 27th day of July, 1931, at 11 o’clock am.

And Notice Is Hereby Also Given, that the Compensation Authority will at the Meeting be prepared to hear, with reference to the Renewal of the Licences of the several Premises specified in the subjoined list, all those Persons to whom under the Licensing

(Consolidation) Act, 1910, they are bound to give an opportunity of being heard.....

List of Licensed Premises.....

VINE INN, Rowley Village. Alehouse. Licensee, *Noah Harris*.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/7/1931

“The County of Staffordshire Compensation Authority, at their principal meeting at Stafford, yesterday, refused to renew the licenses of the following seven houses.....

VINE INN, Rowley Village.”

Compensation paid.

The house closed in 1931.

Lichfield Mercury 8/1/1932

“At Staffordshire Quarter Sessions, held at Stafford on Tuesday, the County Licensing Committee reported that the number of licences referred last year from seven divisions and boroughs was ten, seven of which the committee refused to renew, compensation being fixed as follows.....

Rowley Regis Division: VINE INN, Rowley Village, alehouse, £1,800.”

VINE AND RAILWAY

1, Chester Road, (66, Lomey Town), (Lower High Street), CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

Showells Brewery Ltd.

Ind Coope and Allsopp Ltd. (leased) (acquired on 3rd July 1935)

LICENSEES

Mrs. Sophia Amelia Cartwright [1851] – [1885]

Edward Cartwright (1885 – [1887])

Thomas Cartwright [1889]

Thomas R Roodhouse [1890] – [1891]

Beasley [1891]

Sherwood J Richards [c.1893]

L Blackband (1893 – [])

Harry Mercer [1896]

Benjamin Wilkinson []

Frederick William Frost [1898] – 1902);

James Rowlands (1902 – 1908);

Henry Frederick Machin (1908 – 1910);

John Freeman (1910 – [1912])

Daniel Westwood [1916] – 1919);

Edward Gough (1919 – 1922);

Samuel Griffiths (1922);

Herbert Thomas Dixon (1922 – 1926);

John William Hallam (1926 – 1930);

Alice Hallam (1930);

John Kingdon (1930 – 1933);

John Henry Fletcher (1933 – 1938);

Walter Frederick Meir (1938 – 1952);

William Henry Hadley (1952 – 1953);

Richard Davies (1953);

Philip William White (1953 – 1954);

George Houghton (1954 – 1955);

Cyril Smith (1955 – 1958);

Leonard Bacon (1958 – 1961);

Arthur George Lucas (1961 – 1964);

Irene Mary Harrison (1964 – 1965);

Alfred George Davis (1965 – 1966);

NOTES

Lomey Town [1896], [1904], [1924], [1932]

1, Chester Road [1940]

VINE [1853], [1861], [1862], [1865], [1869], [1871]

VINE INN AND RAILWAY HOTEL [1868]

RAILWAY [1867], [1881], [1900]

RAILWAY HOTEL [1876], [1878], [1883], [1885], [1891], [1900]

RAILWAY AND VINE HOTEL [1889], [1890], [1893], [1897]

VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL [1868], [1871], [1872], [1873], [1880s], [1890s], [1896], [1904], [1908], [1900s], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1932], [1940]

Sophia Amelia Cartwright = Sophia Ann Cartwright

1851 Census

Lomey Town

[1] *Sophia Amelia Cartwright* (37), widow, retail brewer and grocer, born Rowley;

[2] Henrietta Cartwright (18), daughter, born Rowley;

[3] Mary Cartwright (16), daughter, born Rowley;

[4] *Sophia Amelia Cartwright* (14), daughter, born Rowley;

[5] Thomas Cartwright (12), son, born Rowley;

[6] Edwin Cartwright (10), son, born Rowley;

[7] John Cartwright (8), son, born Rowley;

[8] Samuel Walter Cartwright (4), son, born Rowley:

Worcestershire Chronicle 30/11/1853 - Married

“John Cox, eldest son of Mr. John Cox, Brierley Hill, to Henrietta, eldest daughter of Mrs. *Cartwright*, VINE INN, Cradley Heath.”

1861 Census

VINE INN – Lomey Town

[1] *Sophia Cartwright* (47), widow, publican and huxter, born Rowley;

[2] Thomas Cartwright (22), son, furnaceman, born Rowley;

[3] Edwin Cartwright (20), son, brewer, born Rowley;

[4] John Cartwright (18), son, furnaceman, born Rowley;

[5] Walter Cartwright (14), son, scholar, born Rowley:

Sophia A. Cartwright was also a shopkeeper. [1864], [1865]

Stourbridge Observer 6/8/1864

“The anniversary of the Court Foresters’ Home, No.4196, of the Ancient Order of Foresters, was held on Monday last. The members to the number of 54 sat down to dinner, accompanied by their surgeon, H. F. Hodgson, Esq. An excellent dinner was provided by Hostess Mrs. *Sophia Amelia Cartwright*, of the VINE AND RAILWAY INN, Lower Town, Cradley Heath. The cloth being removed, and the business of the Court over, the remains of the evening was spent in conviviality, several songs and glees were sung in good style.....”

Stourbridge Observer 15/4/1865

“On Wednesday last, an inquest was held at the VINE AND RAILWAY INN, Lomey Town, on the body of Joseph Guest, who lived in the neighbourhood, and who was killed on Monday last in Mr. Dawes’s colliery at Withymore under circumstances explained in the evidence.

A fellow labourer named Perry deposed to being at work with the deceased at the time of the accident. What is known with colliers as a ‘bump’ took place, about 2cwt of coal falling from the roof, a portion of which fell on the deceased’s head and killed him instantaneously. This witness on being asked by Mr. Baker, the Government Inspector, if he considered the pit was in good working order, answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Baker considered that proper precautions had been taken in the pit and explained that in the best regulated these ‘bumps’ would occur.

The Coroner having summed up, the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

Three jurors, Messrs. C. Skelding, John Griffiths, and Noah Homer were fined each 10s for not being present to answer to their names.”

Stourbridge Observer 22/4/1865

“On Saturday last, an inquest was held at the house of Mrs. *Sophia Cartwright*, VINE INN, before E. Hooper, Esq, on the body of Clara Thompson, whose death resulted from a fall. The following witnesses were examined.

Mrs. Stenson deposed that on Friday the 7th inst she saw the deceased swinging with some other children, she also saw her fall off; the distance she fell was about one yard and a half. There were two others on the same end of the plank as the deceased, they all fell off upon some cast metal. The mother of the deceased went and picked her up. The deceased was not pushed off. She saw the deceased the next morning after the accident, and then she said that one of the girls pushed her off, but she afterwards contradicted this statement.

Mrs. Harris said she heard of the accident, and went to attend on the girl. She was with her the whole night after the accident. The only bruise she had was on the side of the temple. Mr. Hodgson and Mr. Morrow attended her till her death. They paid her every attention. The deceased said, while she was deranged, that a little girl pushed her off, but she afterwards said that she fell off herself.

Mrs. Thompson, the mother of the deceased, said her daughter fell upon some stone that had been brought out of the foundry. After consideration the jury found a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Stourbridge Observer 12/8/1865

“On Monday the members of Court Foresters’ Home, No.4196, met at the house of Mrs. *S. A. Cartwright*, Lomey Town, to partake of their annual dinner. The dinner consisted of beef and mutton, with the necessary accompaniments, and was served in the usual good style of the worthy landlord.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 4/9/1865

“A dinner was held at Mrs. *Cartwright*’s, VINE AND RAILWAY INN, Cradley, on Tuesday last, on the occasion of Mr. Joseph Bailey, late station master, retiring from the service of the Great Western Railway Company.”

Stourbridge Observer 11/8/1866

“The anniversary of Court Foresters’ Home (No.4196), of the Ancient Order of Foresters, was celebrated on Monday last, August 6th, at hostess’s *S. A. Cartwright*’s, of the VINE AND RAILWAY INN, Lomey Town. The court room was neatly decorated, and the dinner was served in the hostess’s usual excellent style.....”

Stourbridge Observer 13/7/1867

“On Saturday last, the 6th inst, the officers and members of Court Foresters’ Home, No.4196, assembled at their Court House, the VINE AND RAILWAY INN, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, for the purpose of presenting a testimonial (consisting of a splendid emblematical silver medal, with a bow and crossed arrows and a horn suspended therefrom) purchased by their medical officer, H. F. Hodgson, Esq, and the members of the Court; also a beautiful PCR’s ribbon and badge purchased by the worthy hostess, Mrs. *S. A. Cartwright*, to PCR Brother Joseph Homer, as a memento of their esteem for his untiring zeal, and upright and honourable behaviour whilst occupying the chair for three and a half years.....”

County Advertiser 31/8/1867

“Rowley. The Annual Licensing Meeting.....

The license of *Sophia Cartwright*, of the VINE AND RAILWAY INN, Cradley Heath, was transferred from an old house to a new one.”

Stourbridge Observer 28/9/1867

“A supper took place at the house of Mrs. *Cartwright*, the RAILWAY INN, on Monday last. This supper was in connection with Mr. Smart’s raffle at Christmas last, had been long looked for.....”

Stourbridge Observer 4/1/1868

“On the morning of the 22nd ult, the body of a man was discovered lying in the Stour, near to Messrs. Evers’s works. His heels were on the bank, and the rest of his body was submerged.

The police were instantly communicated with, and the body removed to the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, when upon examination it proved to be a man named John Williams, of Birmingham Street, Stourbridge, aged 63, who has for some years carried baskets &c for sale.

An inquest was held on the 24th ultimo, at the above Hotel, before Mr. Hooper, Coroner, and from the evidence adduced it appears the deceased was last seen alive about half past eight on the previous Saturday evening, in a state of intoxication. He must have wandered from the Railway Station into the private road leading to the above works, and, missing his way, rolled down the embankment into the river. In the lining of his coat 8s were found, carefully tied up, and in his pocket 11½d were found.

The jury after hearing the above evidence, returned a verdict of Found Drowned.”

Stourbridge Observer 28/3/1868

“Mrs. *Sophia Cartwright* having entered the large and commodious Hotel near the railway station, gave a supper on Monday evening to a large number of friends Full justice was done to an excellent spread, served with all the usual success of the hostess. Afterwards Mr. Alfred Taylor was voted to the chair, and J. Leonard to the vice chair. The worthy chairman opened the meeting by singing one of his characteristic songs in his own characteristic style, and afterwards conducted the meeting in the most jolly manner possible, making everybody, himself included, as happy as possible.....”

Stourbridge Observer 11/7/1868

“On Monday last a number of friends sat down to an excellent supper at the VINE INN AND RAILWAY HOTEL, under the presidency of Mr. Alfred Taylor.

After the cloth had been withdrawn, which it is needless to say was laid in the usual sumptuous style of Mrs. *Cartwright*, various toasts were proposed, and amongst them ‘Success to the Local Government Act,’ which was drunk with great satisfaction.”

Stourbridge Observer 29/8/1868

“The anniversary of Court Foresters’ Home, No.4196, of the Ancient Order of Foresters, having been deferred from August 3rd, to enable the members to attend at the High Court demonstration at Wolverhampton, was held on Monday, August 17th, at their Court House, the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, when the members sat down to a good substantial dinner provided by the worthy hostess in her usual style.....”

Stourbridge Observer 11/12/1869

“An accident of an alarming character occurred on the railway on Wednesday last, resulting in the death of the stoker, Charles Tasker, and injury to several others. The accident occurred at Cradley Forge, about 200 yards from the Cradley Station, on the part of the line leading to Stourbridge. The railway belongs to the Great Western Company, and is called the Stourbridge Extension line.

It appears that the express train left Birmingham at 4.45, and was due at Stourbridge at 5.13, only stopping once at Smethwick Junction, at which place it duly arrived at 4.54. On the train arriving at Cradley the signals were all right for the line being clear, but, on arriving at Cradley Forge, opposite Messrs. Swindell’s ironworks, a goods train was on the line and a fearful collision took place, the engine of the express train being thrown off the line down an embankment, and much damaged, and six carriages being literally smashed, four of them being locked in with each other. The engine of the goods train was also injured, and some of the trucks upset by the collision, completely blocking up the line, the traffic being stopped for some time. A number of railway officials were at once communicated with, and a large staff of platelayers from Dudley, Stourbridge, and the district, were soon on the spot, under the direction of Mr. J. Wood, Mr. Andrews, Mr. Masters, Mr. Ledbrook (of Birmingham, District Inspector), Mr. J. Phillips (Station Master, Stourbridge), Mr. Wilkinson (Goods Station Master, Cradley), Mr. Lock (Inspector), Mr. Biggs (Station Master, Cradley), and others; the whole being under the direction of Mr. Ledbrook. All worked indefatigably, and the whole of the debris was cleared off the line by 9.40. The one line of rails was not injured, but the other was torn up. Some of the trains were sent via Dudley. The train leaving Birmingham at 11.10 arrived at Cradley, and went to Stourbridge on the other line of rails without any delay.

From what we can learn it appears that the goods train laden with coal and other things, came out of a siding called the Hayes Siding, and had got on to the main line, and was in the act of shunting when the express, which was going at a rate of thirty miles an hour, ran into it. Fortunately, the passengers were few in number or the loss of life would have been fearful. Of course, full enquiry will be made as to the cause of the accident, it being very apparent that some one is to blame.

The passengers not injured got out of the carriages as soon as possible, and rendered all the assistance they could; some were taken to Cradley. Those seriously injured were conveyed to Mrs. *Cartwright*’s, the VINE INN, and Dr. Hodgson and Dr. Morrow were in immediate attendance, and tendered every assistance in their power. The following are the persons injured.

Charles Tasker, stoker of Wolverhampton, killed; leaves a wife and family. His body was cut in two, and the right leg was not found for more than half an hour. His body now lies at Mrs. *Cartwright*’s, awaiting a Coroner’s inquest.

Henry Richardson, engine driver, also at *Cartwright*’s. Injuries serious.

Thomas Hall, of Burford, Oxfordshire, scalp wound, and injuries to his arm and leg.

Mrs. Peel, of Bewdley, slightly injured.

A man named Farmer, a farmer, slight injuries.

The stoker of the goods train was also injured, and received medical attendance, and was the same night conveyed to his home at Dudley, in a cab.

The whole of the persons injured are going on well.

An inquest was held yesterday, at the VINE HOTEL, before Mr. Bailey, Deputy Coroner, on the body of Charles Tasker, a stoker, in the employ of the Great Western Railway Company, who came to his death on the previous Wednesday. Mr. Sermon, from the firm of Messrs Whateley, solicitors, Birmingham, attended on behalf of the company; and Mr. Crump on behalf of the deceased. Mr. William Clayton Barker was the foreman of the jury.

The first witness called was Ann Bamford, who said: I am a single woman, and live at Cannock Road, Wolverhampton. Am sister in law to deceased. It is his body the jury have just viewed. He was 26 years of age.

William Marston, the signalman, said: I live at Quarry Bank, and am a pointsman, in the employ of the Great Western Railway Company, at Cradley Station. Was so employed on the 8th of December, at 5.15pm. Went in at 7am, and left at 7pm. Signalled the trains properly all day. Signalled the 4.45 train from Birmingham by telegraph, ‘line clear.’ Signalled two trains between four and half past five. One at 4.13, a goods train, and a passenger train at 4.51, and another at 5.7, also a passenger train. Signalled line clear in each case. No coal passed between four and half past five. The 4.38 goods train went up to Smethwick Junction. Signalled line clear in that case. Before I signalled I received a signal from the next box, and in each case received the usual signal that the line was clear. After I signalled the 4.45 passenger train passed my box. Cannot say how far the place where the accident occurred is from my box.

At this stage of the proceedings the jury went to view the scene of the accident. On returning Marston continued: The special instructions produced are the same as delivered to me as a signalman, by which I am told to work the line. I thoroughly understand the instructions contained there. Witness declined to state whether he had keys to lock the switches and stop blocks.

Inspector John Lock said: I live at Stamber Mill, near Stourbridge. I am Inspector of the Great Western Railway on the Stourbridge Extension district. My duties are to give instructions to the men, including signalmen. Have given the instructions referred to, to Marston. Received them from him after the accident. He was supplied with them on the 15th of May. These instructions contain an order to retain all keys of switches and stop blocks, and no train to leave the station while they were absent. It is the usual order given to signalmen. In case the keys were not there, it would be his duty to stop the train from proceeding as long as they were absent. The instructions would remain in force until further notice. The instructions were in force on Wednesday, the 8th inst, at the time of the accident. Have seen the instructions in Marston's possession. Saw them about two hours after the accident. I asked him to sign them, and he did so. Do not know that the keys were in the box at the time the 4.45 train arrived at Cradley.

William Davies said: I am yard-foreman at Cradley Station, and live at Bower Lane. Have been employed by the company at Cradley for about three years. My duties were to see to the loading up in the yard, and to mind the points. Have control of the sidings, without the interference of any other person. If I wanted to shunt a goods train on the main line, I should have to get the signal from the signalman. Marston was the signalman at the station. The signal he would give me would be by his hand; a lamp and a white flag being a signal that the line was clear. I get the keys of the points and blocks from the signalman, before I shunt. The stop blocks are used to prevent the shunting of trains so long as they are locked. Have a book of rules delivered to me. After I have received the signal I consider I have authority to shunt a train on the main line. On the 8th inst I had a signal from Marston when I shunted the train down into Evers' siding. I know the rule 54. Received the keys from George Civill, a chequer, a man who was doing shunting whilst I was at my dinner, about half past three. Had a goods train loaded, and received a signal from Marston before shunting. He signalled it with his hand. It would be a few minutes after four. It was a usual signal. The danger signals were shown at the box. I left the train standing on the siding. Do not know who shunted it on to the main line. This would be about half an hour before the accident. Cannot give any evidence as to who had control over the train when it was shunted on to the main line. Did not see the accident.

By Mr. Sermon: Gave instructions to the driver, Thomas Page, as to remaining in the siding, and told him not to move off the line until the passenger train had gone down. One of them, I cannot say whether it was the fireman or the driver said, 'How is it?' and I told them they could not go out until the express had gone by. This would be about five minutes before the express passed.

By Page, the driver: I did not come to the side of your engine when the mineral train had gone. You did not ask me what you were to do. I asked you if you could see a signal. I had my lamp in my hand when I was there.

By Mr. Sermon: Have been in the employ of the company for 13 years. Do not know how long Marston has been there.

George Civill said: I live at Quarry Bank, and am a chequer, in the employ of the Great Western Railway Company, at Cradley Station. Was on duty in the shed on the afternoon of the 8th inst. Received the keys from Marston, between one and two o'clock. The keys belong to the stop blocks and the main line switches. Gave the keys to Davis, the foreman, about half past three. Assisted in shunting the goods train in the afternoon. Unlocked the blocks when I loosed the train out, and locked them again. They were locked when I gave the keys up to Davis. Did not keep the keys more than an hour and a half. Cannot give any evidence as to the shunting of the train immediately before the accident.

Davis recalled: I had the keys all the afternoon, and gave them up after the accident. Had kept the keys for three hours.

By the Foreman: I unlocked the block. Page could not have got through if the blocks had been locked. I unlocked the blocks when I had the signals from Marston. I put them over, but did not lock them afterwards.

By a Juryman: I did not lock them and the train had gone clear.

By another Juryman: I do not think the accident could have happened if the blocks had been locked.

By the Coroner: Could not see that Page was about to shunt. I was in the yard weighing goods.

By a Juryman: Do not know who took the blocks off. No one has a right to take them off but me.

Philip Smart said: I live in Church Street, Dudley, and am a fireman in the employ of the Great Western Railway Company. Was at Cradley Station on the 8th inst. Was acting as fireman on the goods engine, No.251. Thomas Page was the driver. When the train was loaded Daniel Porter, the guard, came up to the train about ten minutes to five. He said, 'What are you sanding there for?' and Page said for a signal, and the guard said blow up for one, meaning the whistle. The driver came on to my side, and I moved out of his way, and the guard then told me he could get no signal, and told me to blow up again, and I did so. I afterwards saw a white light on the platform, near to the watchman's box. The light was stationary. It was in the place where we usually see the signal. The white light means go on. Page came on to his own side, and he saw the white light. He said, 'All right, Tom.' The guard stood at the side of the engine, and waved his lamp, saying, 'All right, go on.' Did not see any one do anything to the stop blocks. Neither Page or myself touched the stop blocks. Know that the yardsman has control over the stop blocks. If we found the stop blocks unlocked, and we received the signal, 'right,' we have a right to go out in the absence of the yard foreman. Did not see Davis after the mineral train had gone. Saw him before it went. Did not hear Davis say he could not hear a signal. Davis might have been there talking to Page, but I did not see him. After we received the signal from the guard, my mate drew steadily out from the siding, across both lines of metals. As soon as we were over the points I put the brake on, and whilst I was putting it on my mate said, 'Oh, look here, what is coming.' I went to his side, and saw it coming myself. I made to my own side, in order to get off, when the train rushed into us and knocked me down the bank. Did not see deceased. Do not remember anything else.

By Mr. Sermon: I never knew guards of a goods train give us a signal to go without the blocks being unlocked.

By Mr. Crump: Do not know whether the stop blocks were locked. We are compelled to obey the orders of the guard when going out, and he ordered us to go out of the siding that night. Had no idea what trains were due.

Thomas Page, driver of the goods train, said: I live at 16, Priory Street, Dudley, and am the driver of 251 engine, in the employ of the Great Western Railway Company. On the 8th inst, we were at Cradley Station. Was standing on a siding with a loaded train, waiting for a mineral train to pass. Saw it pass, and Davis, the yard foreman, came to the side of my engine about a quarter to 5. I said, 'What is to be done now?' He said, 'Can you see a signal?' I looked and told him I could not. He told me to wait till the

train had passed. I understood him to mean the passenger train that stopped at Cradley. It was the down train. I got off to oil the engine, and whilst walking round the tender oiling the axle boxes, I perceived that the stop block was off. That was after the passenger train had gone. I got on the engine immediately afterwards. Daniel Porter, the goods guard, came up, and asked me what I was standing there for. I told him I was waiting for a signal. He requested me to whistle for one. I blew the whistle several times, but could not get any signal from the signal box. I went to my mate's side to see if I could perceive the yardsman. The guard asked my mate to whistle, and he did so. I then went to my own side, and saw a white light at the signal box. The guard said, 'all right, go on,' and gave me a signal with his lamp to go on. The light at the signal was stationary. I took it to be the all right signal. The all right signal is generally moved. I took it to be the finish of the signal as my mate and the guard saw it before I did. Did not interfere with the stop block. Never touched or moved it, I obeyed the guard's signal, and drew gently out of the siding. I asked my mate if he could see the pointsman, and he said he could not. I went on that side to look if I could see him, and I could not. I came on my own side, and touched the whistle. I had a signal, a white light calling me ahead. Then I had a red light shown me. As soon as I saw that I immediately saw a white light coming towards me. That was the passenger train, I called my mate's attention to it, and then jumped off. Cannot give any other particulars. Had the stop block been on, we could not have come out. By Mr. Sermon: Have a book of the rules. Have had the time book, but not for this month. The book produced is the same. Witness declined to answer any more questions.

By Marston, the signalman: It is customary to give a waving signal from the signal box.

By Mr. Sermon: I did not see the pointsman.

By Mr. Crump: I blew the whistle for the signal several times. The stop block was off.

Witness declined to answer a question by the foreman, asking him if he did not know there was a passenger train due in 5 minutes, when the guard called him on.

By the Coroner: Could not say who showed me the light.

William Brinton, said: I live at Spring Bank House, Kidderminster, and am a commercial clerk. I was a passenger by the train leaving Birmingham at 4.45, on the 8th inst. I was in the first compartment of a carriage numbered 161. We stopped at Smethwick Junction to pick up some London and North Western carriages. Did not experience anything extraordinary until we passed Cradley Station, when I felt a sensation as though we were going over grooved rails. An instant afterwards the collision took place. I looked out of the window, and saw the engine on its side. I got out of the window, and ran back to the station to give information to the authorities there. Saw two waggons were smashed, and extended across both lines.

Daniel Porter said: I live at Dudley, and am a goods guard in the employ of the Great Western Railway Company. On the 8th inst, in the afternoon was at Cradley Station. Did not see Davis, the foreman, go up to the engine. Asked the driver to whistle for a signal. It was about a quarter past 5. He blew the whistle once. He said he could see a white light on the platform. I then told him the stop block was off, and asked him to go on, making sure that all was right. Gave the order for him to go on, and told him to draw out. Did not use any signal to him. The train then went out of the siding across both lines of rails. Saw a white light in the platform. I stood between both lines in the six foot. Saw the passenger train coming, and ran towards it with a red light in my hand. Was not present when Tasker was taken from under the engine. Saw Davis in the yard about the time when the mineral train passed. Did not see him do anything to the stop block. I have the control of the train, and the engine driver would have to obey my orders if I told him to go on. Have a service timetable showing what time the trains are due. Know there was an express train due at Cradley at that time, but knew that it ought to have gone before then. The train is due into Stourbridge at 5.12. Do not know how far Stourbridge is from there. Had been in the yard the whole of the afternoon. Had been busy at work, and did not take any notice of the trains that passed. Did not know for certain whether the express had passed or not. It would be my duty to see that it had passed before I let them out. Only told them to whistle once. When I asked them to whistle they said they saw a white light on the platform, and I saw it as well. The light was near the signal box. Did not see it waved. It appeared as though a man was carrying it. We take a signal from a white light whether it is waved or not. Saw that the stop block was off, and thought that all was right. Did not touch or move the stop block. The stop blocks were in such a way that the driver could move out. Did not see Davis unlock the stop blocks. Have got a rule book and have read rule 54. Do not know whether the danger signals were up or not.

By Mr. Sermon: Have a book of the rules, and have read rule 174, stating that all guards at a station are under control of the officer in charge. Asked the men to whistle.

By Marston: A waving light is a danger signal. A light shown whether waved or not is a signal.

By Mr. Crump: Saw the lights at the Station and saw that the blocks were unlocked. I made sure that the express had passed because the stop blocks were unlocked.

Thomas Hodgson said: I live at Cradley Heath, and am a medical assistant. Was called about five o'clock on the 8th inst to the scene of the accident, at Cradley Station. I went down the line, and met the driver coming from the place. My brother assisted him. The place where the body was found was in Worcestershire. Found the body of Tasker under the engine. Saw the broken carriages. The engine was turned over on its side. Saw the body removed. It was severed in two, and death must have been instantaneous. His body would be found in the township of Cradley, in the parish of Halesowen. His death would be caused by the overturning of the engine.

The inquest was adjourned until Tuesday, the 21st inst, for the purpose of having the evidence of Richardson (the driver) and Hall (the passenger), the two injured men, who, we hear, are going on very well. All the witnesses were bound over to appear on the above date."

Oxfordshire Weekly News 19/1/1870

"The coroner's inquiry into the death of Charles Tasker, who was lately killed by a railway collision at Cradley, near Stourbridge, terminated on Monday night in a verdict of Manslaughter against Porter, the guard of the goods train."

[Daniel Porter appeared at Stafford charged with manslaughter on 11th March 1870, and was found not guilty.]

Stourbridge Observer 22/10/1870

“A meeting of the gas consumers of Cradley, Cradley Heath, and Old Hill, took place on Thursday evening, at Mrs. *Cartwright's*, the VINE AND RAILWAY INN, Lomey Town, when the committee appointed by the gas consumers were to inform them of their negotiations with the directors of the Gas Company, and also to propose a plan, which, if adopted, will result in having the gas supplied at a materially less price than the present.....”

1871 Census

Lomey Town – VINE AND RAILWAY INN

- [1] *Sophia A. Cartwright* (57), licensed victualler, born Cradley Heath;
- [2] Samuel W. Cartwright (23), son, engine driver at iron works, born Cradley Heath;
- [3] Emma Harris (23), general servant, born Tipton;
- [4] Elizabeth Stevens (14), general servant, born Quarry Bank;
- [5] Benjamin Billingham (48), lodger, drover, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 17/6/1871 - Advert

“HARE AND HOUNDS INN, Careless Green, near Wassell Green.

The Proprietor, Mr. G. Newnham, begs to announce that he intends to hold a Grand Gala, Pic-Nic, and Fete, on the Beautiful Grounds, adjoining the above Inn, on Monday, June, 19th, 1871, and has secured the services of the Cradley Heath Brass Band! To perform a choice selection of Vocal and Instrumental Music at intervals, under the leadership of Mr. W. Bennett.

Myers Barnett, the splendid Serio-Comic Singer, from the London Music Hall, will appear.

The following amusements will take place: Dancing on the Green, Foot Racing, Foot-balling, Climbing the Pine Pole, and all the Old English Sports.

Balloon Ascents at intervals; and at Nine o'clock a Monster Balloon will ascend, surrounded with a Blaze of Fireworks and Coloured Fires, by a celebrated Artiste.

A large tent will be erected on the Grounds, and refreshments of the best quality will be provided for the occasion. The Grounds will be open at Two o'clock.

Tickets 4d each, if purchased before the day; at Gate 6d each.

Tickets may be had at the above Inn, and of Messrs. W. Rhodes, RAILWAY INN, Lye; W. Wallins, HOLLY BUSH INN, Lye; W. Westwood, WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Cradley Forge; *S. Cartwright*, VINE AND RAILWAY INN, Cradley Heath; H. Heaton, FIVE WAYS, Cradley Heath; John Stafford, BLUE BALL INN, Old Hill; and any Member of the Band.”

Stourbridge Observer 19/8/1871

“Early on Monday morning Cradley Heath was all astir and hundreds of persons could be seen wending their way towards the Five Ways to witness the procession of Foresters, which was announced to take place that day. The weather being fine thousands of persons were present to witness the procession through the various streets. Ten o'clock was the appointed time for starting, but it was nearly half-past eleven before they got away, owing to their having to wait for some of the Courts from a distance.

The various Courts assembled at the Five Ways, and then formed themselves into order of procession. The following Courts were represented: No.3068, Hope and Anchor, QUEENS HEAD, Corngreaves Street, Cradley Heath; No.3595, Cable and Anchor, BIRD IN HAND, Cradley Heath; 4127, Good Samaritan, BEEHIVE, Corngreaves Road, Cradley Heath; 4196, Foresters' Home, VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath; 4233, Loyal Shenstone; 4340, Loyal Marlborough, COOKSEY'S HOTEL, Old Hill; 4398, Moss Rose, ROYAL OAK INN, New Town; 4546, Robin Hood's Merry Rangers, CROWN INN, Five Ways; 4970, Lye Reformed, WINDMILL INN, Lye. Although the district of Cradley Heath and Halesowen comprises 36 Courts, only nine took part in getting up the Fete.

The procession started from the Five Ways, headed by the Cradley Heath Brass Band. The Pensnett Victoria Brass and Reed Band and the Halesowen Drum and Fife Band also took part in the procession. Each band played lively quick steps passing through Lomey Town, Five Ways, Four Ways, Reddal Hill, Old Hill, and Haden Hill, en route for Halesowen, passing through the principal streets and then to the Leasowes. The procession was three-quarters of a mile in length, and was accompanied with three magnificent banners bearing suitable mottoes of the Order, and a large number of flags, the members wearing the various badges of the Order, and accompanied by Robin Hood, Little John, Will Scarlet, Friar Tuck, Shepherds, &c, &c.

On arriving at the beautiful and classic grounds, famed as having been the seat of the poet Shenstone, the procession passed round the house of B. Gibbons, Esq, who had kindly placed the whole of the grounds at the disposal of the Committee.....

There was a number of shooting galleries, Aunt Sallys, and other things to amuse all classes. During the day a number of balloon ascents took place.....

It is estimated that between six and seven thousand persons were present, upwards of £100 being taken at the gates, and it is expected there will be a good surplus in aid of the funds of the Order and General Hospital.

We must not close without a word of praise to the Committee, who were indefatigable in carrying out the arrangements according to the programme. The refreshments were provided by Mrs. *S. Cartwright* of Cradley Heath, and the tea and confectionery by Mr. J. Corns of Wolverhampton.”

Stourbridge Observer 14/10/1871

“*Sophia A. Cartwright*, landlady of the VINE AND RAILWAY INN, Cradley Heath, was charged with keeping her house open for the sale of drink during prohibited hours, on the 8th inst.

Police-constables Griffin and Johnson visited the defendant's house in plain clothes, on the above date, and found two men in the

employ of the Great Western Railway Company in the house, each with a glass of liquors.

In defence, Mrs. *Cartwright* said she had given her servant orders not to fill anything to any one on a Sunday morning, but this morning, before she was up, the men had come into the house and asked for a glass of something, as they had been at work all night, and the girl let them have the liquors unknown to her.

The Bench ordered defendant to pay costs, and advised her to lock the bar up on a Sunday morning.”

Stourbridge Observer 4/11/1871

“On Sunday Morning, about three o’clock, the inmates of the VINE INN, near the Railway Station, fortunately discovered that the kitchen ceiling was in flames owing to the bursting of the gas pipe and its consequent ignition. Prompt measures were taken to put it out and the house was thus saved from almost sure destruction. The damage done is inconsiderable.”

Stourbridge Observer 29/6/1872

“On Tuesday morning the dead body of a man named Joseph Priest was found lying in his own house at the bottom of the stairs. The deceased person was single, and resided near the VINE HOTEL. His mind, it is said, was affected by some domestic affairs, and to get out of them he, on Monday night, hung himself. Tying two garters and a piece of string together, he fastened them to a nail at the top of the stairs, and placing the noose around his neck he must have stepped off the landing. His weight broke the string, and he was found lying at the bottom of the stairs.

Dr. Hodgson was in immediate attendance, and affirmed that the man had been dead some hours. The string had cut a depth of two inches into his neck; in fact his head was nearly severed, so that death must have been instantaneous.

An inquest was held on the body at the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, on Wednesday, before Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner.

The first witness called was Thomas Priest, who said: I am a chainmaker by trade, but am no relation to the deceased. I knew him to be a chainmaker at Lomey Town. He is about 50 years of age, and it is his corpse the jury have just viewed. I have known him ever since I can recollect. I last saw him on Monday night about twenty minutes to twelve. I came to his house door with him. He was very quiet. He was quite sober. He seemed very low on Sunday. He said he had a troubled mind. He was very close-minded. He was a bachelor, and his niece lived with him during the day time. He went to unload some iron on Monday. The next morning I was fetched by one of his workmen, who told me he was found dead. They thought he had fallen down stairs. The niece found him. I saw him go into the house, but did not hear him lock the door, as I went straight away.

Henrietta Shaw said: I am niece of the deceased. He was 48 years of age. I have been in the habit of looking after his house for him. I came in the afternoon, and left in the evening. I last saw him late on Monday night about half past eleven, at our house.

He came to our house about half past nine o’clock. He seemed to have great trouble on his mind. He had been in a nervous state for a long time. He has been rather low for the last fortnight, and very strange for the last few days. He was not able to go to work on Monday. My father has always looked after him and his affairs. We have heard him complain of his heart and brain. I went to his house on Tuesday morning just as the clock struck eight. The back door was not locked. I put the milk on the table, and as I saw no fire in the grate I went towards the stairs to call my uncle, when I found him lying at the bottom of the steps. He was dead, and was quite cold. I did not see any cord at the time. Everything in the room was in its proper place. There was nothing to lead me to suppose that any one had been in the house with him. I believe he committed the act himself.

Thomas Priest (re-called) said when he got to the house on Tuesday morning he saw deceased lying on the ground with a piece of string round his neck, and he saw a piece of string hanging by a nail at the head of the stairs. The string was broken.

The jury returned a verdict that deceased committed Suicide whilst in a state of Temporary Insanity.”

Stourbridge Observer 10/8/1872

“On Monday last, the ninth anniversary of Court Foresters’ Home, No.4196, of the Ancient Order of Foresters, was celebrated at their Court House, the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, when 70 of the members sat down to a bountiful dinner provided by the worthy hostess, Mrs. *S. A. Cartwright*, in her well known substantial style. Bro. Stephen Dunn, CR, presided, and Bro. James Woodhouse, SCR, occupied the vice chair.....”

Stourbridge Observer 9/8/1873

“On Monday last, the members of Court Foresters’ Home, No.4196, of the Ancient Order of Foresters, celebrated their tenth anniversary by a procession of the members and a good substantial dinner. The members numbering upwards of a hundred met at the Court house, the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Lomey Town, at nine o’clock am, and paraded through Cradley Heath headed by Maid Marian, Robin Hood, and various other Foresters characters, accompanied by the Cradley Heath Brass Band, which enlivened the march by the performance of some first-class music. Also a large number of children (dressed in white) in a waggon splendidly decorated, and by the members of the Shepherds Sanctuary, connected with the Court, dressed in their pastoral costumes and a splendid new banner purchased by the members of the Court.

After winding their way through Cradley Heath and Cradley, the procession attended the Park Lane Chapel, and were favoured by the Rev. W. Cochrane with an able and impressive discourse on the duties and obligations of a Christian Life.

The members then proceeded through Quarry Bank to their Court House, and sat down to an excellent dinner provided by the worthy hostess Mrs. *S. A. Cartwright*, in her accustomed good style. After the cloth was removed, the secretary produced the auditors’ report showing they now numbered 105, and were possessed of funds to the amount of £276 0s 2½d; being an increase for the year of 8 members, and of £36 5s 9½d. The worthy and respected surgeon to the Court, Mr. H. F. Hodgson, was then re-elected, and was presented with an elegant neck ribbon by Bro. John Rock, on behalf of the members as a slight token of the respect he was held in by them. Mr. Hodgson responded in a very feeling manner, and assured the members he would endeavour to preserve their respect by strict and diligent attention to their ailment, when required, and also congratulated them on their uniform good health. Selections of music were then given by the Band under the leadership of Mr. E. Kernock, and songs and glees

became the order of the day until closing time. The whole proceedings passed off with eclat.”

County Advertiser 28/10/1876 - Advert

“Lost on the 1st inst, Brown and White Spaniel Dog.
Apply, E. *Cartwright*, RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 30/3/1878 - Advert

“Wanted, a respectable Servant Girl, one used to a Public House.
Apply, Mrs. *Cartwright*, VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 2/11/1878 - Advert

“Sale Of Freehold Butcher’s Shop, Dwelling Houses, and Premises, Five Ways, Cradley Heath.
Messrs. Rollinson and Beckley are instructed to Offer for Sale by Auction, on Tuesday, November 19th, at the house of Mrs. *Cartwright*, RAILWAY HOTEL (opposite Cradley railway Station) at Six for Seven o’clock in the Evening, and subject to conditions to be then read.....”

County Advertiser 18/1/1879

“On Thursday the employés of the Great Western Railway held their annual dinner at the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL. Mrs. *Cartwright* provided an excellent dinner. Mr. Roach, the stationmaster, was voted to the chair, and Mr. J. Beacham to the vice-chair. The usual toasts were drunk, and a convivial evening was spent.”

1881 Census

66, Lomey Town – RAILWAY INN

- [1] *Sophia Cartwright* (67), widow, publican, born Cradley Heath;
- [2] Samuel Cartwright (33), son, brewer, born Cradley Heath;
- [3] Sarah Stevens (20), general servant, born Quarry Bank;
- [4] Rose Shaw (20), general servant, born Quarry Bank;
- [5] Clara Whinhall (17), general servant, born Cradley Heath:

County Advertiser 19/11/1881 - Advert

“Notice to Spade Makers. A General Meeting of the Operatives of this trade will be held on Monday Next, November 31st, at *Cartwright*’s, VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, at Two o’clock, to consider what further steps shall be taken respecting the wages question.”

County Advertiser 26/11/1881

“At a meeting of spademakers, held on Monday, at the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, it was resolved to continue the agitation for an advance of 3d per dozen, and a deputation was appointed to wait on all the masters, and to discuss the matter with them to induce them if possible, to pay the advance on the first reckoning in the new year. If they failed this a strike will have to be resorted to, which the men are anxious to avoid.”

County Advertiser 4/2/1882 - Advert

“The Operatives’ Spade and Shovel Makers’ Trade Society. Stourbridge District.
Notice To Spade Makers. A General Meeting of the Operatives of this Trade will be held at *Cartwright*’s VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on Monday Next, Feb. 6th, 1882, at Two o’clock precisely, when it is hoped all will attend, as business of great importance will be under consideration.”

County Express 3/6/1882 - Advert

“Withdrawal of Sale.
The Sale of Freehold Nail Warehouse, Galvanising Works and Residence, in Station Street, Cradley Heath, announced to take place on the 6th inst, at the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, is withdrawn.
T. Pateshall, Auctioneer, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 29/7/1882

“On the 17th inst the members of Court Foresters’ Home, No.4196, A.O.F., held their anniversary at the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL. Ample justice was done to an excellent dinner, and on the withdrawal of the cloth, Bro. B. Grove was voted to the chair and Bro. A. Cartwright to the vice-chair. They spoke of the prosperous condition of the Court. Song, toast, and sentiment enlivened the proceedings of the evening, which was enjoyably spent.”

County Advertiser 14/10/1882 - Advert

“Freehold Dwelling Houses, Cradley Heath.
To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Thomas Pateshall (pursuant to an Order made by His Honour Sir Rupert Kettle, the Judge for the County Court holden at Dudley, in the action of *Pierey v. Rose* and others), at the house of Mrs. *Sophia Cartwright*, the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on Tuesday, the 17th day of October, 1882, at Seven o’clock in the Evening.....”

County Advertiser 24/3/1883 - Advert

“Withdrawal of Sale.

The Sale of Property at Reddall Hill, Cradley Heath, and Windmill Hill, Cradley, announced to take place at the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, on the 2nd of April Next, is Withdrawn.

T. Pateshall, Auctioneer, Cradley Heath.”

Dudley and District News 7/7/1883

“The members of Court Foresters Home, No.4196, at their meeting on Saturday evening last, at the RAILWAY HOTEL, Lomey Town, presented to Bro. David Chapman, a PCR silk neck ribbon with an emblematic badge, and a large handsome silver medal, with gilt emblem centrepiece, surmounted by a stag’s head with branching horns of frosted silver, and a silver bow, crossed arrows, and silver horn as pendants; also a suitable inscription engraved on back of medal, as a mark of esteem and appreciation of his services during the past three years, and for his general urbanity. The gift was suitably acknowledged by Bro. Chapman, who said he had only fulfilled his duties to the best of his abilities and what he done for the court was done because he had its interests at heart, and without any expectation of receiving such a handsome and valuable reward, and hoped that it would be an incentive to other members to work and study the interests of the court, and merit future approbation.”

County Advertiser 23/2/1884 - Advert

“Cradley Heath. Valuable Freehold Property in Graingers Lane.

Mr. T. Pateshall is instructed to Sell by Auction, at the house of Mrs. *Cartwright*, the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, on Wednesday, the 19th day of March, 1884, at Six for Seven o’clock in the Evening.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/1/1885

“Old Hill Police Court. At this court, yesterday – before Messrs. H. T. Hickman, N. Bassano, and B. Hingley, magistrates – *Sophia Cartwright* of the RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on the night of the 10th inst. The evidence of three police-constables was to the effect that on the night in question they visited the defendant’s house and found about twelve persons there, all being more or less under the influence of drink. Several men were struggling together, and one of them had handcuffs on his wrists, and it was necessary for him to go to the police station to have them taken off. Defendant was fined 40s and costs.”

County Advertiser 18/7/1885 - Deaths

“On the 9th inst, at the RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, *Sophia Amelia Cartwright*, aged 72 years.”

County Advertiser 29/8/1885

“On Wednesday the annual Brewster sessions for the Petty Sessional Division of Rowley Regis, were held at the Court House, Old Hill.....

The following was the black list Licensed victuallers.....

Sophia Cartwright, RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, permitting drunkenness, 21st January, 1885, fined 40s and costs.....

The Bench said they would not now renew the licenses of those who had been convicted, but would reserve them for consideration till the adjourned licensing day.”

County Advertiser 17/10/1885

“Transfer Of Licenses.

An interim authority was granted to *Edward Cartwright*, the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley.”

County Express 16/1/1886 - Advert

“1st V. B. The Worcestershire Regiment, ‘F’ (Halesowen) Company.

Grand Amateur Dramatic Performances will be given in the Drill Hall, Halesowen, on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 26th and 27th January, of ‘ICI On Parle Francais,’ and ‘Whitebait At Greenwich,’ by a company of Local Ladies and Gentlemen.

Admission on Tuesday, the 26th January – Reserved Seats, 2s 6d (Five for 10s); Unreserved, 1s. Wednesday, the 27th January – Front Seats 1s; Second Seats, 6d; Third Seats, 3d.

Tickets may be obtained from the Post Office, Halesowen, where the plan of the Hall may be seen and Seats booked on and after Tuesday, January 5th.

Doors open at 7.30 each night, to commence at 8. Carriages may be ordered for 10.30.

On Tuesday, holders of Reserved Tickets from Nos.1 to 216 are requested to enter by the Side Door in the Parade Ground; Nos.217 to 421, by the Side Door in the road.

An arrangement has been made with Mr. *Cartwright*, of the RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, to Run Conveyances at the following charges per head: From Cradley Heath, one way 9d, both ways 1s; Old Hill, one way 6d, both ways 9d; Colley Gate, one way 6d, both ways 9d; Cradley, one way 9d, both ways 1s.

Notice to Call to be given to Mr. *Cartwright*.”

County Advertiser 1/5/1886 - Advert

“Preliminary Announcement.

Highly Important and Valuable Freehold Old Licensed Premises, the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, with Land adjoining.

Mr. T. Pateshall is favoured with instructions from the Trustees of the late Mrs. *Sophia A. Cartwright*, to offer for Sale by Auction, the above mentioned Property.

Full particulars will be given in due course, and in the meantime further information may be obtained from John Wright, Esq, Solicitor, or the Auctioneer, both of Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 3/7/1886 - Advert

“To Brewers, Capitalists, and Others.

Highly Important Sale of Valuable Freehold Property, Cradley Heath.

Mr. T. Pateshall is favoured with instructions from the Trustees of the late Mrs. *S. A. Cartwright*, to Sell by Auction, at the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on Wednesday, the 21st day of July, 1886 (instead of the date previously announced), at Six for Seven o’clock in the Evening, subject to conditions.

Lot 1. All that truly valuable Freehold Old-Licensed Premises, the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, with Plot of Land adjoining, late in the occupation of Mrs. *S. A. Cartwright*.

The Property occupies a singularly commanding position in an exceptionally busy neighbourhood, having frontages to two good thoroughfares, being immediately opposite Cradley Railway Station and in close proximity to extensive Manufactories and Iron-works. The Premises are well arranged and contain commodious and lofty Bar, Smoke Room and Tap Room, Parlour, Kitchen, Scullery, spacious Club Room, Four Bed Rooms, and extensive Cellaring. The Outbuildings comprise Stabling, Harness Room, Brewhouse, and the usual Appurtenances. The Premises are in good order and repair, and fitted with the latest improvements. Several large Clubs are attached to the House, and the Auctioneer respectfully invites the attention of parties requiring a first-class Business Premises.....”

County Advertiser 19/2/1887 - Advert

“Excellent Freehold Business Premises, Cradley Heath.

Mr. T. Pateshall is instructed to Sell by Auction, at the house of Mr. *Edward Cartwright*, the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on Friday, the 18th day of February, 1887, at Six for Seven o’clock in the Evening, subject to conditions.....”

Dudley Mercury 6/7/1889 - Advert

“VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath.

Mr. T. Pateshall will Sell by Auction, upon the Premises, as above on Monday, July 6th, 1889, the whole of the valuable Brewing Plant, Casks, Whitechapel Dog Cart, Spring Trap, and other Effects, belonging to Mr. *Thomas Cartwright*, who is leaving the Premises.

Sale at Twelve o’clock.”

Dudley Mercury 23/11/1889 - Advert

“The RAILWAY AND VINE HOTEL, Adjoining Cradley Station.

Under Entire New Management.

Good Accommodation For Commercial Travellers.

An Ordinary Daily at One o’clock. Teas, &c, Provided.

Showell’s Splendid Ales On Draught.

Wines, Spirits, and Cigars of the Finest Quality.

New Stabling. Good Beds.”

Birmingham Daily Post 20/8/1890 - Advert

“Barmaid. Wanted a smart young lady, for bar and smoke room.

Roodhouse, VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley.”

County Express 22/11/1890

“Court Leet at Cradley.

The view of Frankpledge, with the Court Baron of the Right Honourable Charles George, Viscount Cobham, Baron Cobham, Baron of Frankley, in the County of Worcester, for his manor aforesaid, was holden at the MAYPOLE INN, Cradley, on Wednesday.

The jury were empanelled and duly sworn, Mr. George Hartshorn Anderson being elected foreman. The usual presentments were made. After the business was over the annual dinner was held, at which there was a good attendance, among those present being *J. Roodhouse* and friends, RAILWAY AND VINE HOTEL, Cradley Heath (representing Messrs. Showell and Co.).....”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/12/1890 - Advert

“General (respectable) Wanted, at once 25 to 30, Strong; must understand cooking.

VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

1891 Census

66, Lomey Town – RAILWAY HOTEL

[1] *Thomas R. Roodhouse* (27), hotel manager, born Great Barr;

[2] *Florence M. Roodhouse* (25), wife, born Leicester;

[3] *Elizabeth Loche* (20), boarder, barmaid, born Wolverhampton:

Birmingham Daily Post 6/5/1891 - Advert

“Man (good useful) Wanted, also Housemaid-Waitress, for Hotel.
Apply, *Beasley*, VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

Birmingham Daily Post 31/8/1891 - Advert

“Youth Wanted, about 18 to 20, as Billiard-marker, and to make himself generally useful.
Apply, VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/9/1891 - Advert

“Youth, about 19 or 20, Wanted, as Billiard-marker.
Apply, VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/1/1893 - Advert

“General Servant (good) Wanted, not afraid of work, with good knowledge of plain cooking, to wait at table if required. Good wages.
Apply, VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 15/4/1893

“County Court. Cartwright v Cartwright.

George Cartwright, landlord of the FORTUNE OF WAR, Round Oak, Brierley Hill, was the plaintiff in this case, and he sought to recover £5 10s, money lent, from his brother, Charles Cartwright, commission agent, of Bower Lane, Quarry Bank. Mr. Waldron was for the plaintiff.

Evidence was given by plaintiff that on July 16th, 1889, he was living at the VINE AND RAILWAY INN, Cradley Heath. The defendant came there and borrowed £6 from him, saying that he was about to get married, and wanted the money to buy goods with. Defendant promised to pay the whole of the money back in three months. He had, however, only paid one instalment of 10s. Annie Cartwright, sister of the plaintiff and defendant, deposed to the lending of the money by the plaintiff to the defendant. Defendant denied having borrowed the money.

His Honour: And you mean to say that your brother and sister have told a tissue of lies? – Defendant: Yes.

In answer to further questions, defendant denied that he was at the VINE with his sister shortly before his marriage. He did not know why his brother and sister should tell this story. He had never been in a position to want money from either of them. A demand for repayment was made in December last, but witness took no notice of it, and had not got the letter. He did not consider it necessary for him to answer it.

By Mr. Waldron: He did not borrow £3 from his sister Caroline the same day.

His Honour gave judgement for plaintiff. There was direct conflict of testimony between plaintiff and defendant, but the probabilities were in favour of the money having been lent rather than that two persons should conspire together to make false statements. Even the defendant could give no reason why they should do so. The judgement would be for plaintiff for the amount claimed to be paid in monthly instalments.”

Midland Sun 17/6/1893

“On Tuesday afternoon, Mr. F. W. Topham (deputy coroner), held an inquest at the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, respecting the death of Joseph Stout (25), of Fenton Street, Brierley Hill, who was killed on the Great Western Railway, at Cradley Station, on the 10th inst.

Chief Inspector Ledbrooke and Inspector Lock represented the railway Company.

Stephen Stout, of High Street, Brockmoor, brother of deceased said he died on Saturday morning on the bridge near Cradley Station. He last saw him alive on Friday night, when he was in good health. Deceased was not subject to fits, and he did not think he had destroyed himself.

Isaac Clarke, bricklayer, of Corngreaves, said the deceased was working with him erecting a scaffold for the purpose of tarring a bridge at Cradley Station. About 9.40 on Saturday morning he saw the deceased coming from where he had been melting with a bucket of tar in his hand. Deceased, in trying to get out of the way of one train, stepped in front of the South Wales express. He was knocked down and dragged almost 25 yards. The train was stopped, and deceased was got out of the six foot, but he was quite dead. He had his legs and hands cut off, and he was terribly mutilated. The driver could not possibly help the accident happening. He blew the whistle before he saw the deceased, and there was no blame attached to him. It was a straight line. When witness saw the deceased in danger he shouted to him. He did not think deceased had the least intention of destroying himself. Deceased had been talking about buying himself out of the militia.

Inspector Bishop said he had made enquiries and found that the deceased entered the service of the company five weeks ago, and at the time he was given a book which contained how to keep away from the trains. The deceased was a very steady and sober man, and was well aware of the circumstances if he broke the rule.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

County Advertiser 21/10/1893 - Advert

“Cradley Heath Stock Sale and Repository (Adjoining the RAILWAY AND VINE HOTEL).
Next Sale of Cattle, Sheep, Pigs, and Horses, Wednesday, October 25th, 1893, at One o'clock.
Further Entries respectfully solicited.
E. H. Boilstone, Auctioneer, Old Hill.”

County Advertiser 16/12/1893 - Advert

“*Sherwood J. Richards* (Late VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath), begs to inform the Inhabitants of Netherton, Cradley Heath, and District that he taken to the EAGLE HOTEL, High Street, Netherton, where he will be pleased to see all old and new Friends.

Ales, Wines, Spirits, and Cigars of the best quality.

Chops and Steaks on the Shortest Notice.

Good Stabling Free.”

Sherwood Richards – see also QUEENS HEAD, Garratts Lane.

County Advertiser 30/12/1893 - Advert

“Under New Tenancy.

VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL (Adjoining Cradley Station).

The Public and Travellers pronounce generally that the Ordinary held Daily at the above Hotel is the best they have ever had in this District. Price 1s 3d. Time 1-15.

Cigars, Wines and Spirits of the Finest Quality.

Special Scotch Whisky, Martell’s Brandy. Billiards, Good Stabling.

Large Parties catered For on the Shortest Notice.

Proprietor. *L. Blackband*, late of the Sheridan Hotel, Stafford.”

Birmingham Daily Post 2/5/1894

“Yesterday afternoon Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Lomey Town, concerning the death of Mary Jones, aged thirty-nine, who formerly resided in Solihull Street, Handsworth. Emily Cragg, sister of the deceased, stated that the latter, who had been in a delicate state of health for some time, came to her house on the 25th ult and died on the 29th. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

County Advertiser 13/10/1894

“On Saturday last Mr. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, touching the death of Lavinia Rowley (62), domestic servant, formerly employed at the Castle Restaurant, Warwick, who died on the previous Wednesday at the VINE HOTEL, under circumstances already reported. The evidence showed that deceased had a half-holiday on Sunday the 30th, and went to see some of her friends at Stourbridge. When coming back, she alighted at Cradley and went to see the landlady of the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL whom she knew. She afterwards went up into Cradley Heath to see other friends and was afterwards taken ill with vomiting. She returned to the VINE and as she got no better, decided to stay the night; her daughter-in-law, who was with her, going home by the last train. Deceased, however, grew worse on Wednesday morning and died before Dr. Tibbetts, who was sent for, arrived. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

County Advertiser 17/10/1896

“Annie Bennett, a girl, of Langley, was charged with stealing a quantity of jewellery and other articles, valued at over £3, the property of Alice Jones, who lives at the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, between the 2nd and the 6th inst. It was alleged that whilst defendant was engaged as a servant at the hotel mentioned, she stole the articles out of complainant’s bed room. Defendant denied the theft. The Bench did not consider the case proved, and they dismissed it.”

County Advertiser 17/4/1897

“At the Dudley County Court, on Saturday, on debtor’s petition, a receiving order was made against the estate of *Harry Mercer*, living in lodgings at Park Road, Colley Gate, Cradley, and formerly manager of the RAILWAY AND VINE HOTEL, Cradley Heath. Messrs. Blackham and Taylor, Birmingham, are the solicitors in the matter.”

County Advertiser 29/1/1898

“Cradley G.W.R. Staff at Dinner.

The annual dinner of the officers and staff of the goods department took place on Saturday last, at the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, and, thanks to the admirable catering of the proprietor, Mr. *Frost*, an excellent repast was provided. The gathering was a representative one.....”

County Advertiser 26/11/1898

“On Tuesday evening, a number of the merchants and manufacturers of Cradley Heath, together with a few friends, met to dinner at the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath. A good company sat down, and addressed themselves to a capital dinner provided by the host, Mr. *Frost*. The repast was laid out in most attractive style, and the quality of the cooking of the viands were each complimentary to the catering. Mr. Robert Fellows occupied the chair.....”

County Advertiser 14/1/1899 - Advert

“General Wanted, Respectable; wages 5s. Good home.

VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 6/5/1899

“Cradley Heath Cricket Club has arranged a very high-class series of fixtures, giving two matches every Saturday, with Holiday and several Thursday matches. The same players, to a great extent, are available for next season, there having only been one bona fide resignation – and all resignations to be legal should have been in by April 1st – hence the committee hope that the club, which had such an auspicious opening last year, may not be far behind again. It is sincerely to be hoped that the club, with its pleasantly situated ground, its modern pavilion, seats for spectators, and everything conducive to the encouragement of local cricket, will still receive every assistance from the tradesmen and influential residents in the neighbourhood. The committee are thoroughly united, and they would like to see more players coming forward, so that a thoroughly good club may be established in the district. Amalgamation not separation should be the cry. Mr. *F. W. Frost*, of the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, has undertaken to supply refreshments (non-intoxicants) from his stall in the grounds every Saturday, and all who know his abilities as a caterer are looking forward to his genial presence. The first match is today against the neighbouring team, Cradley Heath Mutual, and though the Town has not its full strength available, a pleasant game may be expected.”

County Advertiser 6/5/1899 - Advert

“Parish Exhibition, 1900. Cook’s Excursion Club.

Join *Frost’s* Whitsuntide Party, Saturday to Wednesday.

Railways, Steamboats, Hotels, Exhibition Tickets, Guides, Interpreters, Conductors. No Extra Charge Whatever. 60s Inclusive.

Subscriptions, 1s per Week for 60 Weeks. All Come and Join at Once.

Frost, who is Cook’s authorised Collector, will give you every Information and Particulars.

Club commences on Saturday, April 29th, 1899, at 9pm.

VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath.

What is I.P.A.?”

County Advertiser 6/5/1899

“The Paris Exhibition of 1900.

All the world will be at this exhibition next year, and among the arrangements now being made to enable people to see the exhibition of Paris for little money, none can compete with that announced by *Frost’s* Whitsuntide party. All particulars can be obtained from Mr. *F. W. Frost*, of the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath; but here it may suffice to state that by the payment of one shilling a week for sixty weeks (£3) any one may go to Paris at Whitsuntide next year. This payment includes railways, steam boats, exhibition ticket, guides, interpreters, and conductors. The club began on Saturday last, but is still open to subscribers. Who would not, with such facilities, take advantage of the opportunity of seeing the French capital?”

County Advertiser 7/10/1899 - Advert

“*Frost’s* Trip To Paris.

Members and Friends are Invited to Supper, on Monday, October 23rd, 1899.

Tickets One Shilling each.

VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 14/10/1899

“Daniel Billingham, of Woods Lane, Cradley Heath, was charged with being disorderly on the licensed premises of *Fred. W.*

Frost, of the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on the 5th inst.

Sarah Ann *Frost*, wife of complainant, said that on the date in question defendant was on the premises. Defendant was drunk, and she therefore refused serve him with beer. Witness ordered him out, but he would not go, and they sent for the police. Defendant was fined 10s and costs.”

County Advertiser 28/10/1899

“An important sale of freehold properties belonging to the late Mrs. Thompson was held at the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, on Monday last, by Mr. W. Fiddian. The company was a large one and biddings very satisfactory, all the eleven lots being sold. The total amount realised was £3,526. Mr. W. Stanley Mobberley acted as solicitor for the vendors.”

County Express 10/2/1900

“On Tuesday, at the WHITE HORSE INN, a concert was given in aid of the local Reservist Fund. It is hoped to hand over £7 to the fund. The host (Mr. Tranter) bore all the expenses of engaging the talent. Mr. *F. W. Frost*, of the RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, presided. The following took part in the concert, The Orpheus Glee Singers (Messrs. A. Yardley, G. Evans, S. Yardley, and H. Stevens), Messrs. J. Hughes (Tipton), J. Singleton (Kate’s Hill), W. King (Quarry Bank), S. Bladen (Colley Gate), S. Southall (Lye), Pat Tyrone (Colley Gate), Mr. J. Norris (Tipton) was accompanist.”

County Express 10/2/1900

“The annual dinner of the officers and staff of the Great Western Railway Goods Department took place on Saturday at the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Mr. *F. W. Frost’s* catering being all that could be desired. Between 60 and 70 attended.....”

Dudley Herald 24/4/1900

“A very successful smoking concert was promoted at the VINE AND RAILWAY, Cradley Heath, on Thursday night, on behalf of the local reservists. Thanks to Mr. *Frost*, the large room had been tastefully decorated by Messrs. E. Gould and Sons. Capt. Whit-

more Garratt occupied the chair and made a few suitable remarks. The following programme was gone through: Piano solo, Mr. Arthur Taylor; song, 'Let me like a soldier fall,' Mr. G. Powell; recitation, 'The Dandy Fifth,' Corporal Cross; song, 'She alone charmeth my soul,' Mr. Roland Cole; song, 'Oh. How rude,' Mr. Harry Green; dance, Mr. Wm. Sheldon; duet, 'The moon hath raised,' Messrs, Powell and Cole; ventriocial entertainment, Mr. David Poole; song, 'Once again,' Mr. Geo. Powell; song, 'Off to Philadelphia,' Mr. Hatfield; song, 'You 'ave to 'ave 'em,' Mr. H. Green; song, 'Soldiers of the Queen,' Mr. R. Cole; recitation, 'Old Issacher,' Mr. R. Underwood; and song, Mr. Powell. There was a large attendance, and no doubt a substantial sum will be handed over to the fund named."

Dudley Herald 19/5/1900 - Advert

"Valuable Freehold Residence, Clyde House, Coleman Hill, Cradley Heath.

H. King & Son are favoured with instructions from the surviving trustee of the late Dr. Thompson, to offer for Sale by Auction, at the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on Monday, May 21st, 1900, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to Conditions of Sale then to be produced....."

County Express 7/7/1900

"Mr. E. O. Nightingale, of Cradley Heath, held a most successful property sale at the VINE AND RAILWAY, Cradley Heath, on Tuesday evening....."

County Express 28/7/1900

"Frederick Harris, scrap dealer, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, was charged with being disorderly on the licensed premises of *Frederick William Frost*, and refusing to leave on July 20th; also with assaulting Herbert Cox, barman, and with wilfully damaging a bottle of sherry and two bottles of bitters, of the value 11s 3d.

Mr. Waldron, who prosecuted, said on the night named at 10.35, the defendant went into the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, managed by Mr. *Frost*. Defendant asked for a stout and bitter, which was supplied him. He was perfectly sober. Upon being applied to for payment of the liquor supplied to him, defendant said that a man named Kale would pay. Whoever Kale was he refused, and the barman told defendant that the landlord did not allow strap, and that the stout and bitter would be taken away. Thereupon the defendant struck Cox at the back of the head. Mr. *Frost* told him to leave, and the defendant commenced to use very bad language, and remained for ten minutes. At the expiration of that time, defendant picked up a glass and shied it at the barman. It missed the barman, and glanced off Mrs. *Frost's* shoulder and struck some bottles, three of which were broken. Defendant then assaulted the barman seriously, and ultimately he left threatening to meet the barman later. Cox did not sleep on the premises, and when he left after eleven o'clock defendant again met him and gave him two black eyes.

Mrs. Frost and Herbert Cox gave evidence bearing out this statement.

Defendant pleaded guilty to the three offences, and had nothing to say.

For being disorderly and refusing to quit defendant was fined 10s, and costs, for assault 20s, and costs, and for the wilful damage 10s, and costs, and 11s 3d damage."

[Is Frederick Harris the son of the landlord of the ROYAL OAK?]

County Express 3/11/1900

"Richard Johnson, chainmaker, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath, was charged with being disorderly on the premises of, and refusing to quit, the VINE AND RAILWAY, when requested, on October 13th.

Mr. *F. W. Frost*, landlord, said defendant and several of his friends went into the house half drunk, and commenced a disturbance. Although there had been a great many customers in the house just before these men came in, the house was cleared in a few minutes, as they interfered with the customers. Johnson threatened to knock witness's head off, and would not leave until the police came.

Inspector Given said it was a very bad case, and these men were continually annoying the landlord of this house.

Defendant was fined 10s, and costs."

County Advertiser 23/3/1901 - Advert

"Respectable Boy wanted (live indoors), to clean plate and useful generally.

VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath."

1901 Census

Lomey Town

[1] *Frederick William Frost* (39), hotel manager, born Horncastle, Lincolnshire;

[2] Amy Woolstencroft (24), housekeeper, born Manchester;

[3] Frances Hall (21), barmaid, born Stourbridge;

[4] Elizabeth Sharp (21), housemaid, born Coventry;

[5] Myra Brace (19), cook, born Quarry Bank;

[6] Harry Vincent (23), groom, born West Bromwich;

[7] Annie B. Sharp (19), waitress, born Dudley;

County Advertiser 13/4/1901 - Advert

"Wanted, Housemaid to assist generally. Wages 7s per week.

Apply, VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath."

County Express 25/5/1901

“At Old Hill Police Court on Wednesday, Henry Joseph Martin, Excise officer stationed at Cradley Heath, was charged with assaulting *Frederick William Frost*, manager of the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on May 16th. Mr. Ward appeared for complainant, and Mr. Waldron defended.

Mr. Ward said on the previous Thursday his client was standing near the RAILWAY HOTEL when defendant came up the road. He was carrying a thick walking stick, and was flourishing it about. He crossed over to near where *Frost* was, and *Frost* said, ‘When you wrote to Showells’ you did not tell them about that what you did to my wife.’ The defendant exclaimed, ‘You dog,’ and struck *Frost* violently across the face, and partially stunned him. Defendant repeated the blows until the stick broke. To prevent defendant doing him any further violence complainant grappled with him, and they fell on the ground, but were separated. Defendant lived at the complainant’s house for some two years, and complainant had had to complain of his familiarity with his wife, in consequence of which he and his wife had separated. Threats had been made by the defendant that he would hound complainant out of his situation and would publicly horsewhip him, and it was a fact that defendant had written Messrs. Showells, complainant’s employers. He would ask the Bench if they believed his story to mark their sense of the assault by inflicting a heavy penalty.

Complainant was then examined, and said he was standing near the RAILWAY HOTEL talking to Mr. Tromans, when he saw the defendant crossing the road. Defendant had a walking stick in his hand, which he flourished. Directly witness saw defendant, he said, ‘Martin, when you wrote to Showells’ Brewery, you did not tell them of the incident with my wife on that Saturday night.’ Defendant took a step forward, then turned round, and said, ‘You dog.’ Witness retorted, ‘You dirty dog,’ and then defendant struck him on the head with the stick. Witness partly met the blow with his arm, but defendant struck him again on the head twice, each blow partly stunning him, and he fell in the gutter. Defendant then took two running cuts at witness, and the stick broke. Witness recovered himself as best he could, and closed with the defendant, and they fell, in the fall witness having the better of it. He tried to strike defendant on the ground, but could not do so for exhaustion.

Cross-examined: Martin lived at his house about two years, and left on November 9th. They had not lived in perfect amity. He denied being on the look-out for Martin on the day of the assault. The postcard dated May 8th was in his handwriting, and was addressed to defendant. It said, ‘Mrs. *Frost* came last week to fetch you to box my ears. You have not brought your dog whip to whip me as you promised.’ It also contained a reference to an incident which occurred at *Frost*’s house on September 8th, and to which *Frost* had referred immediately before the assault, when he asked the defendant about writing to Showells. He also admitted writing the postcard, also dated May 8th, which was addressed ‘Mrs. Martin Frost.’ He had been in the habit of calling his wife a great many things with a great many adjectives to. They had been married eight years, and had fought each other. She fought him in the morning and he fought her at night. The next two days he had a stick with him, because he could not walk without it. He was not vowing vengeance upon the defendant. He admitted calling defendant ‘a dirty dog.’ He did not square off when he saw Martin, and had not threatened to smash his ‘napper.’ He admitted fetching a poker out of the house and putting it by the door on one of the nights of October last year. That was when defendant had a thick stick with him, and in poker v. stick witness thought he would have won.

Re-examined as to the postcards: Defendant had threatened to whip witness many times. His wife did go away to fetch the defendant to box witness’s ears. He had told his wife to send accounts to Martin to be paid. His wife left witness because Martin offered to find her a home. He would never have spoken to Martin had he not interfered with witness and his servants.

Emma Plant said she was in their shop on the day in question, and saw the assault committed. Martin hit *Frost* four or five times, and the stick was broken. *Frost* did not attempt to assault Martin, but tried to ward off the blows with his hand.

Mr. Waldron, for the defence, said if one thing was clearer or more certain than another, it was that Mr. *Frost* was a violent and a despicable sort of man, inasmuch as he admitted that for eight ears he had been constantly quarrelling with and beating his wife. (*Frost*: I have not said so, sir.) He submitted that after the evidence given by the complainant it was impudence for complainant to say to the Bench he was a peaceful and law abiding subject. Did not the postcards show that *Frost* was pugnacious and determined at all hazards to create a row and bring on an affray with Martin. It was also a cowardly device to address a postcard to his wife in the way complainant did. He argued the words used by *Frost* before the affray were provocation, and that if they were used to anyone that person would be likely to retort and to follow that up with a blow. That was what they said happened in consequence of the words the complainant used.

The Bench said they considered a violent assault had been committed, and fined defendant £3 and costs. An application for the allowance of solicitor’s fee was refused.”

County Express 12/10/1901

“At the annual conference of the Midland Counties Trade Federation in July, directions were given that Mr. Sitch’s labours as Treasurer of this organisation should be recognised by the presentation of an address and a gold watch and chain. The presentation will take place at a complimentary dinner at the VINE AND RAILWAY on Monday night, and there will be a very representative company of the public and commercial life of the district to show its appreciation of Mr. Sitch. The speakers include Messrs. George Green, James Billingham, L. Connop, John Fellows, John Taylor, J. H. Smith, W. Millerchip, S. Webb, and T. Jones.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/10/1901

“Last night, under the auspices of the Midland Counties Trades Federation, Councillor T. Sitch was entertained at dinner at the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath. Councillor James Billingham presided, and on behalf of the Federation presented Councillor T. Sitch with an illuminated address in recognition of his services as treasurer for six years. Mr. John Taylor also presented Mr. Sitch with a gold watch and chain.”

County Advertiser 2/11/1901 - Advert

“Wanted, good Servant as House Maid General; wages 7s.
VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 23/8/1902 - Advert

“VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath.

Mr. T. Patshall is instructed by Mr. *Fred W. Frost*, who is leaving, to Sell by Auction, on the Premises as above, on Monday Next, August 25th, 1902, the Superior Household Furniture, and Effects, comprising Pollard Oak Dining Room Suite, Dining Table, splendid Overmantel, Pair of Mirrors, Ornamental Fire Screen, American Roll-top Writing Desk, Handsome Set of Brass Parisian Bedsteads, Horsehair and Wire Spring Mattresses, Capital Mahogany Chests of Drawers, Mahogany and Birch Oval Toilet Glasses, Splendid Mahogany Duchesse Toilet Table, with Washstand to match; Toilet Services, Antique Mirror, Alarm Clock, Electroplated Ware, Quantity of Jams, Pickles, and high-class Sauces, Cooking Utensils, capital Brown Pony, Dog Cart, Harness, &c, &c. Sale at One o'clock prompt.”

County Express 23/8/1902

“VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL Money Society.

The members of this society held a supper on Thursday evening, and advantage was taken of the occasion to make a presentation to Mr. *F. W. Frost*, who has resigned the management of the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL. There was a large attendance, including Messrs. H. F. Shaw (chairman), E. J. Kinsey (vice-chairman), Frank Webb, C.C., L. Flavell, F. Connop, L. Connop, A. J. Hingley, M. Burns, T. Pateshall, *J. Rowlands*, W. Bannister, Butler, C. Pritchard, Thomas, A. Griffiths, E. Stringer, B. Bladen, J. Williams, J. Birch, R. Mason, E. Willetts, C. Green, J. Hampton, W. E. Harris, F. Griffiths, Mills, J. T. Yates, W. Wylde, E. Gould, and F. Gould.

The Chairman submitted the loyal toast, which was received with musical honours.

Later in the evening, in making the presentation of an illuminated address and Gladstone bag to Mr. *Frost*, the Chairman regretted they were going to lose him. Since that was inevitable, it was with great pleasure to the members of the society to be afforded an opportunity of showing in a tangible manner their appreciation of his services in trying to make them comfortable.

The address, which as beautifully written and framed, was as follows:-

‘Cradley Heath, Staffs, August, 1902.

Frederick William Frost. Having heard that our esteemed friend, Mr. *Frederick William Frost*, of the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, is about to leave the district, we desire to place on record our deep sense of appreciation of the unfailing courtesy, uniform civility, and warm-hearted fellowship with which he always welcomed his guests. As a host he had always been of that jovial nature which pleases and places one's guests at ease, making them feel comfortable and at home, and he had always striven to do his utmost to satisfy and please those for whom he catered. His departure will be a distinct loss to the district, where he is thoroughly well known and most highly esteemed.’

Words of appreciation followed by the vice-chairman, Mr. L. Connop, Mr. Flavell, and Mr. Joseph Williams.

Mr. *Frost* thanked the speakers for the kindly and flattering remarks they had made concerning him. The five-and-a-half years he had spent at Cradley Heath were amongst the most pleasant of his life, and in leaving them he was severing many friendships, he would have liked to maintain. During the evening songs were given by Messrs. J. Price, J. Shaw, G. Mallen, and a recitation by Mr. F. Griffiths. Mr. Shaw presided at the piano.”

James Rowlands = James Rowland

County Express 6/12/1902

“The players of the Cradley Heath Cricket Club, together with a few friends were entertained to dinner at the VINE AND RAILWAY INN, on Monday evening, by the president, Mr. R. Fellows. An excellent repast was provided by Mr. *J. Rowland*, and subsequently a smoking concert was held. The toast of ‘The President’ was proposed by Mr. Harold Bloomer, and was acknowledged by Mr. Fellows. The president afterwards submitted the toast ‘The Cradley Heath Cricket Club,’ and this was received with enthusiasm. Songs were given by Messrs. L. Connop, G. Powell, H. F. Shaw, D. Mallen, T. L. Round, G. H. Mason, and F. Fosbroke. Mr. T. Hancox presided at the piano, and the evening was spent very pleasantly.”

County Advertiser 19/12/1903

“The Cricket Club. The annual dinner was held on Monday evening last at the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, and an excellent repast provided by Mr. and Mrs. *Rowlands*. Mr. R. Fellows (president) was in the chair, and about forty members and friends were present. A satisfactory report of the doings of the club was given, and several toasts were submitted and honoured.”

County Advertiser 26/12/1903

“The eleventh annual dinner of the adult section of the Evening Council School was held at the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on Saturday, when some 30 sat down to enjoy the ample repast laid before them by Mr. *J. Rowlands*.....”

County Advertiser 9/4/1904

“Midland Counties Trades Federation. Annual Conference at Cradley Heath.....

The way in which the delegates were subsequently entertained at the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL was, as Mr. Sitch would say, ‘Up to Cradley Heath reputation.’ Mr. and Mrs. *Rowlands* catered a most inviting repast, the viands being well cooked and expeditiously served. Mr. W. Millerchip (president of the Federation) headed the table, and Mr. J. P. Price was vice-chairman.....”

County Advertiser 21/5/1904

“The Old Hill district staff of the British Workman’s and General Assurance Company and their wives met at the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on Thursday last week, and after partaking of a tasty meat tea, served by Mr. *Rowlands*, held a meeting to make a presentation to Mr. Davis (district superintendent). . . .”

County Advertiser 3/12/1904

“The annual dinner of the Cradley Heath Cricket Club was held on Monday evening at the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL An excellent repast was served by the host, Mr. *J. Rowland*. . . .”

County Advertiser 19/8/1905

“The annual meeting of the Cradley Heath St. Luke’s Football Club was held on Monday evening at the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL. Previous to the meeting the playing members were entertained to dinner which was provided in an excellent manner by the host Mr. *J. Rowland*. . . .”

County Advertiser 21/4/1906

“So happily successful was the fancy dress ball held in Reddal Hill Church Schools, Newtown Lane, in January last, that it was arranged to hold another before the end of the season. This duly came off on Thursday evening, and in every respect, excepting that of numbers, was the more successful of the two. . . .

A classroom had been fitted up for refreshments, and Mr. *James Rowlands* of the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL catered in dainty and attractive fashion. Mr. H. H. Gould, and Dr. Gillespie acted as the MCs.”

Birmingham Mail 25/7/1906 - Advert

“Barmaid (experienced) Wanted, good references.
Rowland, VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley.”

County Advertiser 25/8/1906 - Advert

“Notice Of Sale By Auction, of Two Fully-Licensed Properties, 20 Freehold Dwelling Houses, and Building Land at Quarry Bank, Netherend and Lye.

Alfred W. Dando has received instructions from the Executors of the late Mr. Thomas Fellows, to Sell by Auction, at the house of Mr. *J. Rowland*, the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley, on Monday, September 3rd, 1906, at Seven o’clock in the Evening precisely. . . .”

County Express 25/4/1908

“In the evening the officials of the Federation and the delegates at the conference were the guests of the Block-chain Makers’ Society, at the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL. Mr. and Mrs. *James Rowlands*, the host and hostess, whose catering abilities are so well-known, appeared to excel themselves, and all present were delighted with the provision made. Mr. J. P. Price presided, supported by Mr. William Cooper (president of the Federation, and president of the Block-chain Makers’ Society), Mr. J. Taylor, Mr. T. Jones, Mr. W. Millerchip, and Mr. Thos. Sitch (secretary to the Chainmakers’ and Strikers’ Association), Mr. W. Fell (vice president of the Federation), etc. The Chairman gave the loyal toast ‘The Federation’”

County Express 16/5/1908 - Advert

“Newtown Lane, Cradley Heath. Important Sale of Highly Valuable Freehold Property.

E. O. Nightingale has received instructions from the Executors of the late Mr. John Aston, to Sell By Auction at the house of Mr. *J. Rowlands*, the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on Tuesday, the 26th day of May, 1908, at 7 o’clock in the Evening. . . .”

County Express 12/9/1908

“Friendly Societies’ Parade. On Wednesday evening the committee of the above met at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Mr. W. Coley presiding over a large attendance. The following was a complete list of those boxes which contained amounts of 1s and upwards. . . .

Mr. *J. Rowlands*, VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, 1s 4½d.”

County Express 5/9/1908 - Notice

“To My Friends In Cradley Heath.

Dear Sirs.

The notice of my leaving the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, having been so short, I was unable to express to all of you my Sincere Thanks for the kindness and courtesy you have always shown me during the time I have resided in Cradley Heath, and I, therefore wish to take this opportunity of doing so. My connection with the district has always been most pleasant, and I can assure you I regret having to leave. I have, however, at the urgent request of my firm, taken over the Market Hotel, Birmingham, where you will always have a warm welcome when in the vicinity. Thanking you for the kind sentiments expressed towards me on my departure, I remain, yours faithfully.

J. Rowland. September 2nd, 1908.”

Tipton Herald 13/2/1909

“During his stay in Cradley Heath Mr. *James Rowlands* won a host of friends and admirers. His jovial countenance, his continual smile, earned for himself the name of ‘Happy Jimmy,’ a title of which he was as mine host justly proud. When he first went to Cradley Heath he took up the position of landlord of the ANCHOR HOTEL at Five Ways. Some few years ago, however, he transferred his energies to the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, near the station, where he carried on a successful business. Towards the end of last year, however, Messrs. Showell and Co, recognizing Mr. *Rowlands*’ superior ability, asked him to take over the Market Hotel, Birmingham. It was with great regret that Mr. *Rowlands* left his many friends at Cradley Heath, and the presentations to him and his good lady on Tuesday evening are proof of the esteem in which he is held.

The presents consisted of a gold watch to Mr. *Rowlands* (the gift of his friends) and a gold-mounted umbrella (the gift of Mr. *Machin*, his successor at the VINE AND RAILWAY), and a gold diamond brooch to Mrs. *Rowlands*. The inscription on the watch read, ‘Presented to Mr. *James Rowlands*, as a mark of esteem by his many friends upon leaving the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, September 1st, 1908.’

There was a large attendance at the ceremony.....”

James Rowlands – see also ANCHOR.

Tipton Herald 17/7/1909

“A capital supper was partaken of on Friday evening at the FIVE WAYS HOTEL, Cradley Heath, the house of Mr. E. Slinn. It was the outcome of a couple of billiard matches between teams chosen by Mr. *Fred Machin*, of the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, and Mr. Slinn.....”

Tipton Herald 14/8/1909

“A meeting of the committee who have had in hand the management of the recent parade in Cradley Heath was held on Tuesday evening in the smoke room at the HOLLY BUSH INN, Newtown Lane. There was a large attendance. Mr. Walter Coley was in the chair.....

A vote of thanks was accorded Mr. *Fred Machin*, of the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, for his generous treatment of the band and the committee on the occasion of the recent benefit at the Theatre It was the best twopenny show they had seen in their lives.....”

Tipton Herald 24/7/1909

“Mr. *H. F. Machin*, landlord of the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, made an application on Wednesday morning at the Old Hill Police Court for permission to sell intoxicants on the ground at Haden Hill, on the occasion of the annual sports, on August 3rd, between the hours of 12 till 10pm.

Superintendent Johnson: When did you serve the notice? – About 9.30 yesterday.

It did not get in the hands of the police till 12 o’clock – There must be some mistake.

To whom did you serve the notice? – To the Inspector of Police. I sent it up by messenger.

Don’t you know it is customary to send the notice to the Superintendent and not the Inspector – I did not know.

I must protest against this sort of procedure. The Act says a license shall not be granted unless notice has been served on the superintendent of police in the district in which the applicant resides. Here we have one which does not reach me till last night. It was rather loose business. He had no objection to the application nor the applicant if it were made in proper order. There is time for the application to be made next week.

The Clerk: The best course then will be for the application to be made next week.

Mr. *Machin*: I want to make it clear to the Superintendent that I have done wrong in ignorance, and not out of disrespect to the Superintendent.

Superintendent Johnson: Oh, I don’t suggest that, Mr. *Machin*. There is a right way and a wrong way, and we want these things done the right way.

The Chairman: We must make the procedure of the Court known. You must make your application next week.”

Tipton Herald 14/8/1909

“Messrs. C. W. Bassano and C. A. Lloyd were the magistrates at the Old Hill Police Court on Wednesday, when Mr. *Fred Machin*, of the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, applied for a license from 12 to 10 to sell intoxicants on the Cradley Heath Football Ground today (Saturday) on the occasion of the annual sports.

Superintendent Johnson: What is the difference between these sports and the last? – Mr. *Machin*: I can’t say.

Last year it was 2 to 8 – But this year the band will play till 9.15.

There are no fireworks? – I don’t think so.

Why do you want the license from 12 o’clock? – Well there will be a goodly number of men at work on the ground prior to the gates opening, and they may want refreshments.

There is a public not far away? – But I have to pay for this.

I can’t help that. I think 2 to 9 will be long enough.

Will you make it one o’clock? – The Chairman: We will grant it from 2 till 9.

Thank you.”

Tipton Herald 25/12/1909

“The members of the Cradley Heath Private Bowling Club held their annual dinner in the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Crad-

ley Heath, on Monday evening. About 60 members and friends partook of a splendid meal, which was excellently served by Mr. and Mrs. *Fred Machin* and staff. Afterwards the President (Mr. T. M. Tibbetts) took the chair.....”

Tipton Herald 25/12/1909

“The annual dinner in connection with the Rowley Regis Urban District Fire Brigade was held on Saturday evening at the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath. A capital meal was served by Mr. and Mrs. *H. F. Machin* (the host and hostess), and after full justice had been done to the good things provided, Councillor Thomas Crew (the chairman of the District Council) took the chair.....”

County Express 15/1/1910

“Election Results.

The *County Express* have arranged for a complete service of Election Results between today (Saturday) and January 29th, by night and day.

Night Results tonight (Saturday) and on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of next week will be shown by limelight lantern (worked by Mr. W. A. Dallow of Stourbridge) from the windows of the Head Office, High Street, Stourbridge.

Day Results as received will be posted in the following places:

County Express Head Office, High Street, Stourbridge.

BRIDGE INN, Reddal Hill, Cradley Heath.

Mr. U. Beddall’s (*County Express* Branch Office, Brierley Hill).

VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath.

Mr. G. Evans, High Street, Quarry Bank.”

County Express 16/4/1910

“The annual meeting of the Stourbridge and District Master Builders’ Association was held at Cradley Heath on Monday.....

The annual dinner was held at the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on Monday, Mr. C. Griffiths (president) occupying the chair. A party numbering some 35 enjoyed the excellent catering.....”

County Express 30/7/1910

“On Wednesday, at Old Hill Police Court.....

Mr. *H. F. Machin*, of the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, was granted an occasional license for the Old Hill Cricket Club fete on Thursday next.”

Henry Frederick Machin – see also TALBOT, Talbot Street, Oldbury.

County Express 10/9/1910

“A meeting of the Central Committee of the Imperial Tariff Committee for Cradley Heath, Cradley, Lye, Stambermill, Wollescote, and Old Hill, was held on Wednesday in the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath. Mr. Langford Griffiths was in the chair.....”

1911 Census

1, Chester Road – VINE AND RAILWAY INN

[1] *John Freeman* (39), licensed victualler, hotel manager, born Saltney, Birmingham;

[2] Clara Freeman (36), wife, married 16 years, assisting in the business, born Birmingham;

[3] Gladys Hypatia Freeman (15), daughter, born Sparkhill, Worcestershire;

[4] Elsie Beatrice Freeman (13), daughter, school, born Sparkhill, Worcestershire;

[5] Albert John Freeman (10), son, school, born Sparkhill, Worcestershire;

[6] Clara Hildegard Gertrude Freeman (8), daughter, school, born Sparkhill, Worcestershire;

[7] Constance Virginia Freeman (4), daughter, born Sparkhill, Worcestershire;

[8] Stanley Paul Freeman (2), son, born Kidderminster;

[9] Betsy Kerry (81), widow, aunt, born Birmingham;

[10] Clara Brokington (74), widow, mother in law, born Birmingham;

[11] Emma Jane Heath (23), hotel waitress, born Cradley Heath;

[12] Christopher William Cradders Stokes (20), billiard marker, born Northampton;

[13] Fred Harrold (14), stable lad, born Old Hill:

County Express 1/7/1911

“.....Luncheon was served by Mr. *Freeman*, of the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath following which there was an entertainment. Mr. Stitch, who was accompanied by Mrs. Stitch, presided over the gathering.”

County Express 8/7/1911 - Advert

“*Ben Wilkinson* (late of the HORSE SHOE and STAR, Brierley Hill, VINE AND RAILWAY, Cradley Heath), is now at the FOUNTAIN INN, Hagley Road, Stourbridge, and presents for sale his Pure Home-Brew’d Ales, brewed at Will George’s, JOLLY BREWER, Tipton, old and new friends heartily welcome.”

Birmingham Mail 9/8/1911 - Advert

“Trap for Sale, splendid condition, for cob, 15 or 16 hands; cheap. Apply, VINE AND RAILWAY, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 16/12/1911

“A sale of property was held at the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on Monday, a good company being present. Lot 1 comprised the premises formerly known as the OLD CROWN INN, Halesowen Road, Netherton; lot 2 the dwelling house known as the LODGE FORGE INN, Cradley. Both the properties were sold at prices satisfactory to the vendors. The solicitors were Messrs. Homfray, Holberton, and Mellor, Brierley Hill, and Messrs Whetstone and Frost, Leicester; auctioneer, Mr. R. Glanville Slater (of the firm Humphries, Slater, and Co. Brierley Hill).”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/1/1915

“The annual dinner in connection with the Old Hill and District Miners’ Association was held on Saturday at the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath....”

Dudley Chronicle 9/10/1915

“Saturday proved a wretched day for the cycle and fancy dress parade promoted by the Cradley Heath Patriotic Committee. For the first day for many weeks the sun decided to remain indoors, and from start to finish there was a steady downpour of rain which made it very uncomfortable for exhibitors and spectators alike.....

Others in the procession were Albert Oakley, from the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, was a Japanese collector.....

Mr. Edwards said he was sorry the weather had been so unfavourable. Still a good show had been made, and they would be able to hand over a good sum for the benefit of local soldiers and sailors.”

Birmingham Daily Post 26/1/1918 - Advert

“Cradley Heath.

Highly-Important Sale of Two Villa Residences, with Ranges of Two-Storied Warehouses, at Rear, and Plot of Ripe Building Land.

To Corn Merchants, Fruit Merchants, Manufacturers, Investors, and Others.

Alfred Hill has been instructed to Sell by Public Auction, at the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, on Tuesday, February 5, 1918, at Seven o’clock sharp in the Evening, subject to conditions of sale to be then read.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/9/1922 - Advert

“Sale At The VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Lomey Town, Cradley Heath (opposite the G.W.R. Station), on Tuesday, October 3rd, 1922, at Eleven o’clock prompt.

Hubert R. Twist has been favoured with instructions to Sell by Auction as above, entirely without reserve, the Household Furniture & Effects comprising Kerbs, Lace Curtains, Toilet and Trinket Sets, Water Colours, Fenders, Valuable and Solid All Brass Full-Size Bedsteads with silk tapestry hangings, Box Spring Mattresses, Hair Overlay, Feather Bolsters and Pillows, Medicine Chest, 3ft 6in, Solid Oak Bedroom Suite, Chairs, adjustable Bed Table, Hearthrugs, Single Bedsteads, Hand Sewing Machine, Kitchen Table, Satinwood Chest of Drawers, Child’s Cot, Folding Baby Car, Satin Walnut Dressing Table and Washstand, Oak Bedsteads, Wire Spring Mattress, Solid Mahogany Dressing Table and Washstand, Swing Toilet Glass, Plants, Chinaware, Cooking Utensils, Glassware, Kitchen Utensils and numerous other items.

On View Morning Of Sale. No Porters Admitted.

Auctioneer’s Offices: 9, Union Street, Birmingham. Telephone 5866 Central.”

Birmingham Gazette 3/1/1925

“70 Mile-An-Hour Gale’s Trail of Disaster.....

The position in the Midlands is described in the following messages from *Gazette* correspondents.....

Cradley Heath. A large plate-glass window in the VINE AND RAILWAY public house, Lomey Town, was shattered by the wind last night. The window measured 16ft by 6ft, and the force with which the glass was hurled into the bar caused numerous fragments to be embedded in the tables. The room was practically deserted at the time, and the licensee, Mr. *H. T. Dixon*, who was standing some distance away, was struck by several splinters, and was cut about the hands.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 3/11/1930

“Time does not seem to lessen the poignancy of the case of the bereaved dependants of those who were killed in the Norton Canes pit disaster.

The *Birmingham Gazette* and *Evening Despatch* relief fund continues to grow steadily.....

The Subscription List....

Customers, VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Cradley Heath, per Mrs. Kingdom 11s 6d.”

Walter Frank Meir = Walter Frank Moir

1939 Register

Chester Road – VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL

[1] *Walter F. Meir*, date of birth 14/9/1911, tenant of licensed hotel, married;

- [2] Jessie Meir, dob 15/6/1912, unpaid domestic duties, married;
[3] Janet M. (Meir) Norman, dob 9/1/1935, under school age, single;
[4] Thomas D. Fox, dob 20/10/1917, general fitter, omnibus department, single:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/3/1943

“The War Charities Act 1940.

Notice Is Hereby Given that it is proposed to apply to the Rowley Regis Council for the registration under the above-mentioned Act of The VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL Services Fund, the objects of which are to give Gifts or Money to Customers and Relatives of same serving in H.M. Forces and the administrative centre of which is situate at the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Chester Road, Cradley Heath, Staffs. 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.

H. Dunn, Secretary. Dated 20th March, 1943.”

Birmingham Daily Post 9/4/1959

“Rowley Regis magistrates yesterday awarded £4 costs against the police to one of the youths who had been prosecuted for stealing a pint beer glass and maliciously damaging a motor-cycle with it. They were alleged to have thrown the glass at a motor-cycle damaging its petrol tank.

The youth awarded costs was Allan James Ball, aged 19, of Saltwells Road, Dudley Wood, Cradley Heath. His solicitor Mr. G. Green said that there must have been considerable doubt in the minds of the prosecution from the beginning as to whether or not Ball was guilty.

The second youth, John Henry Roach, aged 19, of Saltwells Estate, Dudley Wood, who like Ball had denied the charges, was fined £20 and ordered to pay £11 17s 6d costs. The chairman, Mr. H. M. Ashmore told him, ‘This was a stupid and dangerous act which might have had serious repercussions. I cannot understand you; you have been before the court previously for assault.’

It was alleged that after a group of youths had set about another motor-cyclist outside the VINE AND RAILWAY INN, Lower High Street, Cradley Heath, on March 14 – a pint beer glass was thrown at Mr. J. G. Humphries, of Wallheath, as he rode his motor-cycle past the group. He had nothing to do with the youths.

Mr. N. Bayley, prosecuting said the prosecution appreciated that two men could not have thrown the glass at the same time but it was thought proper to bring both youths to court.”

Tipton Herald 18/6/1960

“‘We are not all infallible – even the police.’ This was stated to have been the explanation given to a police officer by *Leonard Bacon* (60), of the VINE AND RAILWAY HOTEL, 1, Chester Road, Cradley Heath, who was summoned at Old Hill Magistrates Court on Wednesday for parking his car in a portion of Lower High Street, Cradley Heath, where waiting was not allowed on May 10th. *Bacon* was fined £1.”

Plans for proposed alterations were approved on 7th February 1962.

Birmingham Daily Post 13/10/1967

“Mr. Bert Weedon, the guitarist, last night pushed over a 2ft 6in pile of pennies which had been collected by patrons of the VINE AND RAILWAY INN, Cradley Heath. The money will go to the Spastics Society.”

[1968]

Closed
Demolished

WAGGON AND HORSES

CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

LICENSEES

George Talbot [1862]

NOTES

WAGGON AND HORSES

100, (73), Reddal Hill Road, Spinners End, (Fox Oak), (Plants Green), OLD HILL

OWNERS

John Rolinson and Son (acquired in 1899 for £4,000), [1907]
Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.
Marstons plc [2008]
Ostlers Alehouses Ltd. [2018]

LICENSEES

Jeremiah Laister []
Mary Penn [1851]
Isaac Hall [1856] – **1872**);
Joseph Hall [1861]
Jacob Coley (**1872 – 1881**);
Eliza Coley (**1881** – []
Charles Henry Sneath [1889] – [1891]
Mrs. Mabel Sneath [1892] – [1896]
Charles Davies [1900] – **1910**);
Joseph Bloomer (**1910 – 1911**);
Frank Murdoch Tibbetts (**1911** – [1912]
George Adrian Slim (**1913 – 1921**);
George William Frederick Glaze (**1921 – 1922**);
Ezra Crampton (**1922 – 1932**);
Harry Pritchard (**1932 – 1936**);
George Lewis (**1936 – 1937**);
Jonathan Malpass (**1937 – 1938**);
Bert Adrian Slim (**1938 – 1955**);
William Bertram Bradley (**1955** – [1965]
George John Garbett (**1986** – [2011]
Patrick Dunne [2015]
Zoe Baxter [2018]

NOTES

Fox Oak, Reddal Hall [1865]
73, Reddal Hill Road [1881], [1891], [1901], [1904], [1908]
100, Reddal Hill Road [1911], [1932], [1939], [1940]

Black Country Bugle (March 1993) - Pub of the Month

“.....for Mr. *Jeremiah Laister* set up his Fox Oak Brewery at Reddal Hill in the 1840s and opened a tavern-cum-pawnshop which he called the WAGGON AND HORSES (the first licensed house on the site). One long taproom accommodated drinkers whilst a smaller apartment on the side was used by *Laister's* ‘pop shop’ clients.”

1851 Census

Red Hall Hill

[1] *Mary Penn* (71), widow, victualler, born Rowley;
[2] Emma Harper (23), housemaid, born Cradley:

County Advertiser 22/3/1856 - Advert.

“Sale at the WAGGON AND HORSES INN Reddal Hill, Rowley Regis

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Detheridge, on Monday Next, the whole of the Household Furniture, consisting of a Set of Tent Bedsteads, Mattresses, Flock Bed, Chairs, Tables, Painted Wash-hand Stand, 30-hour Clock, Swing Glasses, Chimney Glass, 3 Oil Paintings, Set of Fireirons, 2 Fenders, Oval Iron Pot, Saucepan, sundry lot of Tin-ware, Oak Linen Chest, Wood and Iron Buckets, lot of Garden Tools, and other effects, belonging to Mrs. Sarah Perks.

Sale to commence at Twelve o'clock in the Morning.”

Brierley Hill Advertiser 9/1/1858

“*Isaac Hall*, landlord of the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Cradley Heath, was charged with having his house open at an illegal hour, on the 25th ult. PC Lucas stated that past eleven o’clock on the above night, he heard a great noise in defendant’s house, and, upon entering, found a number of men and women in the house. Defendant said, in defence, that they were entertaining a number of friendly visitors. As this was the first offence, the Bench fined defendant 2s 6d, with costs.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/1/1858 - Advert

“Old-Licensed Public House, Land, and Cottages, Reddall Hill, Rowley Regis, Staffordshire.

Messrs. Oates & Perrens will Offer for Sale by Auction, by order of the Mortgagees, on Wednesday, the 10th day of February, 1858, at six o’clock in the afternoon, at the house of Mr. William Nock, the FOUR WAYS LIQUOR VAULTS, Reddall Hill, Rowley Regis, either together, or in such lots as may be determined upon by the Vendors at the time of sale, and subject to conditions then to be produced.

All that well-accustomed Old-Licensed Public House, called the WAGGON AND HORSES, with the Brewhouse, Stable, Out-buildings, and Garden, and three desirable Closes of Pasture Land adjoining thereto, situate at Reddall Hill, Fox Oak, in the parish of Rowley Regis, now in the occupation of *Isaac Hall*, together with three Cottages, with Nail Shops and Gardens, fronting to the road leading from Cradley to Rowley, now in the occupation of Thomas Perry, James Perry, and Abel Surter, the whole containing by admeasurement 4a 0r 31p or thereabouts.

The Property is well adapted for Building purposes. It is Copyhold of the Manor of Rowley Regis.

The Tenants will point out the same, and for further information apply to Mr. Thomas Wight, Jun., Solicitor, Brettel Lane, Brierley Hill, or to the Auctioneers, Stourbridge, at whose offices a plan of the premises may be seen.”

County Advertiser 6/2/1858 - Advert

“Old-Licensed Public House, Land, and Cottages. Reddall Hill, Rowley Regis, Staffordshire.

Messrs. Oates & Perrens will Offer for Sale by Auction (by order of the Mortgagees), on Wednesday Next, the 10th day of February, at Six o’clock in the afternoon, at the house of Mr. William Nock, the FOUR WAYS LIQUOR VAULTS, Reddall Hill, Rowley, either together, or in such lots as may be determined upon by the Vendors at the time of sale, and subject to conditions then to be produced.

All that well-accustomed Old-Licensed Public House, called the WAGGON AND HORSES, with the Brewhouse, Stable, Out-buildings, and Garden, and Three desirable Closes of Pasture Land adjoining thereto; situated at Reddall Hill, Fox Oak, in the parish of Rowley Regis, now in the occupation of *Isaac Hall*.....”

County Advertiser 28/8/1858

“Stewpony Annual Licensing Meeting. This meeting was held on Tuesday last.....

Forty complaints were made against licensed victuallers for having been convicted since the last license day for keeping open house during divine service, &c. The following were suspended.....

Isaac Hall, WAGGON AND HORSES, Reddall Hill.”

1861 Census

Plants Green – WAGON AND HORSES INN

- [1] *Isaac Hall* (36), victualler, born Cardington, Shropshire;
- [2] Martha Hall (33), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Ann Hall (4), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] James Hall (1), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Sarah J. Preece (17), house servant, born Stoke, Shropshire:

County Advertiser 4/11/1865 - Advert

“Reddall Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Bateman, at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill, in Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, on Tuesday, November 7th, 1865, at Six o’clock in the evening, either together or in such lots as shall be agreed on at the time of Sale, the under-mentioned Valuable Property, with the Reversionary Interest in the Mines and Minerals thereunder.

All that Inn, called or known by the name of the WAGGON AND HORSES, with Three Cottages, Orchard, Gardens, and Out-buildings thereto adjoining, situate at Reddall Hill aforesaid, together with all those Three Closes of Land thereto adjoining, and belonging, called, or known by the names or descriptions following, that is to say: the Little Hilly Piece, Orchard Piece, and the Sling, and containing, together with the site of the Messuages and Buildings and the Gardens and Orchard thereto, 4a 0r 31p, or thereabouts, more or less, which said Premises are now in the occupation of *Isaac Hall*, Thomas Perry, James Perry, and Joseph Siviter. And also the Copyhold Reversionary Interest in all the ungoten Mines and Minerals, at the expiration of the present lease to the Trustees of the New British Iron Company, for Twenty-four years from the 29th day of September, 1853, under which Lease the present Lessees can only work the Mines from their adjacent lands.

The above Property is Copyhold of the Manor of Rowley.

For further information apply to Mr. Wight, Solicitor, or to the Auctioneer, Dudley.”

1871 Census

Reddall Hill Road – WAGON AND HORSES INN

- [1] *Isaac Hall* (47), licensed victualler, born Cardingtow, Shropshire;

- [2] Martha Hall (44), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Annie Hall (14), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Elizabeth Hall (8), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Martha J. Hall (3), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Elizabeth Bradbury (16), domestic servant, born Stourbridge:

County Advertiser 22/4/1871

“A very sudden death occurred at Darby Hand Colliery, on the 18th inst. Mr. Benjamin Gould, 43 years of age, chartermaster of the colliery, was in his office about half-past three on the day named, when he was suddenly taken ill, and died in a few minutes. An inquest was held on Thursday afternoon, at the WAGGON AND HORSES, Reddal Hill, before the Coroner, Mr. Edwin Hooper. A verdict of Died from Natural Causes was returned.”

County Advertiser 13/4/1872

“On Easter Tuesday a number of the workmen in the employ of Mr. T. P. Jones, Dudley, met at the WAGGON AND HORSES INN, Reddal Hill, for the purpose of presenting to Mr. John Green, late manager for the above-named gentleman, a testimonial of esteem. Upwards of 30 sat down to dinner, which was served up in first-class style by the worthy host, Mr. *Jacob Coley*. Mr. George Allbut was appointed chairman, and Mr. Josh. Shaw occupied the vice-chair. After the usual loyal toasts had been duly honoured, the health of Mr. John Green was proposed by the Vice-chairman, in suitable terms. The Chairman then presented him with the testimonial, consisting of an address, a silver cup, and a very handsome timepiece, with suitable inscriptions upon each. The toast of the ‘Chain and Anchor Trade,’ coupled with the name of Mr. T. P. Jones, met with a hearty response. Mr. John Green then replied in very feeling terms; and some excellent songs were sung, Mr. Samuel Wright presiding at the piano. The party broke up at an early hour, highly delighted with their evening’s entertainment.”

County Advertiser 18/3/1876

“*Jacob Coley*, WAGON AND HORSES INN, Old Hill, was charged with permitting drunkenness upon his premises on the 28th ult. Mr. Stokes defended.

Police-constable Blackmore said he saw a man named Willets near to the defendant’s house on the day in question. At his (witness’s) instance, he was charged with drunkenness, and fined at the preceding sessions.

Timothy Willets said he went into defendant’s house at about 7 o’clock on the night of the 28th ult, and stayed there until between 9 and 10 o’clock. Was sober enough when he went into the house, although he had had some ale previously. Had some club ale in the house.

Cross-examined: Was a member of a money club held at defendant’s house, and went there to pay his money. He had one quart of ale, which was the usual allowance, and left the house right enough.

The case was dismissed.”

County Express 17/6/1876

“Mr. Superintendent Mills is retiring from the Police Force after a service extending over 36 years, of which upwards of 25 have been spent as Superintendent of this District, and it has been deemed a fitting time to present him with a substantial Testimonial in recognition of his faithful services.

The Committee now publish the subscription list up to the 16th day of June instant.....

Jacob Coley, Reddal Hill, £1 1s 0d.”

Dudley Herald 22/7/1876

“*Jacob Coley*, landlord of the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Reddal Hill, was charged with having in his possession on the 4th May, 28lbs of sugar, not being for the necessary or ordinary use of his family, he not being licensed to brew with sugar. Mr. Stokes appeared for the defendant, who pleaded not guilty.

Mr. Stokes, in addressing the magistrates for the defence, hoped they would make a special recommendation for mitigation of the penalty on account of the sugar not being saccharine.

The Magistrates fined the defendant £50, being one-fourth the penalty, and refused to make any recommendation for mitigation.”

Dudley and District News 22/1/1881

“John Dean (27), horse dealer, of The Thorne, Brierley Hill, and Henry Everson (21), spade tree maker, Lye Waste, Stourbridge, was brought up in custody and charged with uttering counterfeit coin at Old Hill and Cradley Heath, on the 14th inst. Mr. Waldron defended Everson.

Evidence was given which went to show that on the day in question the prisoner Everson visited the shops of Jane Westwood, in Waterfall Lane, and Harriet Pearson, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, purchasing at the former a pennyworth of apples and at the latter a pennyworth of lozenges, and at each place tendering in payment a spurious two-shilling piece. Next he visited the WAGON AND HORSES, Reddal Hill, and called for a twopenny cigar, which was supplied him, and for which he tendered another counterfeit florin. As he was leaving the house the landlady saw that the coin was a bad one, and called to a man to stop the prisoner who, however, ran away and could not be overtaken. Later both of the prisoners were seen near to another shop kept by a man named Jeffcoot, in Laurences Lane, and at which shop it was alleged that Dean passed a base florin. Afterwards, it was stated, Everson passed a counterfeit florin at the shop of Samuel Mansell Cooper, provision dealer, Cradley Heath, Dean a bad florin at the HOLLY BUSH INN, and Everson a bad half-crown at the shop of Mr. Bishop. In the meantime, the police received information that the shopkeepers were being victimised, and the prisoners were arrested at their homes by PS Shaw and PC Mountford,

and the following day were identified by the above-named persons. Dean had been previously convicted for uttering base coin, and was now under police supervision.

The prisoners were again brought up on Wednesday and further remanded until the 21st inst.”

Dudley and District News 29/1/1881

“At the Staffordshire Assizes, on Thursday, John Dean (27), horse dealer, of The Thorne, Brierley Hill, and Henry Everson (26), spade tree maker, Lye Waste, committed from Old Hill Police Court, last week, were each sentenced to be imprisoned for twelve months with hard labour, for uttering counterfeit coin at Old Hill and Cradley Heath, on the 14th inst.”

1881 Census

73, Reddall Hill Road

- [1] *Jacob Coley* (48), innkeeper, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Eliza Coley* (48), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Agnes Colvin* (15), general servant, born London:

Jacob Coley died in the 2nd quarter of 1881.

See also WHITE SWAN, Old Hill.

Birmingham Daily Post 23/3/1889

“Yesterday, a well-attended meeting of miners employed at the Earl of Dudley’s No.30 Saltwells Colliery was held at the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Cradley Heath, under the presidency of Mr. B. Winwood. The Chairman explained that the strike had now terminated, the grievances the men complained of having been abolished. He had had an interview with the chartermaster of the colliery, and he had promised to remedy the evils that existed. The men would enter the mine at 7am and cease work at 4pm. A resolution was carried unanimously agreeing to resume work on Monday next.”

Charles Henry Sneath = Henry Charles Sneath

Birmingham Daily Post 25/5/1889 - Advert

“Found, black-and-fawn coloured Collie Dog. Owner can have him by paying expenses; in three days will be sold. Apply, Mr. *Sneath*, WAGON AND HORSES, Reddal Hill, Old Hill, near Dudley.”

1891 Census

73, Reddal Hill Road

- [1] *Charles Henry Sneath* (57), licensed victualler, born Westmorland;
- [2] *Mabel Sneath* (34), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Eliza Wetherford* (18), domestic servant, born Dudley:

County Advertiser 24/9/1892

“The Sad End of an Old Hill Tradesman.

inquest was held on Saturday afternoon last at the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Reddal Hill Road, Old Hill, before Mr. Edwin Hooper, touching the death of Mr. William Tromans, builder, of Lawrence Lane, Old Hill, who committed suicide last Thursday week by hanging himself. Mr. John Wright, Halesowen, represented the friends of the deceased.

Annie Tromans, the widow, said her husband was 36 years of age, and that ever since April he had been suffering from an over-taxed brain. He had been in a low, desponding state of mind, and rather strange at times. Recently he had been in financial difficulties, and these distressed him very much. On the 7th inst his stock was sold, and this preyed upon his mind; deceased being greatly put about, and complained that he was a ruined man and had no home. He had not threatened to commit suicide, but she thought it advisable to get medical aid for him. She last saw her husband alive on Thursday morning at six o’clock, when he said he was going to his brother’s house at Spring Meadow. She came down stairs about 7.30, and her little boy who had gone into the coalhouse to brush his boots, came screaming back, saying ‘Oh! mamma do come.’ She then saw what had happened. Deceased’s mother had been in an asylum. The affairs of deceased were placed some weeks ago in the hands of Mr. John Wright, and a meeting of his creditors was called. At this a composition of 6s in the pound was offered, but this arrangement fell through owing to some of the larger creditors refusing to consent. They insisted upon a deed of assignment being executed by the deceased and the estate was sold by the trustees to Mr. Thomas Hill, at a sum sufficient to pay the creditors 10s in the pound. The purchase money had been paid over. Reports reached deceased’s ears that he would be made a bankrupt, and that worried him terribly. There was no ground as far as she knew for such rumours.

The coroner said it was a most distressing case, and there was very little doubt that the difficulties which beset deceased had unhinged his mind.

Joseph Tromans, son of deceased, said he went into the coalhouse to black his boots, and saw his father hanging by means of a sash rope from a hook in the beam.

John Yates said he was passing by the house when he heard screams. He immediately jumped off his cart and ran into the house. When he saw deceased hanging in the coalhouse, he pulled out his knife and cut the rope. The body was just warm; he had known the deceased well.

A juryman remarked that he saw the deceased on the previous day and he appeared then to be in great trouble, saying that his burden was too heavy for him to bear.

The Coroner said that bore out the evidence which they had heard, and which showed that the mind of deceased had given way under his trouble.

The jury returned a verdict that deceased committed Suicide whilst in a state of Temporary Insanity.”

Henry Charles Sneath died in the 4th quarter of 1892.

County Express 14/7/1900

“An inquest was held on Saturday by Mr. A. H. Pearson (coroner), at the REINDEER INN, King Street, on Mary Ann Weaver (14), of Tibbetts Gardens, who had died from injuries received through being run over in the High Street.

Elizabeth Ann Weaver, the mother, stated that on the 4th inst she sent deceased to get some fish for supper, and afterwards she was brought home in an unconscious state, and died the next morning.

Ada Lane stated that when walking down High Street she saw deceased crossing the street, when a horse and trap was being driven up the road. She heard the driver (Mr. *Charles Davies*) shout out, and at the same time deceased was knocked down, the wheel of the vehicle passing over her head.

Police-sergeant Picher said he also witnessed the accident. Mr. *Davies* was driving at a modest pace, and was quite sober.

Charles Davies, landlord of the WAGON AND HORSES, Reddal Hill, said when driving through the High Street he saw the deceased about fifteen yards in front of him. Deceased afterwards became confused, and, the woman shouting her, she stopped right in front of the horse. She was knocked down by the horse, and a wheel passed over her head. He assisted in removing the unfortunate girl to her home.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, being of the opinion that Mr. *Davies* was in no way to blame.”

1901 Census

73, Reddal Hill Road – WAGGON AND HORSES INN

- [1] *Charles Davies* (45), anchor forgerman and publican, born Tipton;
- [2] Sarah Davies (44), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] Ernest Davies (26), son, iron chain worker, born Halesowen;
- [4] Rose Davies (17), daughter, born Halesowen;
- [5] Enoch Davies (15), son, born Halesowen;
- [6] Thomas Davies (13), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Walter Davies (10), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] Clara Smith (15), domestic servant, born Quarry Bank:

Charles Davies was also a brewer.

County Advertiser 18/2/1905

“John Harris, of Stones Yard, Cradley Heath, was charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Reddal Hill, on the 4th inst.

The landlord, *Charles Davies*, stated that defendant visited his house on the date named, and commenced to quarrel with another customer, and he ordered them both to leave. Defendant, however, refused to go.

He now expressed sorrow for his conduct, and he was fined 5s and costs.”

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 sanction to rebuild the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Reddal Hill, Old Hill, but this was deferred until the adjourned sessions.”

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 an agreement for the PEAR TREE INN to be sent for compensation they would be approved.”

Tipton Herald 12/6/1909

“*Charles Davies*, landlord of the WAGGON AND HORSES, Reddal Hill Road, Old Hill, was summoned on Wednesday at the Old Hill Court, before Mr. H. A. Bassano and Mr. J. H. Holcroft, for allowing Shadrack Talbot, butcher, of High Street, Old Hill,

to be on his premises in a drunken condition on the 27th May. Mr. Clulow prosecuted and Mr. Willison defended. Inspector Needham said that on the 27th of last month he visited the WAGGON AND HORSES at 10.30pm. When he got into the passage the landlord came out of the smoke room. He said, 'Good evening, Inspector; come this way,' at the same time inviting him to go into the kitchen. Instead of accepting the invitation, however, he went into the smoke room, where he saw Shadrack Talbot, an iron merchant, and a butcher named Farmer. Talbot was in an almost helpless state of drunkenness. He said to Mr. *Davies*, 'How do you account for having this man on your premises in such a drunken condition?' He replied, 'He has not been here long; he has had nothing to drink here. I have just filled him a soda water to sober him.' The Inspector then said, 'You know you have no right to have people on your premises in that state,' to which the landlord replied, 'Well you can't throw them out.' When Talbot tried to get up he fell back and said something, but his voice was so thick that he could not tell what the words were. He then told the landlord to send Talbot home, or he would have to lock him up. Talbot was then dragged out of the house. He was absolutely helpless. He could neither walk, talk nor stand.

Mr. Clulow: Helpless or what? – Drunk.

Proceeding, the Inspector said a man named Collett joined them in the road, and with another man took him home. At 10.55 he saw the two men dragging Talbot along the road towards his home. At 11.5, in company with PC Flowers, he saw Talbot lying on the floor in the back kitchen of his home. His wife was pacing backwards and forwards, wringing her hands as if in great distress. The other men had then gone. He spoke to Talbot and told him to get up. He lifted himself up a few inches, and made a communication to his wife. He then fell back again. He was helpless.

Mr. Clulow: Helpless, what? – Drunk.

Mr. Willison: In your opinion this was about as bad a case of helpless intoxication as you know of? – Yes.

By Mr. Willison: The landlord did not tell me that Talbot had collapsed 'only a few moments ago.' He did not ask me what I was going to charge him with, and I did not say 'What can I charge you with if he was not drunk?'

Have you heard of cases even in London, the foremost place, when men have been locked up for being drunk, and in the morning it has been found that it was not drink? – Yes.

Mr. Clulow: But I don't accept London as the foremost place. (laughter)

Mr. Willison: Well. I will accept it as such, after Birmingham. (laughter)

Mr. Clulow: You have heard of other people besides inspectors making mistakes? – Inspector: Yes, sir.

Even doctors have made mistakes? – I expect so.

And in some cases after doctors have given evidence the Bench have gone against them. – Yes.

Somebody made a mistake? – Yes.

William Flower (PC) said he was with the inspector on the Cross at Old Hill on the night in question. He corroborated the statement made by the inspector.

The defendant said he had been at the WAGGON AND HORSES 11 years. On the evening in question Talbot and Farmer entered his house at 10.30. Talbot had a gin and soda and Farmer a pint of ale. Both men were perfectly sober. Talbot borrowed his long pipe and smoked it. Shortly after he complained of feeling unwell, and a few moments afterwards he dropped the pipe and collapsed on the seat, and he (defendant) fetched a soda water. Then the Inspector went in, and said, 'Hello what is this,' and he (defendant) said, 'He's had a fit.' Then the Inspector said, 'Well get him off home, or I shall take him.' Then he said, 'What can I charge you with if the man is sober?' The inspector then left the house.

Mr. Clulow: Why should you suggest drunkenness? – I did not suggest drunkenness.

But if you thought he was in a fit, and it was obvious, why did your mind go to the question of being charged with drunkenness? – I was looking after myself. If the inspector had said he was drunk I should have called in a doctor at once. But he did not say he was drunk.

Do you suggest the pipe made him bad? – It might have helped him on.

Shadrack Talbot, butcher, of 3, High Street, Old Hill, said that on the day in question he had only one drink at the ROYAL EXCHANGE. In the evening he went to the VINE, where Mr. Farmer had a pint of ale and I took the top off. From the VINE they went to *Davies*, at the WAGGON AND HORSES, and there had a gin and soda. He was not drunk; he had not had enough to make him drunk. He was in the house about an hour, when he had a sort of a fit. He knew nothing after till he found himself in bed. He had a similar seizure on Saturday; they were too busy to drink on Saturday.

Answering Mr. Clulow: It is not true to say I promised the inspector the best gold mounted walking stick that money could buy. I did not say I would give him something to let the case drop. When he was on the floor in he kitchen he did not hear the conversation that passed between his wife and the officers.

Stephen Farmer, butcher, 41, Spinners End, Cradley Heath, said that when he met Talbot 'he was perfectly all right.' If Talbot had been drunk he would not have gone in a public with him. He was not drunk in the WAGON. He had nothing to make him drunk. Hannah Talbot, wife of Shadrack Talbot, said two men took her husband home unconscious. She told the inspector she was sorry to see him like that.

By Mr. Clulow: I did not say he was a wicked man for getting in that state. I did not tell the officers he was subject to fits or seizures. It was true she asked the Inspector not to report him. She did not tell him she had to drag him to bed.

Why did you not tell the inspector that he had these seizures? – I have not been married long, and I did not want people to know he had fits.

Dr. Stanley Barnes said he examined Talbot on Tuesday, and he was undoubtedly suffering from epilepsy. It was an extremely foolish thing for a man suffering from epilepsy to take alcohol at all. It was an easy matter for the inspector to think the man was drunk.

By Mr. Clulow: A small quantity of alcohol would produce drunkenness in an epileptic, where it would not in a person who was not suffering. From what he had heard in that box, and the result of his own diagnosis, he was of opinion that the man looked drunk when he was not drunk.

This was the case for the prosecution.

The Bench retired, and on their return the Chairman said: This is a singular and most unusual case. It shows the value of expert medical evidence having been introduced. There is no doubt the police were mistaken in considering that the man was drunk, as it has turned out that he suffered from an epileptic seizure. At the same time, it was a very proper case for the police to bring forward; in fact it would have been neglect of their duty if they had not brought it before the notice of the magistrates. The evidence of the expert witness, however, was conclusive in the matter, and the case was dismissed.”

1911 Census

100, Reddall Hill Road – WAGON AND HORSES

- [1] *Joseph Bloomer* (44), innkeeper, born Quarry Bank;
- [2] *Adelaide Bloomer* (46), wife, married 23 years, born Cradley;
- [3] *Beatrice Fallis* (18), domestic servant, born Cradley;
- [4] *Florrie Beasley* (9), boarder, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 30/9/1911

“At Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, *Joseph Bloomer*, of the WAGON AND HORSES, Reddall Hill Road, Old Hill, was summoned for keeping his house open during prohibited hours.

Inspector Needham was the only police witness. He stated that about 11.10pm on the 15th inst he visited the WAGON AND HORSES, and in the tap room saw two men, John Yates and William Bentley. There were two pint jugs on the counter. He asked the landlady where her husband was, and she said he was out at the back. He drew her attention to the fact that it was ten past eleven, and she said she didn’t know it was so late, as it was only 11 o’clock by their clock. It was just eleven by it. When he asked her again where her husband was she said, ‘At Quarry Bank.’ Before going to the WAGON AND HORSES that night witness passed ten public houses, all of which were closed. The next day defendant came to the police office and asked that the offence might be overlooked, as he and his wife were not aware that the clock was slow. Witness replied that he had already forgiven him for the same thing last December.

Defendant: What car did you come from Cradley Heath on? – Witness: The one leaving at 11 o’clock.

But it doesn’t take ten minutes to get to my place, does it? – About four minutes.

It was wanting two minutes to eleven by our clock when you came into the house. I have got witnesses to prove it. What time did the car leave? – I left Five Ways at six minutes past eleven.

Defendant stated that he had been in the doctor’s hands for two months, and on the night in question he went to bed at 10 o’clock, and his wife didn’t know but that he was out at the back.

John Yates, haulier, giving evidence for the defence, stated that he was in the house when Inspector Needham came in. He had no watch on, but at that time it was not 11 o’clock by two minutes according to the clock in the house.

Cross-examined by Supt. Johnson, defendant said he didn’t know what the right time was when Inspector Needham came in. It would take about three-and-a-half minutes for the car to get from the Five Ways at Cradley Heath to the WAGON AND HORSES. When Inspector Needham came in the house there was no beer being drunk and none had been drunk for ten minutes.

William Bentley, Pearson Street, gave similar evidence.

Adelaide Bloomer, wife of the defendant, said she had no idea the clock was so slow. Her husband got up and timed the clock at midnight and found it was ‘two minutes slow by Cradley Heath and four minutes slow by Old Hill.’ The reason she said her husband was at Quarry Bank was because she thought he ought to be in charge of the house.

PCs Emery and Weston spoke of having cautioned defendant regarding keeping open after 11 o’clock.

A fine of 20s and costs was inflicted.”

Dudley Chronicle 9/12/1911

“The license of the WAGON AND HORSES, Old Hill, was transferred to *Frank M. Tibbetts* from *Joseph Bloomer*, who, it was stated, had left the district. The presiding magistrate (Mr. A. H. Bassano) informed the new tenant that there was a mark against this house, the late tenant having been convicted for keeping open after hours.”

Frank Murdoch Tibbetts was married to Myra.

See also REINDEER.

Staffordshire Advertiser 10/2/1912

“The Sessions for Old Hill division were held on Wednesday. Supt. Johnson reported that the number of licenses for renewal was 147, showing a decrease of two alehouses and one beerhouse, dealt with by the Compensation Authority. The Bench renewed the licenses of the WAGON AND HORSES, Old Hill, the HOLLY BUSH, High Street, Cradley Heath, and the VINE INN, Cradley Heath, but the Chairman warned the holders to be more careful about the manner in which the houses were managed.”

County Express 18/5/1912

“On Saturday the annual club supper was held at the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Reddall Hill. Mr. Thomas Bagley presided, and there were also present Messrs. T. Barnsley (secretary), F. Milward, F. Cole, J. Johnson, W. Bentley, H. Lea, D. Perry, J. Baynham, B. Bennett, J. Tate, R. Hall, J. Tibbetts, etc. An apology was announced from Mr. Mark Round. Songs were rendered by Messrs. J. Baynham, W. Palmer, J. Hill, B. Bennett, and G. Homer. Mr. I. Hill was the accompanist. On the motion of Mr. W. Bennett, seconded by Mr. W. Bentley, thanks were accorded to the host and hostess.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 31/7/1913

“At Old Hill Police Court yesterday, Mr. T. Higgs, solicitor, applied on behalf of *George Slim* for the license of the WAGGON AND HORSES public house, Old Hill. Mr. Higgs stated that the applicant held a license eleven years, and there were then two charges against him. One was of supplying a drunken person and the other permitting drunkenness. He was fined £3 and costs on the first summons and the other was withdrawn. Two years afterwards the license was renewed to him. Mr. Higgs now asked the Bench to give the applicant a clean slate so that he might hold a license again. For the last nine years he had carried on the business of fruiterer without complaint. The police offered no objection and the Bench granted the license.”

Birmingham Mail 20/1/1915

“Private B. *Slim*, son of Mr. *G. Slim*, of the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Reddall Hill Road, Old Hill, a reservist in the Coldstream Guards, has been wounded and is an inmate of the Eastern General Hospital. *Slim* was a tram conductor in the employ of the Stourbridge and Dudley Tramway Company.”

Birmingham Mail 15/2/1915

“Private Bert *Slim*, a son of Mr. *G. Slim*, of the WAGON AND HORSES INN, Reddall Hill, Old Hill, a reservist in the Coldstream Guards, has returned home having undergone an operation following a shrapnel wound in the back. He was a conductor in the employ of the Stourbridge and Dudley Tramway Company before the outbreak of war.”

George Lewis married Annie Harris.

1939 Register

100, Reddall Hill Road

- [1] *Bert A. Slim*, date of birth 18/7/1890, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] May Slim, dob 26/3/1895, unpaid house duties, married;
- [4] Louisa M. Slim, dob 20/3/1885, retired, unpaid domestic duties, widowed:

A team from here took part in the Cradley Heath Darts League. [1970]

George John Garbett was known as John.
He married Ann Marie Harris (1943 - 2004).

Bridgwater Lodge (founded 1921) of the Royal Ancient Order of Buffaloes met here. [2002]

Halesowen News 13/11/2013

“A hapless fly tipper landed himself and his boss with hefty fines after dumping rubbish in Cradley. Dudley Council officers were called to clear the rubbish on Bassett Road and traced it back to the WAGON AND HORSES pub, Reddall Hill Road, Cradley Heath. Former licensee *George John Garbett* pleaded guilty at Dudley magistrates to failing to dispose of his waste correctly and Kevin Mallard admitted not being a registered waste carrier. 69-year-old *Garbett* was given a conditional discharge for 12 months and ordered to pay a contribution to the costs of £200 and a victim surcharge of £15. And Mallard, aged 26, of Oldnall Road, Halesowen, was fined £100, with a contribution towards the costs of £100, £90 compensation and £20 victim surcharge. Councillor Tracy Wood, cabinet member for environment and culture, said, ‘This sends out a clear message that we will not tolerate people who do not dispose of their waste properly. If people are caught, they face a costly visit to the courts, it is much cheaper to do it properly in the first place. As part of our Love Your Community campaign we want people to take pride in their borough and that includes keeping it clean and tidy. We hope people will share our pride in the borough and join us in tackling fly-tipping and other issues.’”

It closed in 2014 for a major refurbishment.

[2019]

WARD ARMS

89, (1), Hawes Lane, Rowley Village, (Perrys Lake), ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

C. F. Wooldridge [1891]
Showells Brewery Co. Ltd.
Ind Coope and Allsopp (acquired on 3rd July 1935)

LICENSEES

Mrs. Honor Stainton [1854] – [1872]
Joseph Stokes [1873] – **1876**;
Mrs. Hannah Stokes (**1876** – [1891]
Woodbridge [1891]
Isaac Cashmore [1892]
Mrs. Maude Pountney [1896]
Thomas Gould Taylor [1898] – [1901]
David Gould Taylor [1900]
Priscilla Taylor [1903]
Joseph Withnall (**1903** – **1904**);
George Hill (**1904** – **1906**);
Luke Bradley (**1906** – **1907**);
Benjamin Wall (**1907** – [1908]
Thomas Lowe [1911] – **1921**);
Charles Cashmore (**1921** – **1922**);
George Fenton (**1922**);
Mrs. Harriet Maud (Fenton) Jenks (**1922** – **1938**);
Jabez William Sutton (**1938**);
Isaac Tromans (**1938** – **1939**);
Arthur Gilbert (**1939**);
Mrs. Gertrude Gilbert (**1939** – **1946**);
Arthur Gilbert (**1946** – [1965]

NOTES

1, Hawes Lane [1881], [1891], [1900], [1901], [1904]
89, Hawes Lane [1908], [1911], [1912], [1916], [1932], [1939], [1940]

LORD WARD ARMS [1856]
WARD'S ARMS [1861]

It became the headquarters of the Rowley Regis and Blackheath Horticultural Society, after it moved from the SIR ROBERT PEEL.

Honor Stainton = Honor Stanton = Horner Stainton

Honor Stainton (nee Mason) was married to Matthew.

Birmingham Journal 29/3/1856 - Advert

“Left His Home.

On Wednesday, the 19th inst, Mr. Edmund Mason, of Gosty Hill, Rowley, Publican, Left his Residence, and has not since been heard of. He is 54 years of age, about 5 feet 6 inches in height, lusty, and stout built; had on, when last seen, a white smock frock, cassimere breeches, and a pair of new half-boots. Information respecting him will be gratefully received by his disconsolate relatives, William Davies, Oakeywell Street, Dudley; or Mrs. *Stainton*, the LORD WARD ARMS, Rowley, Staffordshire.”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/8/1860 - Advert

“Hooper for Coroner.

The Committees for conducting Mr. Hooper's Election sit daily at the following Places.....

Rowley, at the WARD ARMS.....

By order. Hodgson and Allen, G. S. Watson, Agents for Mr. Hooper. 14th August, 1860.”

[This election followed the death of George Hayes Hinchliffe. Edwin Hooper, Deputy Coroner, was elected Coroner.]

Birmingham Journal 20/10/1860 - Advert

“Staffordshire. Freehold Dwelling Houses and Land, situate at Cock Green, in the Parish of Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Cooksey and Rollason (by order of the Mortgagee) at the WARD ARMS INN, Rowley Regis, on Monday, the 5th day of November, 1860, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then produced.....”

1861 Census

Rowley Village – WARD ARMS Public House

[1] *Honor Stainton* (57), widow, innkeeper, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Phebe Stainton (26), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

- [3] Elizabeth Stainton (23), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
[4] Sarah Stainton (20), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
[5] Phebe Stainton Nicklin (4), grand-daughter, born Rowley Regis:

Birmingham Journal 16/8/1862 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Property, with Mines and Minerals, consisting of Two Desirable Dwelling Houses, Outbuildings, Gardens, Land, and Premises, situate at Portway, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford. To Be Sold By Auction, by Mr. Bateman, on Tuesday, the 26th day of August, 1862, at Six o'clock in the Evening, at the House of Mrs. *Stainton*, the WARD ARMS INN, Rowley, subject to conditions then to be produced.....”

Birmingham Journal 25/7/1863 - Advert

“Unreserved Sale. To Capitalists and Others. Important, Well-Situated, and Old-Established Freehold Old-Licensed Inn, Dwelling Houses, Nail Warehouses, Shops, and Premises, situated at Black Heath, Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford. Mr. Joseph S. Parkes is instructed to Sell by Public Auction, at Mrs. *Honor Stainton*'s, the WARD ARMS HOTEL, Rowley Regis, on Tuesday Next, July 28, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions then to be produced.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 28/7/1863 - Advert

“Sale This Day, at 6pm. By Mr. Joseph S. Parkes, at the WARD ARMS HOTEL, Rowley Regis – Freehold old-licensed Inn, the ROYAL OAK, and three Dwelling Houses adjoining, situated at Black Heath, Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford.”

Western Daily Press 21/4/1864

“On Tuesday Mr. E. Hooper, one of the coroners for the county of Stafford, held an inquest at the WARD ARMS INN, Rowley, on the body of Samuel Portman, a lad, nine years of age, who expired on Saturday last. The inquiry excited much interest in the neighbourhood, in consequence of the singularity of the circumstances under which deceased received the injuries which resulted in his death. On Tuesday week the deceased, with two little girls and a lad named William Heath, went to a colliery at Hawes Hill, near to his father's residence, and there they remained a considerable time playing about the boiler. Deceased was sitting or lying upon a portion of the boiler, and there was a large stone of about 30 pounds weight upon it. This stone, it is said, was pushed over by the lad Harvey, and it fell on to deceased's arm and side, and caused him to become insensible for a few minutes. He was afterwards assisted home by the two girls, and in the course of the afternoon he complained of being ill. The next day a surgeon was sent for, and all possible aid was rendered, but he gradually sank until Saturday last, when he died. It would appear that the boy Harvey had been taunted by his companions about the matter, and that he was told he would have to go to prison for what he had done. The lad, however, denied having pushed the stone over, and said he was ignorant of having done anything to injure the deceased. At the inquest the jury returned a verdict of Homicide by Misadventure.”

Stourbridge Observer 6/1/1866

“Eleanor Knight, aged three years, the daughter of Mr. Knight, painter, of Rowley, has met with a very frightful death. On Saturday last about 3 o'clock in the absence of her parents she drunk of the boiling water of the kettle. After suffering very fearfully until 9 o'clock on Sunday night, she died. On Wednesday, an inquest was held at the WARD ARMS, before E. Hooper, Esq, when a verdict of Accidental Death was returned. The coroner, however, took an opportunity to reprimand the father for not having a medical man to attend his daughter before 10 o'clock on Sunday morning; also for not having a guard before the fire, he having five more children; and ordered that a guard be procured against this day (Wednesday) week; Police-constable Davies to see that it was done, and if not to report the same to the coroner, that the father be summoned and the inquest reopened.”

Stourbridge Observer 31/3/1866

“On Tuesday an inquest was held at the WARD ARMS, the house of Mrs. *H. Stainton*, Rowley, before R. Hooper, Esq, Coroner, on the body of Joseph Hill, a miner, aged 48 years, who was killed by a fall of coal (15 tons) at the Gawn Colliery belonging to Mr. W. Mills, about half past two o'clock in the afternoon of Saturday. The injuries which caused death were on the head and body. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 31/3/1866 - Advert

“County of Stafford. Weights and Measures. District C, or South Staffordshire. Notice is hereby given, the William Tullett, the Inspector of Weights and Measures for District C, or South Staffordshire Will attend at the under-mentioned times and places for the purpose of comparing all such Weights and Measures as shall be brought to him for that purpose, and stamping such of them as shall be found correct..... WARD ARMS INN, at Rowley Regis, on Thursdays, April 12th, May 10th, and June 7th, 1866, at ten o'clock am..... All persons in the said district, desirous of having their Weights and Measures stamped may bring or send them to any of the above places for adjustment as shall be most convenient; or to the NEW MARKET INN, St. Peter's Walk, Wolverhampton, on Wednesday or Saturday in every week. Persons within any local jurisdiction, for which a separate Inspector is appointed, cannot have their Weights and Measures examined or stamped by the Count Inspector.

William Tullett, Inspector of Weights and Measures for the said District, Wolverhampton, March 28th, 1866.”

Stourbridge Observer 1/2/1868

“At the Petty Sessions, held on Wednesday last, Daniel Troman, secretary to the Union Society, held at the WARD ARMS, was summoned to answer a charge of not paying to Ann Perry £7 10s, as the widow of Richard Perry, a former member of the club. Mr. Addison appeared for the defendant.

John Moseley produced a deed, in which the deceased had nominated his mother to receive his burial money. This had been carried out. Upon the rules being handed in, it appeared that on the death of any married member his wife should receive 1s 6d per member. Mr. Addison contended that the burial money was the 1s 6d collected from the members to pay over to deceased's mother.

The Bench contended that there were two distinct payments mentioned, although this was not, perhaps, what the club intended. Defendant was ordered to pay over £7 8s 6d, the subscription of 99 members.”

Dudley Herald 8/2/1868

“.....stack on the house of Mrs. *Stainton*, the WARD ARMS, Rowley Village blown down, and broke through the roof, causing a considerable amount of damage being done in the interior of the house.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 8/4/1868 - Advert

“County of Stafford. Weights and Measures. District C, or South Staffordshire.

I hereby give notice that I shall attend at the undermentioned times and places for the purpose of Comparing and Examining all such Weights and Measures as shall be brought to me for that purpose, and stamping such of them as shall be found correct. WARD ARMS, at Rowley Regis, on Thursdays, April 16th, and June 11th, 1868, at Ten o'clock am.

All Persons residing in the said District desirous of having their Weights and Measures stamped, should bring or send them to any of the above places for adjustment, as shall be most convenient; or to my Residence, at Goldthorn Hill, near Wolverhampton, on Wednesdays or Saturdays.

Persons within any local jurisdiction, for which a separate Inspector is appointed, cannot have their Weights and Measures Examined or Stamped by the County Inspector.

J. George Horder. Inspector of Weights and Measures for the said District.

Brueton Villa, Goldthorn Hill, Wolverhampton. April 1, 1868.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 17/9/1868

“Mr. George Browne, the Revising Barrister appointed for Rowley Regis division, held his first Court on the circuit at the WARD ARMS, Rowley Regis, on Tuesday. Mr. Fernie, registration agent, and Mr. Rowland Price, solicitor, Stourbridge, attended on behalf of the Conservatives; the Liberals being represented by Mr. Fowler, solicitor, Wolverhampton, and Mr. Owen, solicitor, Dudley. Ninety-seven names were expunged from the list of last year, and 56 were put on as freeholders and 59 as occupiers, making an addition of 18 to the 661 voters already on the list.”

Stourbridge Observer 31/10/1868

“On Monday, Mr. E. Hooper, held an inquest at the WARD ARMS, respecting the death of Mr. Adam Latham (42), a butty collier, in the employ of Messrs. North and Wright, coalmasters, of that place.

Mr. North was present at the inquest, on behalf of the colliery, to render any assistance to the Coroner or Jury.

A collier named Brian stated that he was in company with the deceased on the morning of the accident, and Mr. Latham was engaged in examining the pit. Suddenly a large fall of coal occurred, and the deceased was buried beneath the debris. At least fifteen tons of coal fell. He had not been ordered to work in the place of Mr. Latham, and refused to do so. In his opinion the place was quite safe to work in.

Another miner, named Whitehall, stated that he was but five yards from the deceased when the fall took place. The pit was regularly examined, and there was plenty of timber for the asking. He (witness) had lifted a large quantity of coal and stone from the body of the deceased.

By the Jury: The coal was holed on the previous evening.

Elizabeth Cole stated that the deceased died about one o'clock on the same day as he received his injuries. He had three of his ribs broken on one side, and one on the other. The thigh of one leg was broken, and the ankle of the other.

Drs. Mainwaring and Phillips attended the deceased, but there was no hope of his recovery.

The Coroner wished to know whether the Jury desired to have the inquest adjourned, for the attendance of the Government Inspector. Several of the Jury paid a high tribute to the memory of the deceased, and informed the Coroner that such a course was unnecessary.

A verdict of Accidental Death was then returned.”

County Express 9/1/1869

“There has lately been a sort of Popish plot to overthrow the existing rule in Reddal Hill, and the old dynasty has been driven to adopt a more modern constitution; but like the Austrian government it will insist on the autonomy of the whole of Rowley Regis, and refuses a separate constitution to the inhabitants of Reddal Hill. The people however have been thought worthy and important enough to be incorporated with the Borough of Dudley; for Parliamentary purposes and they are resolved on Local Government, and defiantly assert their right to rule themselves. They have petitioned the Home Secretary who has ordered a Commissioner, Major Rawlinson, CB, to investigate their complaints. He will sit at the WARD ARMS, Rowley, on Wednesday, the 20th of

January, at one o'clock, and we shall lay before the public the evidence adduced, and the arguments by which the present state of things is supported. The Commissioner will no doubt use his eyes and nose, as well as his ears."

[This was about the ratepayers and property owners of Rowley Regis parish adopting the Local Government Act of 1858, and the residents of Reddall Hill wanted to be excluded.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 7/5/1869 - Advert

"By Parkes and Walker, at the WARD ARMS INN, Rowley Regis, on Monday Next, at 6pm.
Freehold Old-Licensed House, the RING OF BELLS, and Dwelling Houses, situated at Rowley Regis."

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/3/1871 - Advert

"By Mr. Bateman, at the WARD ARMS INN, Rowley, on Monday Next, at Six pm.
Freehold Building Land, part of the Rowley Hall Estate, in the parish of Rowley Regis."

1871 Census

Rowley Village – WARD ARMS

- [1] *Honor Stainton* (68), widow, licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Sarah Stainton (30), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Mary Beddows (17), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] William H. A. Sargent (41), visitor, warehouse clerk, born Cudbury, Gloucestershire;
- [5] Elizabeth Sargent (43), visitor, born Birmingham;
- [6] Joseph E. Sargent (7), visitor, scholar, born Smethwick;
- [7] Sarah B. Sargent (4), visitor, scholar, born Birmingham:

Honor Stainton – see also RING OF BELLS.

County Advertiser 15/3/1873

"Ellen Barker was charged with refusing to quit the WARD ARMS INN, Rowley, on the 8th inst. Mr. Addison prosecuted. Mr. *Stokes*, landlord, said the defendant came into his house on the above date, in company with a man she lived with, and a man named Slade. His attention was called to a disturbance the defendant was creating in the tap-room. Saw the defendant strike the man Slade. He requested her to leave the house, but she refused. He then sent for a police officer. The defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs, or in default 14 days."

Dudley Guardian 10/10/1874

"Mr. R. Sawyer, revising barrister, held a court, on Monday, at the WARD ARMS INN, Rowley, for the division of Reddall Hill and Rowley. Mr. Simkiss (of Wolverhampton) appeared for the Liberals, and Mr. Fernie (of Stafford) appeared in behalf of the Conservatives. The objections for the two divisions numbered 16 – namely, 13 for Reddall Hill and 3 for Rowley. The 3 for Rowley were sustained, and out of the 13 for Reddall Hill, 6 were sustained. The claims numbered 57: for Reddall Hill, 35; and for Rowley 22. These were all sustained.

Mr. Fernie objected to Mr. Green, on the ground that the property belonged to someone else. Mr. Green said he had held the property for several years, and had always paid the rates and taxes since October, 1869. Mr. Fernie said he had been informed that the property was owned by another party; but that must have been a mistake. Mr. Sawyer remarked that he thought Mr. Green was entitled to his vote, and should allow it. Mr. Green applied for costs for loss of time, &c, but they were disallowed.

Mr. Fernie also objected to Mr. Thos. London, on the ground that he had gone to America. Mr. Simkiss was also of opinion that Mr. Johnson had gone abroad; but as that gentleman (Mr. Johnson) put in an appearance at the court, and explained that it was a Daniel Johnson that had emigrated, Mr. Sawyer said he should allow him to be placed as a voter."

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 16th, 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."

County Express 22/5/1875 - Advert

"Rowley Regis Bowling Club.

WARD ARMS INN, Rowley Regis.

Mr. *Joseph Stokes* begs to inform the Members that the Bowling Green is now open for the Season."

County Express 14/8/1875

“John Johnson was charged with being drunk and disorderly in the WARD ARMS INN, Rowley, and also with refusing to quit, on the 4th inst. There was another charge against defendant for assaulting *Joseph Stokes*, landlord of the public house in question. Prosecutor said that on the day in question defendant came to his house and was very disorderly, and on requesting him to leave, he knocked him down. He was fined 10s and costs, or twenty-one days for the assault, and 5s and costs, or fourteen days for refusing to quit.”

County Express 26/2/1876 - Advert

“Ancient Order of Foresters.

The Committee of Court No.6022 beg to announce that they have made arrangements for a Grand Evening Concert to take place at the National School Room, Rowley Regis, on Wednesday, March 1st, 1876. For the Benefit of the Funds of the above Court.

Vocalists: Miss Weston, Mr. J. Hargreaves, Mr. Roberts, Miss Hampton, Mr. Macmillan, Mr. P. W. Pardoe.

The Cradley Heath Glee Union.

Solo Pianoforte, Mr. H. M. Jackson; Accompanyist, Mr. S. Partridge.

Tickets may be had of Mr. Allen, Rowley Schools; Mr. *J. Stokes*, WARD ARMS INN, Rowley; Mr. John Tranter, ROYAL OAK INN, Springfield, Rowley; or any of the Secretaries of the Courts in the neighbourhood.

Admission, Reserved Seats, 2s each; Unreserved, 1s each.

Doors open at 7.30, to commence at 8pm.”

County Advertiser 25/3/1876 - Deaths

“On the 19th inst, aged 48 years, *Joseph Stokes*, of the WARD ARMS INN, Rowley Regis; deeply lamented.”

County Advertiser 29/4/1876

“At Wednesday’s Police Court, the following transfers took place.....

WARD ARMS, Rowley, from *J. Stokes* to his widow.”

County Advertiser 6/1/1877

“Mrs. *Hannah Stokes*, licensed victualler, the proprietor of the WARD ARMS INN, Rowley, was charged with unlawfully harbouring a police-constable in her house, and supplying him with ale while on duty. Mr. Addison was for the prosecution, on behalf of the police authorities, and Mr. Shakespeare (Oldbury) for the defence.

The first witness called was Joseph Hackett, who said that on the 12th of December he was at the house of the defendant. Police-constable Hubbard (the officer mentioned in the charge) came in at about seven o’clock pm, in company with a female. After having a glass or two of ale he began insulting a Mr. Walker, who was in the house. Before supplying him with any ale, defendant asked him if he was on duty; and he said he was not; he should not go on duty until ten o’clock. He stayed in the house half or three parts of an hour, and became so disorderly that defendant asked him to go, but he refused. He (Hubbard) was not exactly drunk, but witness could not say he was sober.

Cross-examined: He was covered up in a cloak. Mrs. *Stokes* said to him, ‘Are you on duty?’ and he replied ‘No;’ and asked for some gin. She again asked him, and he then began to be abusive, and said he should summon her.

Charles Hubbard said he was a police constable, and was on duty at Rowley on the night of the 12th ult. He went into defendant’s house and had two glasses of ale supplied to him by her. He had his uniform and armet on at the time, also a cloak, but that was thrown back, and his arms could be seen. He was still in the force. He went to the house about eight o’clock, a girl named Sarah Priest, who lived at Brierley Hill, being with him. Mrs. *Stokes* asked him if he was on duty, but he did not reply that he should not be on duty until ten o’clock. He was on duty until nine o’clock, and between that time and eleven o’clock he was not on duty. He knew that he was doing wrong by staying in defendant’s house, that he was breaking the rules of the force, and getting Mrs. *Stokes* into trouble. He did not go there for the express purpose of getting her into trouble.

Sergeant Hand said that Hubbard was on duty on the 12th ult, from five until nine o’clock pm.

This was the case against the defendant.

For the defence, Mr. Shakespeare argued that his client did not harbour the policeman in her house, ‘knowing’ him to be on duty. On the contrary, she used all precaution she could to ascertain whether he was or not, before supplying him with anything. This was proved by Mr. Hackett, the witness for the prosecution, and he could only call witnesses to support his (Hackett’s) statement. Col. Fletcher told Mr. Shakespeare he need not trouble himself to call any witnesses, as he and Mr. Hingley were quite satisfied already.

Mr. Shakespeare proceeded to comment on the evidence of Hubbard, saying he had proved himself to be utterly unfit to be in the police force of the country as the greatest scoundrel that ever existed.

Afterwards the Magistrates said that the only question in the case was whether Mrs. *Stokes* had ‘knowingly’ committed the offence of harbouring the policeman while on duty, and they were quite satisfied that she had used all precautions to keep within the law. They therefore dismissed the case.”

County Advertiser 21/7/1877

“*Hannah Stokes*, landlady of the WARD ARMS INN, near the church, Rowley, was charged by the police with unlawfully having permitted drunkenness and other disorderly conduct in her house. Mr. Addison appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. Shakespeare (of Oldbury) for the defence.

The first witness called in support of the charge was John Redfern, who deposed that he went with three companions to the WARD ARMS INN on Saturday, the 17th June, at about two o’clock in the afternoon. One of the men who went with him was named John Moreton, who hanged himself in his own house on the same night. In the time they stayed at the public house they had

between them five quarts of ale, but they did not drink all this themselves. There were other persons who came into the house and whom they asked to drink with them. The witness denied that the deceased man Morton was drunk when he left the house. Other witnesses were called, one of them the wife of the man Morton, asserting that her husband was quite drunk when he came to his house after leaving the WARD ARMS, and that he fell down in entering the house. In cross-examination by Mr. Shakespeare she admitted that he walked upstairs to his bedroom without assistance. The other witness, a woman who was subpoenaed, denied that Morgan, whom she saw when she had left the defendant's house, was drunk.

Mr. Shakespeare submitted for the defence that the prosecution had utterly failed to prove the charge of drunkenness, or of the defendant having any knowledge of it if it existed. The house had been conducted respectably and without a conviction being obtained for thirty years, during five of which the license had been held by Mrs. *Stokes*, the present defendant. She had never been convicted and only once summoned, and then the charge wholly broke down so that the magistrates dismissed the case without calling upon her for her evidence. He thought he should be able to show their worships that in the present case also she was entitled to a similar decision. Mr. Shakespeare went on to argue that the evidence adduced by the prosecution itself had shown the defendant to be quite free from blame. It was not likely that the five quarts of ale which the four men had during their stay in the house, and which they shared with others of their acquaintances, could have made them drunk. He contended that the death of the man Morton was not to be ascribed to his having been driven mad by drink, and that the fact of his having been able to walk upstairs without help tended to show he was not drunk. Any peculiarity that was noticeable in his conduct was more likely to be caused by the influence, whatever it was, which had led him to commit suicide.

The magistrates considered it would be unnecessary for any evidence in defence to be called, as they thought there was no case against the defendant, and therefore dismissed the summons."

Dudley Herald 8/2/1879

"The Distress in the District.....

Yesterday week the local relief committee distributed 140 gallons of soup at the WARD ARMS INN, to about 300 poor people residing in Rowley village. A meeting of the committee was held the same night at the house mentioned, when it was decided to give bread away with the soup in future in consequence of the severity of the weather and the increase of poverty and distress in the place. The long-continued frost is again seriously interfering with all out-door employment, and the canals are so blocked with ice as to render traffic almost impossible. At the present time very little coal is being raised in this district for manufacturing purposes, in consequence of the great difficulty experienced in conveying it along the canals, and if the frost continues much longer the whole of the pits in the neighbourhood of Rowley and Old Hill will be stopped."

Dudley Herald 3/1/1880

"Messrs. Benjamin Hingley and Co, coal and ironmasters, of Old Hill and Netherton, entertained the miners of the Blue Bell Pits, Old Hill, on Christmas Eve, to dinner, at Mrs. *Stokes*'s WARD ARMS INN, Rowley. The tables were well laden with roast and boiled beef and vegetables of first-class quality, to which full justice was done. On the cloth being removed Mr. B. Bennett was voted to the chair, and, on rising, he proposed 'Success to the iron and coal trades of Great Britain, and likewise to the promoters of the feast.' The toast was most enthusiastically received. The evening was spent most pleasantly, songs and recitations being given with credit by many of those present. Votes of thanks were proposed to Messrs. Hingley for their kindness in providing such a feast, and also to the hostess for the admirable manner in which she had catered."

County Express 16/10/1880

"Mr. F. A. Bosanquet, revising barrister, held a Court on Saturday, at the WARD ARMS INN, Rowley, for the purpose of revising the Parliamentary lists of voters for the Rowley division of West Staffordshire and the borough of Dudley. Mr. G. R. Thorne, solicitor, Wolverhampton, appeared on behalf of the Liberals, and Mr. E. Fernie, Stafford, represented the Conservatives. The proceedings were simply formal. There were 80 new claims by persons in Rowley parish not within the borough of Dudley, and 62 new claims for the Reddal Hill district being within the borough. There were 27 party objections to persons claiming in respect of properties within the borough, and 6 in the Rowley division outside the borough."

1881 Census

1, Hawes Lane – WARD ARMS

[1] *Hannah Stokes* (42), widow, licensed victualler, born West Bromwich;

[2] Sarah Taylor (24), daughter, married, born Dudley;

[3] Mary Cooper (20), general servant, born Oldbury:

County Advertiser 20/8/1881

"The monthly meeting of the Rowley Regis Local Board was held on Monday last.....

Mr. Beasley (medical officer) reported He had received frequent complaints during the month of the scarcity of water in Rowley village, in consequence of which he had made a house to house inspection, and found that there was good ground for the complaints. The only premises supplied with water at the present time between the Wesleyan Chapel at Hawes Lane and the Church, was the WARD ARMS INN, and that but scantily. The other part of the village was not much better off, not more than one house in ten having any water, and very few indeed having a good supply. Many of the houses had wells, but the general complaint was that these were empty during eight or nine months in every year. The great difficulty to contend with in this instance was that the Water Works Company had not any mains laid in the neighbourhood, and even if they had they would be unable to supply water without erecting a pumping engine for that purpose....."

County Express 1/7/1882

“An inquest was held at the WARD ARMS, Rowley, yesterday, on the body of James Walker, miner, who was killed by the fall of a quantity of coal at the Rowley Hall Colliery, on Tuesday last. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

County Advertiser 1/9/1883 - Advert

“WARD ARMS INN, Rowley. Sale of Household Furniture and Effects, removed for convenience of Sale from No.54, Hawes Lane, Rowley, to the house of Mrs. *Stokes*, WARD ARMS INN.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 10/2/1885

“An inquest was held yesterday, at the WARD ARMS, Rowley, before Mr. E. Hooper (coroner), respecting the death of William Adams (64), formerly residing at 20, Church Road, who died suddenly on the 7th instant. The evidence was to the effect that, after taking a bag of nails down to the village, he came back and sat upon a bench before the fire. He had not been seated many minutes before he fell upon his face, and expired almost instantly. A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned.”

Smethwick Telephone 26/11/1887

“.....a special meeting held at Court Foresters’ Pride (No.5305) was held at the WARD ARMS INN for the purpose of presenting to Bro. J. E. White a splendidly framed emblem of the Order for valuable services he has rendered during his term of office.”

County Advertiser 5/10/1889

“On Monday Mr. P. H. Smith (barrister) held a court at the WARD ARMS INN, Rowley, for the purpose of revising the list of voters in the polling districts of Blackheath, Tividale, Reddal Hill, and Rowley Regis, within the Kingswinford division. Messrs. J. Adams and B. Hadley represented the Liberals, Mr. Holberton the Conservatives; and Messrs. Williams, Darby, and Whitehouse appeared for the overseers. The following were the party returns: Conservative new claims sustained, 20, failed, 3; Liberal new claims sustained, 17. The last-named party also sustained 10 objections and withdrew 10.”

County Express 8/10/1890

“Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the WARD ARMS INN, Tuesday, respecting the death of William Hackett (22), Hawes Lane, who was found dead in bed on the 2nd inst. The evidence showed that on Saturday the deceased was drinking at various public houses with a young man named John Parkes; but the latter did not consider he was drunk when he left the KINGS ARMS INN, where they each had four glasses of whisky, having previously had whisky and beer at other inns. Parkes, however, admitted to the coroner that he could not walk upstairs. When he left at closing time he fell in the street, and was carried home and put to bed, being found the next morning dead. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Suffocation caused by Excessive Drinking. The Coroner said he found the evidence of Parkes anything but satisfactory, and he would disallow his expenses. He also called the attention of Superintendent Woollaston, who was present, to the case, and expressed a hope that he would make enquiries and take action with regard to the supply of drink to the deceased.”

[For further on this case see under KINGS ARMS.]

1891 Census

1, Hawes Lane – WARD ARMS INN

- [1] *Hannah Stokes* (52), widow, licensed victualler, born West Bromwich;
- [2] Samuel Stokes (28), son, draper’s assistant, born Darlaston;
- [3] Mary Hunt (48), widow, visitor, living on her own means, born West Bromwich;
- [4] S. B. A. Hunt (5), nephew, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Alice Miller (26), domestic servant, born Brierley Hill:

Birmingham Daily Post 3/6/1891

“Last night a conference of employers and representatives of the operatives connected with the local rivet trade was held at the WARD ARMS HOTEL, Rowley, with reference to the wages question. A discussion took place with regard to the notice given by the masters for a reduction of 10 per cent, and which expires on Saturday, and it was explained that although the trade has for some time been exceptionally good there has been a great falling off of orders lately, and the immediate prospects are not of a very rosy character.

Mr. I. Cashmore, who represented the operatives, was not in a position to say what course the men were prepared to take. The operatives’ section suggested that the notice should be withdrawn, and that in the meantime steps should be taken to secure a uniform list, but the employers could not see their way to make the concession.

It was ultimately agreed to adjourn the conference for a week, in order that a meeting of the operatives might be held to take their decision on the question in dispute.”

County Express 29/8/1891

“The annual licensing sessions for the Rowley Regis division of Staffordshire were held at the Police Court, Old Hill, on Wednesday.....

Mr. *Woodbridge*, owner of the WARD ARMS, applied for the renewal of his license. Inspector Bishop said the late tenant under Mr. *Woodbridge* was fined 40s and costs for permitting drunkenness. When the conviction took place the owner, Mr. *Woodbridge* came forward and had the license transferred to himself. They understood that Mr. *Woodbridge*, the owner, had applied for the

license, and they renewed this license.”

Birmingham Daily Post 17/10/1893

“Yesterday, Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the WARD ARMS INN, Rowley, respecting the death of William Leonard Henze (9). Mr. Cooksey appeared for the parents, and Mr. J. Wright James represented the lad Davis, who, it was alleged, caused the injuries.

After the jurymen had been sworn, one of them asked the coroner if they were forced to see the body, considering the state it was in. The Coroner said they were compelled to view the body.

The Coroner said the deceased, after being ill for a few days, died. He was attended by Dr. Beasley, who gave a certificate of the death, and the body was buried. After the deceased had been buried it came to his knowledge that the deceased had received some injuries at the hands of another lad some few days prior to his death. He, using his discretion, issued a warrant for the body to be exhumed, which had been complied with. He wished it to be understood that the body was exhumed on his own authority, without any application being made to the Home Office. There was some delay in exhuming the body in consequence of the vicar thinking he ought to have received the order from the Home Secretary.

Dr. de Denne said he had made a post mortem examination of the body of deceased, in conjunction with Dr. Saltham, of Hales Owen. He could not trace any bruises on any part of the body externally. There was a considerable amount of congestion on the abdomen. The cause of death was peritonitis or inflammation of the bowels, which might have been caused by a pressure on the abdomen. He could not tell how the injuries were caused.

The Vicar of Rowley (the Rev. M. N. Kearney) said he was rather doubtful at first if he was at liberty to have the body exhumed under the coroner’s warrant.

The Coroner said the delay caused in exhuming the body might have caused a miscarriage of justice.

The Vicar said he had studied the law, and he was under the impression that the order of exhumation should have come from the Home Office. He did not prevent the exhumation.

The Coroner said he hoped the vicar would be more careful in the future.

The boy James Davis gave evidence, and said he only pushed deceased on to the kerbstone.

The jury returned a verdict of Death by Misadventure, but did not consider anyone was to blame.”

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

31st March 1898 - Georgina Victoria Gould, daughter of *Thomas Gould* and *Priscilla Taylor*, publican, Hawes Lane.

20th May 1900 - Ethel, daughter of *Thomas Gould* and *Priscilla Taylor*, publican, Rowley Village.

County Advertiser 24/9/1898

“On Sunday afternoon the annual friendly societies’ Sunday service, on behalf of the hospitals, was held in a field at the back of Mountford House, Siviters Lane, Rowley, kindly lent for the occasion by Dr. J. G. Beasley. The members of various societies met at their headquarters, and were formed into a procession as below. The Blackheath Village Band started from the WHEAT SHEAF INN, Turners Hill at one o’clock, with the Church of England Friendly Society, and proceeded through Portway and Perys Lake, calling at the BULLS HEAD INN for the Sick Club, at the WARD ARMS INN for Court Foresters’ Pride, at the KINGS ARMS INN for Lodge Working Man’s Friend. It then proceeded by way of Ross, Holly Road, Tump Road, and John Street, to the GEORGE AND DRAGON Ground. The Woodgate Brass Band had in the meantime covered its route from the OLD BUSH INN, Powke Lane, with Court Little Band of Hope, calling at the MALT SHOVEL INN for Lodge Lily of the Valley, the VINE INN for Court Mistletoe Bough, proceeding along Station Road to the RAILWAY INN for Court Britannia’s Pride, thence through Halesowen Street, Tump Road, and Hackett Street, meeting the other Courts at the GEORGE AND DRAGON Ground. A united procession was then formed, and marched to Siviters Lane, reaching the ground at three o’clock. The proceedings opened with the hymn ‘All people that on earth do dwell,’ after which the Chairman (Mr. E. Pewtress, CC) delivered a short address.

The Rev. C. W. Barnard, MA, Rector of Kings Norton, then addressed the meeting, after which the hymn ‘Lead, kindly light,’ was sung. Addresses were also delivered by the Revs. W. Hall and N. Haigh, of Blackheath.

At the close a collection was taken on behalf of the Dudley Dispensary and Birmingham Eye Hospital. It amounted to £11 9s 5d.”

Dudley Herald 8/10/1898

“Mr. P. Howard (Revising Barrister) attended the WARD ARMS HOTEL, on Wednesday morning, to revise the list of voters for the polling districts of Rowley Regis, Blackheath, and Reddall Hill, in the Kingswinford Division. Mr. Williams, assistant overseer, presented the list of voters, and it was only found necessary to make a few corrections, the business being transacted being of a formal character. There were only a few party claims.”

Dudley Herald 22/10/1898

“Edward Palmer, Hawes Lane, Rowley, was charged with being drunk and disorderly on the 10th inst.

PC Reynolds said he saw the defendant in the YARD [sic] ARMS INN, Rowley. The landlord refused him drink, and he was ordered out, but refused to go. Witness then ordered him out, and he went outside and used bad language. He was very drunk. Fined 15s.”

County Advertiser 9/12/1899 - Advert

“Hawes Lane, Rowley Regis, Staffs.

To Hay Dealers, Horse Keepers, and Others.

E. H. Boilstone has received instructions to Sell by Auction, on Tuesday Next, December 12th, about 40 Tons of Old and New

Hay, on Land adjoining the Brick House Quarry. The Hay is of Splendid Quality, Well Gotten, and full of Herbage; also a Capital Pony, 12½ Hands, 7 years old, Quiet and Good Worker.

Sale to Commence at Twelve o'clock.

For Particulars apply to the Auctioneer, Old Hill; or to Mr. *T. Taylor*, WARD ARMS INN, Rowley Regis.”

Thomas Gould Taylor had a sign in a front window asking his customers to ‘Commit No Nuisance.’

1901 Census

1, Hawes Lane – WARD ARMS INN

[1] *Thomas G. Taylor* (37), publican, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Priscilla Taylor* (36), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *Georgina Taylor* (3), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Susannah Southwick* (18), niece, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 24/1/1903

“Mr. H. Jeffries applied for a temporary transfer of the WARD ARMS INN, Rowley, from *Priscilla Taylor* to Walter William Simms. He explained that the certificate of character had been filed with the police, but under the new Licensing Act, seven days’ clear notice had to be given, which had not been done in this case. What he wished to point out was that at the end of Section 15 of the Act there was a clause which stated that in urgent cases applications could be granted where the Bench considered reasonable notice had been given. This he submitted was a case of urgency, the present owner having removed to another public house. The notice had been handed in the previous Thursday.

Mr. Cooksey (magistrates’ clerk) said he should have to advise the Bench that the present application was not a case of urgency. The Bench adjourned the matter for a week.

Superintendent Spendlove said he would accept the notice already given towards the proper notice as required by the new Act.”

County Advertiser 31/1/1903

“Mr. H. Jeffries made an application under the New Licensing Act for the temporary transfer of the license of the WARD ARMS INN, Rowley, from *Priscilla Taylor* to Walter William Slimm. He explained that the applicant had kept a public house at Smethwick for over thirteen years. Applicant gave evidence upon oath, and in reply to questions from Superintendent Spendlove he admitted that he was convicted for being drunk and disorderly about two years ago. He had also been summoned for permitting drunkenness and selling to a drunken person, but was not convicted. He further stated that his brother was living with him ‘for the purpose of learning him a trick or two.’ His brother had been convicted at West Bromwich and fined £10 and costs for allowing dog fighting on his licensed premises.

In reply to Mr. Jeffries witness, who lived with him, said his brother and the woman were leaving at the end of the week. He would give an undertaking that they should not reside upon the premises.

The Bench refused the transfer.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 2/10/1903

“Yesterday Mr. P. Howard Smith (Revising Barrister) attended at the WARD ARMS HOTEL, Rowley Regis, to revise Parliamentary lists of voters.....”

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

26th August 1903 - *Joseph Francis William* (b. 3/8/1903), son of *Joseph* and *Frances Withnall*, licensed victualler, Hawes Lane.

County Advertiser 3/10/1903

“Joseph Pardoe, labourer, Perrys Lake, Rowley, was charged with being drunk and disorderly on the 19th ult, and also with refusing to quit the licensed premises of the WARD ARMS INN, Rowley, kept by *Joseph Withnall*, on the 19th ult. Police-constable Reynolds proved the first offence, and it was stated that on the night in question defendant visited the public house in a drunken condition. The landlord refused to serve him, and ordered him to leave the premises. He declined to go, and had to be ejected. The Bench fined defendant 20s including costs.”

County Advertiser 2/7/1904

“On Saturday afternoon the first annual cycle parade and sports, promoted by the friendly societies in the Rowley Regis and Blackheath districts, on behalf of the Dudley Guest Hospital, Dudley Dispensary, and the Birmingham Eye Infirmary, were held. The proceedings commenced with a huge procession. The Blackheath Village Prize Band started from the WARD ARMS INN, Rowley, and called at the various club houses en route, afterwards they marched to Park Street where the general procession was formed. It consisted of tradesmen’s turnouts, decorated cycles, and members of friendly societies in regalia. The procession was headed by a company of horsemen, and marched to the Coombs Wood Works Football Ground at Powke Lane, Blackheath, where the sports were held. About 4,000 spectators assembled on the ground, although the showery weather during the morning somewhat affected the attendance.....”

County Advertiser 30/6/1906

“On Friday se’night Mr. W. L. Lewis (deputy coroner) held an inquest at the WARD ARMS INN, Perrys Lake, Rowley, respecting the death of *Hannah Ward* [sic] (41), wife of *George Ward* [sic], landlord of the public house, who committed suicide by hang-

ing herself the same day. The evidence showed that some time ago deceased had a severe shock, and she had since given way to drinking. On the instructions of Dr. Beasley she was sent away for a short time and recently returned. During the week she complained of the heat, and on the morning in question she was found hanging in a stable at the rear of the house by a rope attached to a beam. The jury returned a verdict of Suicide whilst of Unsound Mind.”

County Advertiser 30/6/1906

“Mr. T. W. Clulow supported an application for the transfer of the WARD ARMS INN, Rowley, from *George Hill* to *Luke Bradley*, who had obtained the house upon a lease. The application was granted.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/9/1906

“At the WARD ARMS HOTEL, Rowley Regis, yesterday, Mr. W. J. Dixon, barrister-at-law, attended and revised the Parliamentary lists of voters for the polling districts of Reddall Hill, Cradley Heath, Old Hill, Tividale, and Rowley. The Unionists made 101 claims and sustained 82, and the Liberals made 16 claims and sustained 14.”

1911 Census

89, Hawes Lane

[1] *Thomas Lowe* (36), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Alice Lowe* (35), wife, married 13 years, assisting in business, born Causeway Green;

[3] *Thomas Hartshorne* (11), adopted son, school, born Causeway Green:

County Express 9/3/1912

“The Coroner (Mr. G. C. Lewis) conducted an inquest at the WARD ARMS, Rowley, on Monday, on the three-year-old daughter of Frank Parish, late of the BEEHIVE INN. Evidence of identification was given, and the inquest was adjourned until today, a post-mortem to be held in the meantime.”

County Express 2/11/1912 - Advert

“Notice of Withdrawal of Sales.

Alfred W. Dando & Co. beg to Announce that the Sales by Auction of Freehold Dwelling Houses, in Victoria Street, Wallheath, Near Kingswinford; and at Perrys Lake, Rowley Regis, advertised to take place at the CROSS HOTEL, Kingswinford, and at the WARD ARMS INN, Rowley Regis, on Tuesday & Wednesday Next, the 5th and 6th inst, Have Been Withdrawn.

Solicitors: Messrs. Jobson and Marshall, Dudley.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 18/12/1930

“Pit Disaster Fund. Contributions received yesterday for the *Birmingham Gazette* and *Evening Despatch* Fund for the relief of the dependants of the victims of the Grove Pit disaster were.

Mrs. *Fenton*, customers, WOOD [sic] ARMS, Rowley Regis. 11s 0d”

Harriet Maud Fenton married Edmund H. Jenks in the 2nd quarter of 1933.

1939 Register

89, Hawes Lane

[1] *Gertrude Gilbert*, date of birth, 14/12/1903, manageress of licensed house, married;

Rowley Juniors FC had their headquarters here, in the back room. [1950s]

A team from here took part in the Rowley Regis Darts League. [1959/60] , [1965/66]

Closed

WATERFALL

132, (133), (128), Waterfall Lane, OLD HILL

OWNERS

Thomas Priest

Grigg and Brettell Ltd. (acquired on 9th May 1936)

Ansells Ltd. [1981]

Robert William Pinner (acquired in 1987) [1998]

Holdens Brewery Ltd. (acquired in October 2004)

LICENSEES

John Williams Tibbetts [1841] – [1851]
William Hughes [] – 1857);
G. Growcot [1858]
Benjamin Baker (1857 – 1861);
Major Baker (1861 – []
John Woodhall [1862]
Jem Gaunt [1860] – 1868);
Joseph Boilstone (1868 – 1883);
Samuel Lowe (1883 – []
Joseph Boilstone [1885]
Thomas Priest [1886] – [1891]
Thomas Priest [1901] – [1909]
Walter Edward Broadbent [] – 1910);
Edward Evans (1910 – [1912]
George Sidaway [1916] – 1929);
William Tromans (1929 – 1931);
John Frank Amos (1931 – 1933);
John Thompson (1933 – 1937);
William Hopson (1937 – 1939);
Frederick Richard Mason (1939 – 1940);
Etta Mason (1940 – 1946);
William Joseph Blackwell (1946 – 1948);
Florence Porter (1948 – 1952);
William Kenneth Parkes (1952 – 1953);
Robert Arthur Kendrick (1953 – 1961);
Harold Hughes (1961 – 1962);
Trevor Powell (1962 – 1967);
Thomas Matthew Yardley (1967 – 1968);
Patricia Winifred Bradley (1968 – 1970);
Joan Iris Portman (1970 – 1975);
Roger Huntley (1975 – 1977);
Maureen Smith (1977 – 1980);
Cynthia Ann Nash (1980 – 1981);
Mrs. Ann Carol Maskell (1981 – 1982);
Catherine Ellen Johnson (1982 – 1983);
Andrew Thompson (1983 – 1984);
Wayne Maxted (1984 – 1985);
Mark Winman (1985 – 1987);
Alan Humber (1987);
Lynne Pinner (1987 – 1991);
Barry William Jukes (1991 – 1992);
Robert 'Bob' Wilfred Pinner (1992 – 1995);
Alan Davis (1995 – 1999);
Marie Ann Smith (1999 – []
Martin Clee [1999]
R J Bowater [2001]
Barbara Woodin (2001 – []
Marie Ann Smith [2007]
Stanley John 'Stan' Gardner [2011] – [2020]
Karl Gardner [2020] manager

NOTES

128, Waterfall Lane [1881], [1891], [1900], [1911]
133, Waterfall Lane [1916], [1921], [1924], [1940]
132, Waterfall Lane [2001]

It was originally the VINE.

1851 Census

Waterfall Lane

- [1] *John Tibbetts* (31), maltster, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Mary Maria Tibbetts* (28), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *John Tibbetts* (6 months), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Ann Eliza Raybould* (12), niece, scholar, born Brockmore;
- [5] *Phebe Atwood* (5), niece, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Mary Ann Adams* (15), house servant, born Rowley Regis:

John Tibbetts was also a brewer and grocer.

It was renamed OAK.

ROYAL OAK [1862], [1864], [1868]

OAK TREE. [1896], [1908], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1924], [1932], [1940]

Birmingham Journal 13/3/1858 - Advert

“Valuable Freehold Property, situated at Waterfall Lane, Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. T. P. Stokes, at the house of Mrs. Lucy Tibbetts, the CROWN INN, Old Hill, on Tuesday Next, the 16th day of March, at Six o’clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be read at the time of sale, the under-mentioned Freehold Property.

All that newly and substantially erected Public House and Premises, known by the sign of the ROYAL OAK INN, situated in Waterfall Lane, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, now in the occupation of Mr. *William Hughes*.

The above Premises comprise large Tap Room, Parlour, Bar, Kitchen, commodious Club Room, Bed Chambers, Brewhouse, two good Stables, Piggeries, large Yard, &c, and the whole are enclosed with a well-built brick wall.

Investors or parties desirous of embarking in the Public Business will find the above an excellent opportunity. The Property has been erected regardless of expense, and is fitted-up with every convenience necessary for carrying on an extensive trade.

For further particulars, apply to the respective Offices of Mr. Warmington, Solicitor, or the Auctioneer, both of Dudley.”

Birmingham Daily Post 22/3/1858 - Advert

“Sale of the ROYAL OAK, Rowley Regis.

By T. P. Stokes, This Day (Monday), the 22nd of March.

The Licenses, Goodwill, and Possession of the ROYAL OAK, Waterfall Lane, in the parish of Rowley Regis.

The Sale will commence at Eleven o’clock in the Morning.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 7/7/1858

“*William Hughes*, late of Willenhall, in the county of Stafford, Butty Miner, previously of the OAK INN, Waterfall Lane, Rowley Regis, in the said county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler and Butty Miner, and during part of the same time being in partnership with Thomas Lister, and carrying on business under the style or firm of Hughes and Lister, as Butty Miners, at the Waterfall Lane Colliery, Rowley Regis aforesaid, previously of the BIRD IN HAND, Cross Street, Willenhall aforesaid, Beerhouse Keeper and Butty Miner, part of the time being a Grocer, Provision and Flour Dealer, and part of the same time being in partnership with William Pritchard, and carrying on business under the style or firm of Hughes and Pritchard, as Butty Miners, at the Eagle Colliery, Rowley Regis aforesaid.

William Overell, 36, Warwick Street, Leamington Priors, and 3, Cherry Street, Birmingham. Insolvents Attorney.”

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

“OAK INN, Waterfall Lane, in the Parish of Rowley Regis.

Important to Publicans, Brokers, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction, by T. P. Stokes, Tomorrow (Tuesday), the 6th day of December.

A portion of the Household Furniture, sweet iron-bound Casks, Brewing Utensils, capital four-pull Beer Machine, and other effects belonging to Mr. *G. Growcot*, who is giving up the Public Business, in consequence of his employers requiring him to do so.”

County Advertiser 2/7/1859

“A miner named Joseph Crumpton was charged with an indecent assault on *Matilda Baker*, the landlady of the ROYAL OAK INN, Waterfall Lane. The complainant’s statement was supported by her son, and the case was considered proved, but from what transpired in evidence the Bench were induced to dispose of the case by inflicting the merely nominal fine of 6d and costs upon the defendant.”

John Williams Tibbetts died on 25th March 1860 and was buried at St. Giles Church, Rowley Regis.

Birmingham Journal 7/4/1860 - Deaths

“On the 13th ult, at Old Hill, Rowley Regis, aged 74 years, *Lucy Tibbetts*. Also on the 25th ult, at Waterfall Lane, Rowley Regis, aged 41 years, Mr. *John Williams Tibbetts*.”

[*Lucy Tibbetts* – CROWN, Old Hill]

Birmingham Journal 21/4/1860 - Advert

“*John Williams Tibbetts*, Deceased.

All Persons Indebted to the Estate of the late *John Williams Tibbetts*, of Waterfall Lane, Rowley Regis, Maltster and Grocer, deceased, are requested forthwith to Pay the Amounts of their respective Debts to Mr. Henry Bennett, of Rowley Regis, Grocer, or to Mr. Enoch Wakeman, of Oldbury, Miller, Executors of his Will.

Dated this 18th day of April, 1860.

Bolton and Sanders, Dudley. Solicitors to the said Executors.”

Stourbridge Observer 26/3/1864

“Thomas Millington was charged with assaulting William Silvester, on 19th March, by striking him several times on the brow, at the OAK in Waterfall Lane. He was fined 2s 6d and costs, or in default 21 days imprisonment.”

County Advertiser 5/5/1866

“On Saturday last an inquest was held, by Mr. Hooper, Coroner, at the OAK TREE public house, Waterfall Lane, on the body of a man named Biddesford, aged twenty-two, who was killed by a fall of coal, at Messrs. Swindell and Collis’s colliery, on the previous Tuesday. About fifteen tons fell on the poor fellow. The Jury found a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Jem Gaunt was married to Mary.

County Advertiser 14/5/1870

“Samuel Parry, a young man, was brought up on a charge of committing an assault of an aggravated nature upon Sabra Tromans, his aunt. On the previous evening the prisoner, prosecutrix, and others were drinking in the OAK public house, Waterfall Lane, and a dispute arose. Prisoner first called prosecutrix filthy names, and then set to ‘punch’ her with his fists. The woman was most dreadfully beaten, and her face presented a sickening spectacle. Mr. Barrs said the assault was a most brutal and cowardly one, and it was a great pity that the law did not allow such a scoundrel to be flogged. The prisoner was then fined 20s and costs, or two months in default.”

1871 Census

Waterfall Lane

[1] *Joseph Boilstone* (28), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Rosanah Boilstone (21), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Frederick W. Boilstone (1), son, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Sarah A. Bedesford (15), general servant, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Ann E. Bedesford (12), nurse, born Rowley Regis:

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

24th May 1874 - Larry Edward, son of *Joseph* and Rosannah *Boilstone*, publican, Waterfall Lane.

County Advertiser 31/3/1877

“Sylvanus Harris, a miner, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of *Joseph Boilstone*, OAK INN, Waterfall Lane, on the 21st November last. He pleaded guilty, but Mr. Hayes, who appeared for the prosecutor, said he was instructed to press the charge, in consequence of the circumstances under which it arose.

Mrs. *Boilstone*, wife of the landlord of the house, said that on the day named the defendant came in drunk, and demanded some beer. She refused to supply him with any, and he then became very violent, using disgusting language both towards her and in reference to her son, whose dead body was then lying in the house. Defendant absconded after the offence.

There were seven previous convictions against him, and the inquiries of the magistrates showed that he was a very troublesome fellow. He was fined 40s and costs, with the alternative of two months’ imprisonment.”

County Express 2/2/1878

“An inquest was held at the ROYAL OAK INN, Waterfall Lane, on the 20th ult, on the body of Joseph Smith, of The Terrace Blackheath. Deceased whilst employed at the New Level Furnaces, Brierly Hill, on the 16th ult was badly injured by the bursting of a tier, and he died two days afterwards. A verdict of Accident Death was returned.”

County Express 18/1/1879

“Mr. E. Hooper (District Coroner) held an inquest on Saturday afternoon at the OAK INN, Waterfall Lane, touching the death of Benjamin Page, aged 19, wheelwright, who was drowned in the canal. The deceased was skating on the canal near the Tump Colliery, when the ice suddenly gave way and the deceased, with several others, sank into the water. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

1881 Census

128, Waterfall Lane

[1] *Joseph Boilstone* (38), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Rosehannah Boilstone (31), wife, born Rowley Regis;

- [3] Frederick Boilstone (11), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Larry Boilstone (6), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Liley Boilstone (3), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Winnie Boilstone (3 months), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Elizabeth Parkes (20), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

Evening Star 9/6/1882

“Yesterday afternoon Edwin Hooper, district coroner, held an adjourned inquest at the OAK INN, Waterfall Lane, Rowley, respecting the death of William Beresford (52), miner, also of Waterfall Lane, who, on the 17th ult, was killed by a fall of coal, at the Tump Colliery.

Deceased was employed cutting out the coal in one of the roads and, coming to a hard piece, obtained some gunpowder to blast it. While he was adjusting the charge, and before he had eased away the props that supported the roof, a sudden ‘bump’ was heard, and a mass of coal weighing between 7 or 8 tons fell upon the deceased, and also Edward Stringer, a horse driver, and another man named George Davis. Immediately after the accident the ‘butty’ had the injured men taken to their homes, and afterwards Davis and Stringer were conveyed to the Dudley Guest Hospital; but Beresford, whose spine was badly injured, died the same evening. Davis’s leg had to be amputated, and he still remains at the Hospital, but Stringer was so far recovered as to be able to attend the inquest. The evidence showed that the place where the fall occurred was well timbered and had been examined only an hour before the accident. After the fall, however, a flaw was visible in the seam. Mr. Scott, deputy inspector of mines, said it was to this flaw together with the ‘bump’ that the accident was due. They could do nothing to prevent those queer noises called ‘bumps,’ which very frequently were the forerunners of falls of coal which would carry away timber and everything else. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

County Advertiser 15/8/1885

“To be Sold, Pursuant to an Order of the High Court of Justice, made in an Action, Williams v Griffiths, 1883, No.2856, with the approbation of Mr. Justice Pearson, by Mr. John Green Wright, the person appointed by the said Judge.....

At the OAK INN, Waterfall Lane, Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, on Tuesday, the 25th August, 1885 at Six o’clock in the Evening.

All that Old-licensed Public House, known as the OAK INN, situate in Waterfall Lane, Rowley Regis, in the occupation of Mr. *Joseph Boilstone*, with the Brewhouse, Washhouse, Stable, and large Enclosed Yard, with gateway entrance.....”

Advert

“*Thomas Priest*, OAK TREE INN, Waterfall Lane, Old Hill.

Fine Home-brewed ales. Wines, Spirits and Cigars of best quality. Caterer for Fetes.”

County Advertiser 25/2/1888 - Advert

“Wanted, a General Servant Girl, about 16 to 20 years of age.

Apply, OAK INN, Waterfall Lane, Old Hill.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/12/1889

“Yesterday, Mr. F. W. Topham (deputy coroner) held an inquest at the OAK TREE INN, Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, concerning the death of Mary Jane Watts, aged one year and eleven months, who formerly resided with her parents at Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, and who died on the 18th inst from the effects of injuries received on the same day by playing with fire. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1891 Census

128, Waterfall Lane – OAK INN

- [1] *Thomas Priest* (59), victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Elizabeth Priest (58), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] *Thomas Priest* (19), son, assistant to father, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Sarah Jones (19), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 19/9/1891

“On Monday evening the officers and members of the Sunflower lodge of the Free Gardeners held their first anniversary at their lodge house, the OAK TREE INN, Waterfall Lane. An excellent dinner was put on the table by the host. Dr. Mitchell having been installed as an hon. member of the lodge, Bro. J. Townsend took the chair and Bro. Prestidge the vice-chair. The usual toasts, interspersed with songs and recitations, were given, and the company spent a very enjoyable evening.”

County Advertiser 2/4/1892

“On Wednesday morning Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the OAK TREE INN, Waterfall Lane, near the railway station, Old Hill, touching the death of Mildred Whitehouse (16), who had lived with her parents at Waterfall Lane, and who was found hanging by the neck in a brewhouse attached to her father’s premises on Monday evening last.

Alfred Whitehouse, father of the deceased, said he was a groom in the employ of Dr. Standish. Deceased had been living at home for the past five weeks, and before that she had been in service at Mrs. Richards, Beech Lane, Warley. She had, however, left to come home to assist her mother. She was the only one in the family who had good health, and was of a lively disposition. He last

saw her alive at breakfast time on the Monday morning, and when he went home to dinner about 3.30 in the afternoon, his wife told him that deceased had not been in the house for an hour. There was a funeral taking place over the road, and witness went to see if deceased was there. She was not there, and witness upon going back home, had occasion to go to the brewhouse. He was horrified to find his daughter hanging, by two stockings and a handkerchief tied round her neck, from a nail in the wall. Her back was against the wall, and her toes just touched the ground. Witness at once fetched a knife and cut deceased down. Dr. Beasley, who happened to be passing, was called in, but he could only pronounce life to be extinct. Witness could assign no reason for the act of the deceased. The brewhouse door was closed.

In reply to the Coroner, witness said deceased was very fond of reading the *Birmingham Weekly Mercury*, published on Saturday, and in that paper there was an account of a young woman aged nineteen, who committed suicide because as she said, she was tired of her life.

In reply to further questions, witness said his wife heard the sound of a nail being knocked into the brewhouse wall, while deceased was absent. Deceased used to talk about the recent suicide in Pig Lane Pool, and she said she did not know how the girl whose body was found there could do such a thing.

Olivia Whitehouse, mother of deceased, deposed to the latter going into the brewhouse about 2.30 in the afternoon to wash her hands and not returning.

The Coroner said it seemed an extraordinary case to him, and in his mind it was clear that deceased committed the act herself, though it was equally clear that her friends knew of no motive for it.

The jury returned a verdict to the following effect 'That the girl suffocated herself with two stockings, but what state of mind she was in at the time there was no evidence to show.'

The sad affair created a very painful impression in the district, where the deceased's parents are well known and respected, and much sympathy is felt for them."

County Advertiser 26/5/1894

"A rivet maker, Joseph Parsons (49), of Terrace Street, Blackheath, committed suicide on Tuesday. Deceased had been greatly depressed. On Tuesday he was missing, and upon his mother, with whom he lived, making search for him, she found a razor stained with blood. She raised an alarm, and it was ascertained that the deceased had cut his throat and afterwards thrown himself down a well. The body was recovered by Police--constable Jewson and a man named Grove.

Yesterday, Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the OAK TREE INN, Waterfall Lane.

John Parsons, brother of deceased, identified the body, and he said he last saw him alive on the 14th inst. Deceased did not then appear in his usual spirits, and seemed very much disinclined to enter into any conversation with him. Some time ago witness had a conversation with deceased when he complained of having no work, and he did not know what would become of him when he grew old. Witness pointed out to deceased that he was better situated than most persons, and mentioned cases where men with large families had been thrown out of employment. At that time deceased appeared in a very depressed state. Deceased was connected with money clubs and building societies, to which he had to pay £1 a week, and he had often said he did not know how he should meet the loans. Deceased was also connected with the Foresters' Society. Of late he had been so strange in his manner that witness was afraid he would injure either himself or his mother who lived with him.

Samuel Grove, a neighbour, said he last saw deceased alive on Saturday night about 9.30, at Blackheath National School, where he attended for the purpose of paying his club money. Deceased then appeared to be very strange in his manner. Witness did not hear anything more of deceased until about nine o'clock on Tuesday morning last when he was informed that he was down the well. Witness procured a drag, and after some time succeeded in bringing the dead body of deceased to the surface. He noticed that there was a deep cut on the left side of deceased's neck, and also some blood on the side of the well.

A Juryman explained that deceased had lately met with an accident to his foot, and had asked his employer to give him easier work, but he had refused to comply, and in consequence deceased had been very depressed.

The Coroner said he considered that the fact of deceased not being able to keep his club payments good had preyed upon his mind, and in consequence he had committed suicide. He had no doubt that at the time he committed the act he was in a state of unsound mind.

The Jury returned a verdict to the effect that deceased committed Suicide whilst in a state of Unsound Mind."

County Advertiser 16/6/1894 - Advert

"To Let, Eight-roomed House, with large Window, Chainshop, and good Stable, in Wright's Lane, Old Hill; would suit pawnbroker.

Apply, *Thos. Priest*, OAK TREE INN, Waterfall Lane, Old Hill."

Birmingham Daily Post 15/8/1894

"An inquest was held yesterday, at the OAK TREE INN, Rowley, before Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, concerning the death of William Ashfield (42), miner, who was killed in Rowley Hall Colliery on the 8th inst. Mr. W. H. Pickering, assistant Government inspector of mines was present, and the proprietors of the colliery were represented by Messrs. A. H. Bassano and I. Meacham (manager). George Rollason, miner, who was at work with the deceased, said, as they wanted some candles, Ashfield climbed over a fence. He begged of deceased not to do so, as he knew he was breaking the law. Witness got under the fence in order to persuade deceased to return, but he refused. A few minutes afterwards Ashfield fired the gas, and the force of the explosion knocked witness backwards, and he was injured. He supposed deceased was suffocated by the after-damp. Both he and deceased were carrying naked lights at the time of the explosion.

Thomas Baker, underground manager, said he knew gas existed in one of the heads, and fences were placed there to indicate to the men that it was dangerous. Both the main entrances to the place where the explosion occurred were fenced off, and both the men

were acting illegally in going beyond those fences.

A juror said he thought the two men had committed a grave error in going over the fence when they knew it was dangerous. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and added an expression of opinion that the deceased and Rollason were to blame for going with naked lights into a place they knew was dangerous, and they did not think Mr. Baker was to blame in the matter. Mr. Meacham, on behalf of the proprietors, expressed deep sympathy with the relatives of the deceased.”

County Advertiser 19/10/1895

“An inquest was held yesterday by Mr. E. Hooper, at the ROYAL OAK INN, Waterfall Lane, concerning the death of Emma Bateman, who died suddenly on Wednesday. Deceased had a quarrel with a woman named Taylor, over some children about 12-40. Deceased became very excited, and at the end of the quarrel returned to her wash tub. In about a minute she fell down, and expired before medical assistance could be obtained. It appeared that she had been suffering from heart disease, and had been attended by Dr. Beasley. The woman who had the quarrel with the deceased, attended the inquest, and expressed her regret about the quarrel, and said she would not have had it happen for a thousand pounds.

The Jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes, accelerated by excitement.”

County Advertiser 22/8/1896

“Free Gardenery. On Monday last the members of the Sunflower Lodge held their fifth anniversary at the lodge house, OAK TREE INN, Waterfall Lane, and there was a large contingent of members from the various lodges in Netherton and Darby End. An excellent and substantial repast was provided by the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. *Priest*.....”

Dudley Herald 13/8/1898 - Advert

“On Tuesday Next. Sale of Desirable Detached Freehold Residence at Blackheath, Rowley Regis, near Dudley. Joh G. Wright & Son (Established 1790) are instructed to offer for Sale by Auction, at the house of Mr. *Thomas Priest*, OAK TREE INN, Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, near Dudley, on Tuesday, August 16th, 1898, at Six o'clock in the evening for 6.30 precisely.....”

1901 Census

Waterfall Lane – ROYAL OAK INN

- [1] *Thomas Priest* (29), licensed victualler, born Old Hill;
- [2] Lucy Priest (30), wife, born Halesowen;
- [3] Thomas R. Priest (6), son, born Old Hill;
- [4] Mary E. Priest (5), daughter, born Old Hill;
- [5] Dorris Priest (4), daughter, born Old Hill;
- [6] David V. Priest (2), son, born Old Hill;
- [7] Rose Holland (19), domestic servant, born Blackheath;
- [8] Annie Jones (18), domestic servant, born Blackheath:

County Advertiser 21/9/1901

“On Tuesday evening week the members of the Old Hill Cricket Club sat down to a congratulatory dinner, provided by Mr. *T. Priest*, of the OAK TREE, Blackheath, for the purpose of celebrating the success of the recent fete and gala. A splendid repast having been done justice to, the members received the financial report of the fetes secretaries, Messrs. H. Pearce and W. Willetts. This showed that a total profit of over £81 had been realised. The report was greeted with hearty cheers and unanimously adopted. It was resolved to forward £3 of the amount to the Old Hill District Nursing Fund, as a slight thank-offering for the splendid manner in which the public had supported the cricket club. Votes of thanks were passed to the secretaries for the able way in which they had performed the secretarial duties in connection with the fetes, and to Mr. W. E. Gilbert, the respected chairman of the Fetes Committee. After the business had been disposed of, a smoking concert was held, and Messrs. F. Yates, F. Wright, G. Cresswell, and C. Edwards contributed songs, which were greatly appreciated. An enjoyable evening was terminated by the singing of the National Anthem.”

County Advertiser 15/3/1902

“Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest at the OAK TREE INN, Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, on the body of a female child aged one month, whose parents reside in Mott Street, Blackheath, and who was found dead in bed on Monday morning. It appeared from the evidence of the mother that deceased was put to bed on Sunday night and was found dead the following morning. Dr. Freer, who was called in, attributed death to suffocation through overlying. The jury returned a verdict of Accidentally Suffocated.”

County Express 15/3/1902

“On Tuesday morning, Mr. H. A. Pearson (County Coroner) held an inquest at the OAK TREE INN, Waterfall Lane, Blackheath, with respect to the death of Samuel Parsons (21), loader, Terrace Street, Blackheath, who had been killed at the Haden Hill Colliery, belonging to Messrs. Bassano and Co.

Mr. W. N. Atkinson (Government Inspector) represented the Home Office, and Mr. S. Dimmock (general manager) the owner of the colliery.

Jabez Edwards stated he was a fireman at the colliery where the deceased was employed as a loader. At 11.30 he heard that an accident had occurred at No.5 gate-road. Upon going into the road he found that about three tons of ‘gob’ had fallen from the roof

on to the deceased. On removing the debris deceased was found in a stooping position, his head being between his legs, and a tree across his neck. He was quite dead, and appeared to have been suffocated.

By Mr. Atkinson: He attributed the accident to a 'bump' which displaced a bar, liberating the 'gob.' When he examined the place at 9.45 it appeared to be perfectly safe.

The Coroner said it was a very sad occurrence for the unfortunate young man. The accident was attributed to one of those 'bumps' so frequently experienced in collieries.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

County Advertiser 2/1/1904

"A farewell dinner was given on Wednesday last week by Court Lushington No.7, to Citizen B. Atkins, at the house of Mr. *T. Priest*, OAK TREE INN, Waterfall Lane, on his leaving for America. The Lord Mayor, Citizen T. Priest, after dinner made a presentation on behalf of the Court, to the guest of the evening. This consisted of a silver mounted Malacca cane with buck horn handle specially made and mounted by Nutting, of Birmingham. A silver band bore the following inscription, 'Presented as a token of respect to B. Atkins, by Court Lushington, No.7, OAK TREE INN, Old Hill, England, 1903.' The Lord Mayor also presented him with three bottles of liquors, and in the course of his remarks said it gave him much pleasure to make the presentation, and to say that as a Citizen of that Court, and as a resident of the district, Mr. Atkins had always been known as a honest and straightforward man, and it was the hope of the whole Court that good health and good luck would wait on him and his wife in their new country. Citizen Snellings, as a Free Gardener, also spoke eulogistically of the guest of the evening.

In reply Mr. Atkins thanked all present for the kindly feeling shown and the presents made to him. Amongst those present were Lord Mayor Priest, Aldermen Parry, Wainwright, and Mole; Citizens Armstrong, Saunders, Woodhouse, Forrest, Snellings, Goodwin, Johnson, Lee, and Recorder Tibbetts. Among the invited guests were Messrs. E. Wooldridge, J. Lewis, T. Tibbetts, W. Thompson, A. Rowley, and T. Rose."

County Advertiser 30/1/1904

"Permission was given to *Thomas Priest* landlord of the OAK TREE INN, Waterfall Lane, Blackheath, to make alteration to the premises."

County Advertiser 21/5/1904

"*Thomas* Guest [sic], landlord of the OAK TREE INN, Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, made an application for an occasional license to sell on the Coombs Wood Tube Works Football ground, on the 24th inst, on the occasion of the annual fete and gala promoted by that club. There was no objection, and the Bench granted the application from one o'clock until 9 o'clock."

County Advertiser 20/7/1904

"An application was made by *Thomas Priest*, landlord of the OAK TREE INN, Waterfall Lane, Blackheath, for an occasional license to sell intoxicants at the fêtes and sports in connection with the Old Hill Cricket Club, to be held at Haden Hill on the 2nd of August. There was no objection on the part of the police, and the license was granted from two o'clock until ten."

County Advertiser 27/8/1904

"On Sunday afternoon the eighth annual parade and service arranged by the various friendly societies in the Old Hill district took place under favourable circumstances. The proceedings commenced with a large procession.....

The Halesowen Temperance Prize Band started from the OAK TREE INN, Waterfall Lane, at one o'clock, and proceeded down Waterfall Lane and Clifton Street to Wrights Lane, calling for the societies at the PRINCE OF WALES INN and the BRITISH OAK INN. Afterwards they marched to the field.....

Upon arrival at the field a grand procession was formed..... This paraded the principal streets of the locality for some time, after which they proceeded to a field in High Street, kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. A. E. Sidaway. Here a service was held, the chair being occupied by Dr. T. E. Mitchell. Notwithstanding the threatening state of the weather there was a large attendance.....

A collection was made upon the route, and at the service, on behalf of the Dudley Guest Hospital, Dudley Dispensary, Birmingham Eye Hospital, Birmingham General Hospital, Birmingham Ear and Throat Hospital, and the Old Hill Nurses Fund."

County Advertiser 27/5/1905

"Arrangements have been made by the Rowley Regis Cricket Club to play a match on Whit-Wednesday on behalf of the fund opened for the benefit of the West Bromwich Albion Football Club. Mr. *T. Priest*, of the OAK TREE INN, Waterfall Lane, will bring a strong team to oppose the Rowley Club, and it is hoped that the match will prove a great success financially."

County Advertiser 16/9/1905

"On Saturday night last the members of the Sunflower lodge, No.1727, of the N.U.O.F.G. met at the clubhouse, the OAK TREE INN, Waterfall Lane, to assist at a presentation to Bro. Joseph Lowe, late Master of the above, on his leaving for America. The presentation, which consisted of a silver medal, suitably inscribed with the signs of the Order, was the gift of Drs. Mitchell and McQueen, surgeons to the club. As he already held the certificate and key of the Order as late master, the medal was decided upon. In the absence of the donors, the presentation was made by the host, Bro. *T. Priest*, who spoke of the long connection of Bro. Lowe with the lodge. Bro. S. Weston (secretary) and Bro. Ed. Snellings (trustee) also spoke in commendation of the recipient. Songs and recitations whiled away the remainder of an enjoyable evening. The lodge is the largest in the Dudley and Netherton District, and is in a sound financial position. The officers' arrangements were excellent."

County Express 24/4/1909

“On Wednesday, at Old Hill, William Owen, a miner, of Waterfall Lane, Blackheath, was summoned for refusing to quit the licensed premises of the OAK TREE INN, Waterfall Lane, Blackheath, on the 14th inst. *Thomas Priest*, the landlord, stated that defendant came into his house in a drunken state. Witness refused to serve him, and requested him to leave, but he refused to do so. Defendant, who admitted the offence, was fined 10s and costs.”

Walter Broadbent was also involved in a haulage business.

Walter Edward Broadbent – see also CROWN.

1911 Census

128, Waterfall Lane – OAK TREE INN

- [1] *Edward Evans* (44), landlord, public house, born Wales;
- [2] *Mary Evans* (42), wife, married 22 years, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *William Edward Evans* (19), son, porter Great Western Railway, born Cakemore;
- [4] *Alfred Evans* (14), son, horse driver, born Cakemore;
- [5] *Arthur Redvers Evans* (10), son, school, born Cakemore;
- [6] *Emmy Florence Evans* (5), daughter, born Cakemore;
- [7] *Elsie Gladence Evans* (3), daughter, born Cakemore:

Smethwick Telephone 7/2/1914

“Important Sale of Valuable Freehold Property, Business Premises, and Land, situate at Blackheath and Rowley Regis, by Messrs. Samuel Jones, Son, and Vernon, FAI, at the ROYAL OAK HOTEL, Blackheath, on Monday, February 16th, 1914, at 7pm sharp..... Waterfall Lane, Old Hill. By order of the Representative of the late *Thomas Priest*, equitable Mortgagee under a document dated 21st May, 1903.

Lot 4. All that Piece of Freehold Land, adjoining the OAK TREE INN, with a building frontage to Waterfall Lane, Blackheath, together with the field at the rear thereof, having a frontage to Terrace Street, the whole stated to contain a total area of 3,595 square yards or thereabouts.....”

Birmingham Daily Post 14/2/1914

“In the Chancery Division, yesterday – before Mr. Justice Eve – Mr. Sheldon moved ex parte in the action *Priest v Millington*, for an injunction to restrain the sale of a piece of land near the OAK TREE INN, Rowley Regis, Staffordshire. Counsel said it had been advertised for sale on Monday next by Mr. Stephen Thomas Millington, one of the executors of the late *Thomas Priest*. Plaintiff, who was the son of the testator, was also one of the executors and a residuary legatee. Other parties to the suit were the other residuary legatees. Mr. Millington was claiming apparently to sell this piece of land as executor of the testator upon the footing of an equitable deposit of title deeds made by *Thomas Priest*, the plaintiff, to his father. The testator was formerly of the OAK TREE INN.

His Lordship, having read the affidavits, said on the evidence before him it seemed rather strange conduct. He would restrain the sale over that day week and give leave to serve notice of motion for the same day. Meantime an injunction would be granted.”

John Frank Amos = Joseph Frank Amos

1939 Register

Waterfall Lane – OAK TREE INN

- [1] *Frederick R. Mason*, date of birth 20/5/1913, licensed victualler, married;
- [2] *Etta Mason*, dob 6/1/915, unpaid somestic duties, married:

Rowley Juniors FC changed in the back room here. [1950s]

A team from here took part in the Rowley Regis Darts League. [1965/66]

A team from here took part in the Cradley Heath Darts League. [1970]

Mrs. *Beatrice Sisely* ran the pub as a caretaker manager.

Andrew Thompson was area manager for Ansell's.

It became MAXY'S WINE BAR.

Sandwell Evening Mail 17/12/1986

“Detectives and fire experts were investigating a blaze at a disused Blackheath wine bar today which caused severe damage. Firemen spent nearly four hours tackling the blaze, in a front living room above MAXY'S WINE BAR in Waterfall Lane. They arrived at the scene just after midnight to find the building well alight. Fifteen firemen, some wearing breathing apparatus, fought the outbreak, in which furniture and carpets were destroyed and other

first floor rooms severely damaged by heat and smoke. Station officer Dennis Knabe, of Cradley Heath fire station, said efforts to trace a key holder for the premises – formerly known as the OAK public house – proved unsuccessful.”

It reopened as the WATERFALL in 1987.

Express and Star 2/8/1988 - Advert

“The WATERFALL, Waterfall Lane, Rowley Regis.

Large Beer Garden Now Open!

Bring the family and enjoy a meal outside beside the waterfall.

An extensive menu of good food for lunchtimes and evenings is offered at reasonable prices.

Traditional Beers including Bathams, Old Hooky, Everards Tiger and Old Original, along with a regular selection of weekly guest beers.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 8/12/1989 - Advert

“The WATERFALL, Waterfall Lane, Rowley Regis.

Traditional Christmas Lunches (Not Christmas Day) £7.50.

Fancy Dress Party New Years Eve.

Function Room now available for private parties etc.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 14/11/1992

“Pub Talk. WATERFALL, Waterfall Lane, Blackheath.

Many of the best of British brews flow through *Bob Pinner*'s cellar pipes to reach the bar of his Black Country pub. He knows it's all good stuff because drinkers with a taste for well-cultivated pints arrive in droves. Furthermore, *Bob* is always there applying the skills needed to make sure every barrel load is served in peak condition. There's just one thing he doesn't do – and that's drink any of it! ‘I'm completely teetotal,’ he said when, surrounded by beers hand picked from the top-of-the-counter range, I asked him which one took his particular fancy.

As a landlord ready to enter into all the fun events at the WATERFALL – the pub he turned into a beer lover's paradise – *Bob* did try his hand at a yard of ale drinking contest. But he didn't much care for the after effects. So, content to make his lunchtime tinkle a mug of tea, the licensee – who virtually built his own pub – explained how he manages to deliver the goods from a position of ‘dry’ ground. ‘I went in at the deep end and made a lot of mistakes,’ he admits. ‘But you learn from experience and we can't be doing too badly when customers come from miles around and the pub keeps its place in the Good Beer Guide.

Bob was a builder helping licensee pals with some of their jobs around the bar before deciding to join the pubmasters' guild five years ago. But it became another building project when he faced all the heavy work needed to turn a fire-damaged and disused wine bar into what's now a real down-to-earth pub – yet one perched high enough to provide striking views across land to far-away hills.

From day one, *Bob* has been serving hand-pulled brews that would never otherwise have found their way to Blackheath, or probably many other parts of the West Midlands. I liked the Black Adder dark stout from Suffolk. And if it's hearty eating you're after, try the mixed grill for a king-sized challenge.

Pubfile:

Pick of the pints: Batham's Bitter, Murphy's Stout, Everards Old Original and other guest ales.

Plus pints: Friendly atmosphere, homey bar and lounge.

Food: A little or a lot at prices never at the steep end. Served at lunchtime and at night. A functions room for private parties.

Price of a pint: £1.33 or more for the stronger brews.

Opening hours: noon-3pm and 5.30pm-11pm (Monday-Friday); 12noon-11pm (Saturday). Normal Sunday hours.”

Birmingham Daily Post 7/8/1995

“Midland drinkers had time on their hands yesterday when last orders at the bar on a Sunday lunchtime became a thing of the past. Many people took to the change in the law, which allows all-day drinking on the Sabbath for the first time in almost a century, like ducks to water....

Mr. *Alan Davis* and his girlfriend Miss Amy Knowles, who are joint managers of the WATERFALL, welcomed the longer opening hours. Mr. *Davis* said, ‘We have a garden and children's facilities so we decided it would be a good thing to do. It's been a great success and we've been very full. We normally only serve lunches from noon to 2pm and from 7pm to 9.30pm but now we're going to serve it all day.

‘The main challenge was to find ways to continue encouraging people to visit the pub on a Sunday afternoon,’ said Miss Knowles. ‘It's going to be extra work but it's going to be worthwhile,’ she added. ‘We've got to make sure we get extra business to pay for the extra staff to work through the day and kitchen staff, as well as things like lighting and heating in the winter.’”

Alan Davis – see also FOUNTAIN, Lower Gornal.

Express & Star 28/4/2020

“A pub in Sandwell is preparing to host a fundraising event in aid of the NHS. Karl Gardner, manager of the WATERFALL pub in Cradley Heath, will be holding the fundraiser on Thursday, April 30, at the pub. Since pubs closed last month to prevent the spread of Covid-19, the WATERFALL has a surplus of stock which is reaching its expiry date. Karl decided rather than throw it away, he would organise an event where people could exchange charitable donations for beer.

He said, ‘We have some beer that is close to its sell-by date, at the fundraising event we will be donating beer and asking our customers and the community to make any donation they can towards the NHS. We want to boost the morale of the community and do our part giving back to the NHS helping deal with Covid-19.’

From 6pm onwards the pub, on Waterfall Lane, will be donating two barrels of cask ale and bottles to take out while socially distancing on the pub’s car park and all of the money raised will go towards supporting frontline key workers during the coronavirus pandemic. Karl’s dad, *Stanley John Gardner*, is the licensee of the pub which is owned by Holdens Brewery Ltd.”

Stanley John Gardner – see also BELL AND BEAR and HADEN CROSS.

[2020]

WHARE

135, (64), Station Road, (14, Granville Road), (136, Gorsty Hill Road), (136, Slack Hillock), OLD HILL

OWNERS

Wordsley Brewery Co.
George Harris
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.
Premier Midland Ales (acquired in 1985) [1989]
Scottish and Newcastle

LICENSEES

John Wright [1855] – [1884]
William Henry Hingley [1889] – [1896]
Henry ‘Harry’ James [1897] – [1901]
Frederick Holloway [1901] – [1912]
Mrs. Emma Holloway [1916]
George ‘Abner’ Harris [1921] – **1923**;
Mrs. Rose Hannah Harris (1923 – 1968)
Denis Charles Forman []
Mary Hurdley [1980]
M Holloway []
Charles Poolton []
Alan Fairclough []
Mandy Collins (**1985** – [1989] manager
Jacqueline Foster [1993]
Steve Warren [1993]

NOTES

136, Slack Hillock [1881]
136, Gorsty Hill Road [1891]
Granville Road [1896], [1901]
64, Station Road [1908], [1911], [1912], [1924], [1932], [1940]
135, Station Road [1996]

SPORTSMAN [1860], [1862], [1864], [1865], [1873]
SPORTSMAN AND RAILWAY [1868], [1870], [1872], [1884], [1892], [1896], [1908], [1912], [1932]
SPORTSMAN INN and RAILWAY HOTEL [1883]

Black Country Bugle

‘Slack Hillock Farm’

“.....the bridge [Wright’s Bridge] still stands today – and so does the house, but the building is no longer a farm. It is the SPORTSMAN AND RAILWAY – a public house The canal may not have been a great inconvenience to Slack Hillock Farm but the vast quarry on its Waterfall Lane boundary and the pithead gear of ‘The Drainage Mine,’ the Tump Colliery and finally the railway system which bridged the canal within a hundred yards of the farmhouse in 1850, gradually surrounded the property and

eroded its meadows to such an extent that farming was no longer a paying proposition.

Tory Street was built to house workers from the surrounding mines and Slack Hillock Farm stood, like the last fortress of the old feudal order, encompassed and besieged by industrial undertaking.

In 1852, Joe Walters finally put the farmstead up for sale Thereafter it became a combined farm and public house owned at various times by 'Butcher' Mills a local mine operator who lived in nearby Waterfall Lane and the Sturman family. It was purchased by *Abner Harris* (the old Villa player) in 1914....."

Worcestershire Chronicle 12/9/1855

"The adjourned licensing meeting was held at the Public-office, Wordsley, on Monday last.....

There were two applications adjourned till today *John Wright*, the SPORTSMAN, Gosty Hill, Rowley, which was granted."

County Advertiser 6/11/1858 - Advert

"Desirable Freehold Building Land at Old Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. B. Wooldridge, at the house of Mr. *John Wright*, the SPORTSMAN INN, at Gosty Hill, Rowley Regis, on Monday, the 15th day of November, 1858, at Twelve o'clock at Noon, and subject to such conditions as shall then be read....."

John Wright was also a maltster. [1860], [1865], [1868], [1870]

1861 Census

Gorsty Hill

- [1] *John Wright* (41), farmer and victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Eliza Wright (42), wife, born Cofnalls, Staffordshire;
- [3] Eliza Wright (15), daughter, born Rounds Green;
- [4] Harriet Wright (12), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Lucy Wright (10), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Sarah Ann Wright (8), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] John Wright (5), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] Isabella Beaman (22), servant, dairymaid, born Rowley Regis:

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 17/8/1861 - Advert

"Preliminary Announcement. Staffordshire. Old Hill, Rowley Regis.

Important Sale of a Valuable Colliery, Plant, and Premises, and of Desirable Freehold Houses and Building Land.

To be Sold by Auction, by Kempson and Suckling, at the house of Mr. *John Wright*, the SPORTSMAN INN, Gosty Hill, in the parish of Rowley Regis, on Tuesday, the 3rd day of September next....."

Worcestershire Chronicle 1/10/1862

"William Smith, licensed victualler, Gorsty Hill, was summoned for having, on the 16th inst, unlawfully sold a quantity of ale on a race course without being duly licensed to do so. Defendant pleaded guilty, but urged that he had applied to the Excise for a license, and was informed that a license was not required, and that he might sell what he wished during the wake. The Clerk pointed out to the Bench that by the 25th Vic. chap.22, sec.13, the Commissioners of Inland Revenue could grant permission to licensed victuallers to sell on race courses after the consent of two Justice of the Peace had been obtained. He further suggested that as the Act was a new one, it could not be very well known, and that all purposes might be served if the defendant would plead guilty and pay costs. The defendant agreed to this course, and the case was dismissed.

John Wright and James Tromans, publicans at Gorsty Hill, were brought up on similar charges, and were dismissed under the same conditions."

County Advertiser 26/8/1865 - Advert

"Rowley Wake Races will take place on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, September 18th, 19th, and 20th, 1865, on the Old Race Course, near the SPORTSMAN AND RAILWAY HOTEL, Gorsty Hill.

Further Particulars in future Advertisements."

John Wright was also a coalmaster. [1872]

County Advertiser 11/3/1871

"*John Wright*, landlord of the SPORTSMAN public house, Old Hill, was charged with selling liquors during prohibited hours.

Defendant pleaded, in extenuation, ignorance of the new law, and, in consequence of this, the mitigated fine of 6d and costs was inflicted."

Stourbridge Observer 18/3/1871

"William Darby was fined 6d and costs, for drinking in a public house (the SPORTSMAN INN, kept by Mr. *Wright*) during prohibited hours."

1871 Census

Slack Hillock

- [1] *John Wright* (51), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Eliza Wright* (52), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Lucy Wright* (20), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Sarah Wright* (18), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *John Wright* (15), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Isabella Beaman* (40), general servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 31/5/1873

“An inquest was held at the SPORTSMAN public house, Old Hill, on Wednesday afternoon, before Mr. F. W. Topham, deputy-coroner, on the body of Ann Maria Siviter, aged two years. The evidence showed that about two o’clock on Sunday the deceased was playing, with other children, near an open well. She fell in, and was got out in a state of partial insensibility. She died, however, immediately she was taken home. Verdict, Accidental Death.”

Stourbridge Observer 30/8/1873

“Fatal Accident at Old Hill Railway Station. A shocking accident here on Monday night to a man named Samuel Macaulay, dealer, of the Hayes [Lye]. Deceased was a passenger by the 7.30pm train from Birmingham to Cradley, and as the train was proceeding slowly towards the platform, he opened the door and stepped out. Instead of alighting on the platform he put his foot on the bridge adjoining the platform, and was dragged along the top of the bridge 5 or 6 feet, when he loosed hold of the handle, and fell on the road below, a distance of about 19 feet.

Assistance was promptly at hand, and he was picked up insensible, and carried to the SPORTSMAN HOTEL, where he died in a few minutes. Mr. Kerr, surgeon, was in attendance, but deceased died before his services were available. The surgeon was of opinion that deceased died from dislocation of the neck. An inquest was held on the body on Wednesday, before Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, at the SPORTSMAN HOTEL, Old Hill.

Mr. Oldershaw appeared on behalf of Mr. Shakespeare, for the friends of deceased, and Mr. Grover, with Inspectors Ledbrook and Lock, attended on behalf of the Great Western Railway Company.

Ellen Phipps said she lived at Old Hill. On Monday night she rode from Smethwick with deceased, on the 7.30 train from Birmingham. They were in a second-class carriage. Witness was going to Old Hill. On reaching Old Hill Station, deceased got out to assist her out. The train had not quite come to a standstill. As he got out he slipped and fell. The train might have stopped before he fell. Witness got out onto the platform. She did not hear anyone call out from the platform. Deceased was sober. If the train had stopped witness would have got out where deceased did. It was very dark and the train was full.

Cross examined by Mr. Oldershaw: There were lights on the platform, but not on the bridge. The train was coming to a stand when deceased fell.

By a Juror: There was a light in the carriage, and that made it more dangerous, as the light reflected on the bridge, and made it resemble the platform.

George Chance, residing at Stamber Mill, said the train was in motion when deceased got out. Witness stayed in the carriage until the train came to a stand. Deceased asked witness if he would assist the last witness out of the carriage, and on his refusing to do so he said, ‘Let your grandfather do it; he is insured.’ The train was longer than the platform. Deceased stepped on to the bridge, and then fell down. The train stopped before the carriage they were in reached the platform. Witness got out of the carriage and put his foot on what he thought was the platform, but it was the bridge. Some one pulled him back into the carriage or he should have gone over the bridge himself.

Thomas Evans, guard in the employ of the Great Western Railway Company, said he was in charge of the 7.30pm train on Monday night from Birmingham to Hartlebury. The train did not arrive at Old Hill until 8.24. It ought to have got there by 8.2. He saw the door open of the North-Western carriage, and called out, ‘Keep that door shut behind; keep your seats till the train draws to the platform.’ There were only three carriages behind his van. When the train stopped, the carriage where the deceased got out was on the bridge. The train was longer than the platform. The platform is not long enough for an excursion train. There was nothing to prevent passengers getting out of the train at that particular point if they thought they were on the platform. Witness could not say whether there were lights at the station or not.

Samuel Hall, miner, Cox’s Lane, Old Hill, said he was passing under the bridge on Monday night as deceased fell down, and caught him on the arm. He asked deceased if he was hurt much, and deceased said, ‘Take me away from here.’ He never spoke again. There were carriages on the bridge when deceased fell. Witness called for assistance, and deceased was carried to the SPORTSMAN HOTEL, where he died in a few minutes. When witness picked deceased up, his head fell on one side.

Cross-examined by Inspector Ledbrook: I heard someone call out ‘Keep your seats’ just as the poor fellow came down to the ground.

Inspector Ledbrook said the line was passed in 1867 by the Inspector, who said it was safe. He thought that if a fence was placed on the top of the bridge any person getting out would be dashed against the fence, and thrown back under the wheels. He considered the danger would be equally great. The platform had been lengthened within the last two years.

The Coroner, in summing up, said if the man had not got out before the train had stopped the case would have assumed a more serious aspect, but as he got out whilst it was in motion he was himself to blame. Any suggestion the Jury might offer he would forward to the Great Western Railway Co.

The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, with a recommendation to the Great Western Railway Company that the bridge be made safe for passengers.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 20/2/1875 - Advert

“‘Defensio, Non Provocatio.’ Caution.

The Licensed Victuallers’ Tea Association, Southwark Street, Borough, London.

This Association, having prosecuted and convicted a Grocer, at Bradford, at the Leeds Assizes, under the Merchandize Marks Act, 1862, and also prosecuted a man at Chester Assizes, who was sentenced to six months’ imprisonment for fraudulently counterfeiting and imitating their Trade Mark, and having obtained a decree for a perpetual injunction against a Tea Company (Limited), restricting the said Company from selling or exposing for sale Tea packed in covers or wrappers made in imitation of those used by the Licensed Victuallers’ Tea Association, or not materially differing therefrom, or in any covers or wrappers which by their shape, size, colour, labels, writings, figures, inscriptions, trade mark, or general character should make it appear that the packets sold or exposed for sale were those of the Licensed Victuallers’ Tea Association, and which decree on appeal was confirmed by the Lord Chancellor, notice is hereby given that all Persons Counterfeiting or Imitating the Trade Mark of the Licensed Victuallers’ Tea Association will be forthwith Proceeded Against; and Licensed Victuallers, Grocers, Bakers, Confectioners and others are hereby warned from selling or exposing for sale Tea packed in covers or wrappers made in imitation of those used by the said Association.

Thompson and Son, 60, Cornhill, Solicitors for the Licensed Victuallers’ Tea Association.

Agents For Staffordshire.

Oldhill: *J. Wright*, SPORTSMAN INN.”

Lucy Wright (25), spinster, Cock Green, daughter of *John Wright*, publican, married Benjamin Darby (20), bachelor, maltster, of Waterfall Lane, son of Samuel Darby, grocer, at St. Giles Church, on 27th December 1875.

County Express 18/8/1877

“On Tuesday morning a painful occurrence was witnessed at Old Hill Railway Station. James Grove, a bricklayer, aged 73, residing at Islington, was accompanied to the railway station by his grandson, intending to go by train; but when in the act of taking a ticket at the booking office he fell down dead. The body was removed to the SPORTSMAN INN, where an inquest was held the same day by the district coroner, Mr. Hooper. The jury, after hearing the evidence adduced, returned a verdict to the effect that deceased died from Natural Causes.”

County Express 22/9/1877 - Advert

“The LION INN and Premises, and Eight Other Freehold Dwelling Houses and a Quantity of Building Land, Part of the Old Lion Colliery Estate, at Old Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis.

Messrs. Bateman and Son beg to announce their instructions to Offer for Sale by Auction, on Monday, the 8th day of October, 1877, at Six o’clock in the Evening.

Plans and descriptive particulars are in course of preparation, and in the meantime and further information may be obtained from Messrs. T. and J. Simcox, Solicitors, 20, Waterloo Street, Birmingham; or the Auctioneers, Dudley; and from Mr. Daniel Wright, the FIELD HOUSE, Oxford Street, Dudley; Mr. *John Wright*, the SPORTSMAN INN, Gosty Hill, Old Hill; or Mr. Joseph Wright, the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Wrights Lane, Old Hill.”

1881 Census

136, Slack Hillock – SPORTSMAN INN

[1] *John Wright* (61), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Eliza Wright (62), wife, born Penkridge;

[3] John Wright (25), son, solicitor, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Isabella Beaman (40), boarder, general servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 8/7/1882 - Advert

“Freehold and Leasehold Property, Waterfall Lane, Rowley Regis, Staffordshire.

The Sale of this Property, fixed for the 18th July, inst, at the SPORTSMAN INN, Old Hill, is Postponed until further notice.”

Dudley and District News 13/1/1883

“George Rivers, alias Smith (40), returned convict, and Thomas Warr, pensioner, who gave their addresses as Windsor Street, Birmingham, were charged on remand with uttering counterfeit coin at Old Hill and Blackheath.

On the 5th inst, William Andrews, keeper of the CROWN INN, Old Hill, noticed the two prisoners stop in front of his house and then part, Warr going down the road and Rivers going into the house. Rivers called for half a pint of ale, which the servant girl brought him, and in payment of which he gave her a florin. Andrews looked at the coin and discovered it was a bad one. He asked the prisoner how many more he had like it, and he made no answer. A policeman was then sent for, and the prisoner was given into his custody.

Evidence was then given by Martha Smith, whose father keeps the NAVIGATION INN, Old Hill, showing that Rivers called at the house on the same date and asked for half a pint of ale, tendering a two-shilling piece in payment. Upon sounding it she found it was a bad one, and she refused to take it in payment or to supply the ale.

Eliza *Wright*, wife of *John Wright*, landlord of the SPORTSMAN INN, Old Hill, stated that Rivers called in the house on the 5th and asked for half a pint of ale, in payment of which he tendered a florin. She did not notice that it was a bad one, and she gave him change.

The same prisoner also passed a coin at a public house at Gorsty Hill.

The whole of the coins were examined by Mr. Henn, jeweller, of Cradley Heath, and were found to be composed chiefly of lead.

Upon being apprehended 10½d of good money was found upon Warr, and eight bad two shilling pieces. About 9s good money was found upon Rivers.

PC Varrily, of the Birmingham force, gave evidence showing that the prisoner Rivers was committed at the Northampton Assizes in 1877, and sentenced to five years penal servitude.

The Bench remanded the prisoner for seven days.”

Birmingham Mail 29/1/1883

“Stafford Assizes.....

George Rivers (35), labourer, and Thomas Warr (40), labourer, were charged with uttering several bad half-crowns at Old Hill. Mr. Todd prosecuted. It appeared that Rivers on the 5th of December went to the CROWN INN, Old Hill, and asked for a pint of ale, tendering half a crown. The servant, doubting its genuineness, went in search of the landlord, William Andrews, outside the door. Andrews seeing it was bad, gave prisoner in charge of a policeman. He then remembered seeing the prisoner Warr talking to Rivers before going into the house. With a policeman he followed Warr, and arrested him at Hales Owen Bridge. In his possession were found eight counterfeit half-crowns, which he said he had been given him to carry by Rivers. Prisoners were found guilty. Rivers was an old offender, and having on three previous occasions been convicted for uttering base coin, he was sentenced to ten years' penal servitude. Warr was ordered to be imprisoned for a month.”

County Advertiser 21/7/1883 - Advert

“On Monday, the 23rd July, Instant. Old Hill, Rowley, Staffordshire.

Sale of Valuable Freehold Properties and Building Land, consisting of an Old-Licensed Inn, called the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Eight Dwelling Houses, with Nailshops and Premises, and Six Building Lots, in Wrights Lane; and Nineteen Plots of Building Land fronting the Lion Road and adjoining proposed new streets, the whole being part of the Old Lion Colliery Estate, situate at Old Hill; and Five Dwelling Houses, with Gardens, &c, at Hyams Hill, in the parish of Rowley Regis.

Messrs. Bateman and Son have received instructions to Offer for Sale by Auction, at the house of Mr. *John Wright*, the SPORTSMAN INN and RAILWAY HOTEL, near the Old Hill Railway Station, on Monday, the 23rd day of July, 1888, at Six o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions of Sale, the above Valuable Freehold Properties.....”

Dudley and District News 5/1/1884

“It has been reported to the police that a wagoner named John Pritchard in the employ of Mr. *Wright*, of the SPORTSMAN INN, Gorsty Hill, had been robbed under singular circumstances. Pritchard is known throughout the district as a man of eccentric habits, and of late years he has slept in the hayloft of an outbuilding adjoining his employer's residence. A night or two ago two men broke into the hayloft whilst Pritchard was asleep and cut out one of the pockets in his trousers, which contained several pieces of old linen, in which was carefully wrapped half-sovereigns and silver amounting in the aggregate to £35 5s, which, it is alleged, it has taken Pritchard fourteen years to save. The thieves afterwards decamped with the money.”

County Advertiser 8/3/1884

“James Powell (29), alias ‘Dollar,’ miner, 16, Tory Street, Blackheath; William Powell (28), alias ‘Nep,’ miner, 54, Waterfall Lane, Blackheath; John Knight, alias ‘Ganner,’ miner, Halesowen Road; and Joseph Steventon (18,) labourer, Russian Row, Blackheath, were brought up in custody and charged with stealing £35 at Blackheath, on the 28th December last, the money of John Prichcett, labourer, of Gorsty Hill.

The prosecutor, who is said to be of an eccentric turn of mind, is a carter in the employ of Mr. *John Wright*, of the SPORTSMAN INN, Gorsty Hill, and for some time had slept in a hay loft on his employer's premises. That prosecutor carried his savings of some years about with him was known in the locality, and a few weeks before Christmas he was met by James Powell, who told him he should have his money. A number of men got into the hay loft where the prosecutor was sleeping on the night named in the charge and took £35, which was wrapped in some old rags, from the prosecutor's pocket. Upon prosecutor endeavouring to raise an alarm, he was struck several blows on the head. After the robbery the prisoners were ‘spreeing’ about with plenty of money in their possession. At the DOLPHIN INN, Stafford Street, Knight gave the landlady £13 to hold for him. The money, he said, had been won on a race. He treated everybody who came to the house, and altogether spent the sum of £2. He also had another £2 of the money from the landlady, and she afterwards returned to him the remaining £9. Information of the robbery did not reach the police for a week or so. After the robbery, and when they commenced to make inquiries, two of the prisoners had absconded. Eventually all the prisoners were apprehended. Knight, when in custody, sent for Inspector Walters, and made a statement to the effect that the other three prisoners came to his house, and said they had robbed an old man. They asked to be allowed to share the money. They divided the money into four parts, and gave him £4 10s. Next morning he found £8 10s in an old rug under his table. William Powell made a statement to the effect that they went to *Wright's* barn, and Knight took the money off the old man while James Powell held him. They afterwards went to Knight's house and divided the money. When first arrested Knight had denied knowing anything about the matter. When charged jointly, they all said they had nothing to say against it. It was after this that Knight sent for the inspector and made the statement above given to him. The Bench committed all the prisoners to take their trial at the next Sessions.”

[At the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions all four pleaded guilty. Steventon was sentenced to six months' imprisonment. The other three, who had previous convictions, were sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment.]

West Bromwich Weekly News 21/5/1887

“On Saturday afternoon, Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the SPORTSMAN INN, Gorsty Hill, respecting the death of a single woman named Eliza Danks (25), daughter of Samuel Danks, blacksmith, of Netherton, who was found dead in a water

'shoot' at the side of the Birmingham Canal, near to Gorsty Hill tunnel, on the 13th inst. Inspector Smith appeared on behalf of the Great Western Railway Company.

Eliza Danks, grandmother, said that she saw the deceased alive on the 12th inst. Her granddaughter was in the habit of sleeping at her residence in St. Thomas Street. Deceased was subject to fits, and frequently used to have three or four violent turns in a week. She had distant relatives at Old Hill, but was not in the habit of visiting them.

Sarah Ann Cooper, landlady at the THREE FURNACES INN, Old Hill, said that the deceased visited their house on three separate occasions, and requested to have some beer supplied to her; but she was refused, witness seeing that she had had enough. Before she would leave witness had to threaten to send for the police. Deceased proceeded down Waterfall Lane, and she did not see her again.

Samuel Taylor, boatman, said that on the 13th inst, about 5.30am, he was proceeding to the Gorsty Hill tunnel, for the purpose of going out with a boat, when he saw the deceased lying in the water 'shoot' on her back. A short distance up the embankment he found her skirt. At the time there was very little water running down the stream.

Police-sergeant Salt stated that he had examined the place, and had traced the deceased's footprints along the railway line, and to the spot where she was found. He was present when Dr. Standish examined the body, and said that the marks on the body might have been caused by falling, and were not sufficient to cause death.

The jury returned a verdict of Found Dead."

County Advertiser 8/10/1887

"Yesterday Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the SPORTSMAN INN, Old Hill, respecting the death of John Crump (23), rivet maker, of Long Lane, whose body was found in the Birmingham Canal, on the 5th inst, near to the railway station.

William Crump stated that he last saw the deceased alive on Monday evening, at the RIDDINGS INN, when he promised to assist witness in making some rivets on the following morning and afterwards left to go home. He did not hear anything further of deceased until the following day, when the canal was dragged and his body was found in the canal between Wrights Bridge and Gorsty Hill tunnel.

Evidence was given by Thomas Brooke and John Bennett that deceased had threatened to make away with himself. He had had some beer, but was not drunk. It was stated there was insanity in the family.

The Jury returned an open verdict of Found Drowned, there being no evidence to show how the deceased got into the water. They also recommended the Coroner to write to the Birmingham Canal Company informing them of the dangerous state of the canal at Gorsty Hill tunnel."

County Advertiser 7/4/1888

"An inquest was held at the SPORTSMAN INN, Old Hill, before Mr. Hooper, on Wednesday morning, touching the death of Eli Bloomer (71), building society agent, of Evers Street, Quarry Bank. On Saturday he left home to transact business, but did not return. On Monday a hat was found on the canal side near the Old Hill Railway Station, and Police-constable McHugh procured drags and found the dead body of the deceased in the water. Evidence was given showing that deceased had been seen walking in Waterfall Lane on Saturday night. There was no evidence to show how he got into the water, and a verdict of Found Dead was returned."

County Advertiser 6/4/1889 - Notice

"Notice Is Hereby Given, that on the 2nd day of July Next, Application will be made to her Majesty's Justices of the Peace, assembled at Quarter Sessions, in and for the County of Stafford, at Stafford in the said County, for an Order for Stopping Up Entirely as unnecessary and useless a certain Highway for Foot Passengers, situate at or near a place called Slack Hillock, at Old Hill, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the said County of Stafford, which said Highway commences at the fence on the south side of the Stourbridge Extension Railway at a point twenty-three yards or thereabouts East of the Wing Wall of the Bridge carrying the said Railway over the Netherton Canal, and passes thence on to and across the said Railway and thence in a north-westerly direction along the top of the slope or bank, on the north-east side of the said Netherton Canal, up to and terminates at the north-east corner of the Bridge over the said Canal in front of the Public-house or Inn there situate, called the SPORTSMAN AND RAILWAY INN, in the occupation of *William Henry Hingley*, and which said Highway so desired to be stopped up, contains in length one hundred and twenty yards or thereabouts. And that the certificate of two Justices having viewed the same, and directed this Notice to be given, and the proof given to their satisfaction of the same having been duly published, with a plan of the said Highway so proposed to be stopped up will be lodged with the Clerk of the Peace for the said County on the 1st day of June next.

Dated this 28th day of March, 1889.

The Seal of the Rowley Regis Local Board as Surveyors of the Highways of the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford.

A. Wright, Clerk to the said Local Board."

Birmingham Daily Post 21/12/1889

"Last night a numerously-attended meeting of gas-tube makers was held at the SPORTSMAN INN, Old Hill, for the purpose of forming a local trade society, and also considering the desirability of becoming affiliated with the Midland Trades Federation. A workman presided.

Mr. T. Homer, who attended as a delegate from the federation, explained the objects of the association. He advised the men in the gas-tube trade to form a society of their own, and then, out of the funds subscribed to the local society, they would be required to contribute 1d per week per member to the federation. In return they would receive the assistance of the federation in case any disputes arose respecting the wages and other questions affecting the trade, and he assured them that the influence of the feder-

ation would always be exerted to secure a conciliatory settlement of all disputes. It would be better for both masters and men if the latter were thoroughly united, and the best way of protecting the interests of their trade would be to form a trade association of their own, and then join the federation.

After some discussion it was resolved to form a gas-tube makers' association for the Old Hill district, and also to join the federation at once."

1891 Census

136, Gorsty Hill Road – SPORTSMAN INN

[1] *William Henry Hingley* (24), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Eliza Joyce Hingley* (24), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] — *Hingley* (3 days), son, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Arthur Edwin Hingley* (18), brother, born Rowley Regis;

[5] *Ellen Gallin* (15), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 18/4/1896 - Advert

"Under a Distress for Rent, the SPORTSMAN INN, Gorsty Hill, Old Hill.

H. King and Son will Sell by Auction, on Monday, April 20th, 1896, at the SPORTSMAN INN, as above, a quantity of Agricultural Implements, Useful Half-bred Mare, Five years old; promising Yearling Colt, Roan Cow, Tump of Hay, Gearing, Poultry, Furniture, &c.

Sale will commence at Two o'clock.

Auctioneers' Offices: 87, High Street, Stourbridge."

County Advertiser 5/6/1897

"On Wednesday last, at the Rowley Police Court – before Messrs. H. A. Wiggin, J. H. Smith, and W. H. Holcroft – Peter Wood, a police-constable stationed at Blackheath, was summoned by a man named John Skett, of Waterfall Lane, Old Hill, for being disorderly in a certain place on the 25th May, and there was a cross-summons by the officer charging Skett with using obscene language. Mr. W. H. Tinsley appeared on behalf of Skett, and Mr. Sharpe for Wood.

Mr. Tinsley said the defendant was charged with disorderly conduct under one of the County bye-laws. According to his instructions this disorderly conduct occurred in three places, viz, in a public house, in a street, and in the complainant's yard. The bye-law set forth what was meant by a public place, and defined a street. Mr. Tinsley then read the bye-law. The facts of the case, which would be borne out by corroborating evidence, were these. On this Tuesday evening complainant went into the SPORTSMAN INN, near Old Hill Railway Station. Wood made some offensive remark bearing upon the private character of a woman named Parkes. The complainant Skett then said he should inform the husband of what had been said the first time he saw him. This statement was the origin of the disturbance. Skett afterwards left the public house and went home. On his way, about forty yards from the house, Wood met him and began taking hold of him and pushing him about. Wood asked him whether he intended to tell the woman's husband about the statement, and Skett said he should. Skett then went into his house to have his supper, and locked himself in. Wood came to the window, and shouted that he did not care a — for Skett or Parkes. Skett went out, and would give in evidence what happened in the yard. He held that if these facts were proved an offence had been committed by Wood under the bye-law.

John Skett said that Wood came into the bar of the public house and had some whiskey. Wood made an offensive remark concerning a Mrs. Parkes, and Skett said he should tell Parkes the first time he saw him. Wood said he did not care for him or Parkes. Shortly afterwards witness left the house in company with a man named Booth. When near home he saw Wood, who asked him whether he intended to do what he had said. Witness told him he should, and Wood said he did not care a — for him or Parkes. Witness said to Wood that he was only trying to make him show his temper, but he had hit the wrong nail on the head that time. Skett then went home, and while he and his wife were having their supper Wood came up the entry and shouted something through the back window. Skett went out and told Wood he had better go down the entry. Wood said he did not care for Parkes or him., and some words followed. Wood at last got out his staff, and witness said, 'Oh, if you are going to pull out your staff I will fetch the poker.' Wood then rushed at him, and secured the poker saying, 'This is enough evidence for me.'

Cross-examined: Witness did not say 'This is the — that locked me up.' Witness said he would fetch 'Uncle Tom' (meaning the poker) when Wood pulled out his staff. He had been convicted at that court.

Mrs. Skett corroborated.

In cross-examination witness said she made a statement about the affair to Police-sergeant Winfield. In that statement she said. 'No bad language was used by my husband or Police-constable Wood,' but she did not think it would be used in court. Police-sergeant Winfield did not read it over to her afterwards. In reply to the Bench witness said it related to what happened before Wood came into the yard. This closed the case for Skett.

Mr. Sharpe said he did not agree with Mr. Tinsley's interpretation of this particular bye-law, which was a comprehensive one. Mr. Tinsley had said there were three parts of the charge, and he must say that the charge of disorderly conduct in the public house, even assuming that everything which had been alleged by the prosecution was true, could not be sustained. It was not part of the charge, and he contended could not be made evidence unless he agreed with it. At the same time he wished to say that the police authorities did not wish to exclude anything from the inquiry. He would show that there was nothing in the nature of disorderly conduct which took place in the public house, and that Wood simply said that he had had to go to the house. No suggestion was made that there was the slightest impropriety on the part of Mrs. Parkes, and one could scarcely understand a sober, intelligent officer who had been in the force for twelve years should go into the bar and make such a statement as that alleged. Afterwards Wood had an appointment with his sergeant at Waterfall Lane, not far from the public house, and again it was incredible that the

officer should be desirous of being engaged in a quarrel with Skett when he had to meet the sergeant. As Wood was going along his beat Skett met him and said, 'This is the — that locked me up.' Skett made use of obscene language, and Wood ordered him into the house. Skett then rushed into the house and brought out a poker, which Wood secured. Wood did not draw his staff at all. He asked the Bench to look at the character of the two men — one had been convicted several times, and the other had been a long while in the police force. They might ask, what became of the wife? But he urged that the charge was not made out, and that the summons against the officer should be dismissed.

Police-constable Wood was called, and said he had been stationed at Blackheath for four years. A short time ago he was called to the house of a man named Parkes, as the result of a quarrel between him and his wife. Witness then bore out the statement of Mr. Sharpe. He did not use any offensive remark, and did not put a finger on Skett until he took the poker off him. Witness did not go down the entry, and did not draw his staff at all. Skett was very excited but not drunk.

Henry James, landlord of the public house, and William Cooper deposed to Wood making no offensive remarks in the house.

Police-sergeant Winfield deposed to Mrs. Skett making a statement to him, which he afterwards got her to sign. He read it over to her. He met Wood in Waterfall Lane, and the latter made a complaint against Skett.

The Bench retired, and upon coming into Court Mr. Wiggin said the Bench thought that the bye-law meant by a public place, a place to which the public had access. They did not think there was sufficient evidence to show that disorderly conduct took place in the public house, and there would be a technical objection to the summons on that point, and it would be dismissed, the officer to pay costs.

Mr. Tinsley said that he thought the best way would be to allow the matter to drop, and not take any further proceedings.

The Bench intimated they should dismiss the cross-summons against Skett."

County Advertiser 4/9/1897

"*Henry James*, landlord of the SPORTSMAN INN, Blackheath, was charged with being drunk on his own licensed premises, on the 27th July. Mr. S. Sharpe, of West Bromwich, defended.

Police-constable Beech stated that at about 10.40pm on the evening of the date in question he visited the SPORTSMAN INN.

Defendant was sitting in the bar, and witness at once saw he was drunk. He asked defendant to follow him into another room.

Defendant could scarcely get off his chair, and he staggered as he came across the room. Witness told him he was drunk, and he replied, 'I have had some beer, but I am not drunk.' He then asked witness to send for Dr. Mitchell, but witness told him that if he wished for a doctor he must send for one himself, as he was satisfied that defendant was drunk. Defendant then called a man named Booth, and witness asked Booth's opinion as to defendant's condition. He replied, 'He has had some beer, you can see, but he is not drunk.'

Cross-examined: He had had some communication made to him by another publican, but that was not the reason he said defendant was drunk. Defendant did not fall down. He denied being drunk, and at once spoke of sending for a doctor.

Police-constable Plant, who accompanied Police-constable Beech to the house, corroborated.

Moses Cutler [NEPTUNE], a publican, stated that on the evening named he went to the SPORTSMAN INN about six o'clock.

Defendant came in at about twenty minutes to seven, and witness stayed in the house until nine o'clock. During that time defendant had had something to drink, and was in a drunken condition. There was a disturbance between witness and another publican, and as a consequence witness left the house at the request of the defendant. He went to the police station, where he informed Police-constable Beech that defendant was not sober.

Inspector Given said that in consequence of information received he went up to defendant's house on the night in question at 11.45 and overheard the wife of defendant say to him, '*Harry*, you know you have had too much; it is your own fault.' Witness then went into the house, and could see from the defendant's manner that he was quite drunk. Witness mentioned that he had overheard the remarks of the defendant's wife, and then left. He subsequently heard through the window a further conversation, in which defendant told his wife she ought not to have told witness that he was drunk. He then said, 'Fill me another glass,' and she replied, 'No, you have had quite enough; you are quite drunk.' Witness then tapped the window and said, 'You are quite right, missis; he is quite drunk; that is perfectly true.' Defendant then said, 'Oh, you have done it this time,' and witness came away.

This closed the case for the prosecution, and Mr. Sharpe said that if defendant had consulted his own pocket he would not have defended the case, as the maximum fine was 10s, but he was so conscious of his innocence that he decided to defend it. It was the first time he had been summoned. A rival publican went to the house on the night in question, and in consequence of some strong language used by this man, Perry [sic], in the exercise of his discretion and the conduct of his business, ordered him out of the house. The man went back and asked to be supplied with some drink, but was refused, and he then went to the police station, and stated that defendant was drunk. Defendant's actions were those of a sober man, and he asked that the incident after closing time might be dismissed as having no weight.

Defendant was called, and said that on the date of the charge he went to Birmingham. He had four or five glasses of ale in Birmingham, and reached home about 7.30. Cutler and another publican were there, and there were some words between them. He told Cutler that if he used bad language and insulted his customers as he was doing, he should not have him in the house. He requested him to leave, and he did so, but afterwards came back and asked for a bottle of stout. This defendant refused, and Cutler then said he would go down to the police station and tell them that he (defendant) was drunk.

Dr. Thomas Ellis Mitchell said that at about ten minutes past eleven on the 27th ult, defendant came to his surgery and gave him an account of what had taken place in his house that night. From the fact that when defendant came into his house he was able to walk steadily and to give a coherent account of his doings during the night, witness would say he was not drunk.

Cross-examined: He was not prepared to give a definition of drunkenness or sobriety. Defendant was not so sober as he appeared in Court at that time.

Sir Benjamin Hingley: Under the influence of drink, but not incapable? — Witness: Yes.

Charles Booth and Alec Hughes corroborated defendant's statements.

After a short consultation Sir Benjamin Hingley said that the Bench were of opinion that although it might have been very unkind on the part of the other publicans, they believed defendant was drunk and incapable of carrying on his business, and he would be fined 10s including costs.”

County Advertiser 2/10/1897

“The adjourned licensing sessions for Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division was held on Wednesday at the Police Court, Old Hill, before Messrs. W. Bassano, J. Walker, and G. Green.....

Henry James, of the SPORTSMAN INN, Old Hill, applied for the license to be renewed to him. Inspector Given objected, and said that applicant had been convicted and fined 10s and costs for being drunk on his own licensed premises since licensing day in August. He had no other complaint against the applicant. Applicant promised to keep his house in a proper manner in the future, and the application was granted, Mr. Bassano warning the applicant that if he was again convicted he would in all probability not be allowed to hold a license, and urging him to be very careful.”

County Express 19/1/1901

“*Henry James*, landlord of the SPORTSMAN AND RAILWAY INN, Granville Road, Blackheath, was summoned for permitting drunkenness on his premises; and also for selling intoxicating liquors to a drunken person on the 29th ult.

Mr. J. Walter Clulow appeared to prosecute, and stated that on the night in question Police-sergeant Bentley and Police-constable Heath visited the defendant’s house, and found a man named Edwin Heath very drunk, with a cup containing recently-drawn ale before him. Defendant said he had requested Heath several times to leave, but he had refused to do so; but the sergeant pointed out to defendant that the man had only recently been supplied with beer. Heath refused to give his correct name and address, but when the sergeant threatened to lock him up he did so. Heath drank some of the beer while the sergeant was in, and he would have fallen back into the fire had not the sergeant caught hold of him. The landlady was also present when told about the man’s condition, and said she knew he was drunk, but did not know he was incapable of walking home.

Police-sergeant Bentley and Police-constable Heath bore out the above facts in evidence.

Defendant admitted he had supplied Heath with two pints of ale, but said he had refused to serve him with a third. He ordered him to leave but he refused to do so, and Heath being a big man, he had not got the power to eject him.

John Phillips, colliery agent, said Heath was sober.

Edwin Heath, miner, Powke Lane, Blackheath, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises.

Defendant admitted he had had too much, but excused it on the ground that it was the nineteenth anniversary of his marriage.

The Bench fined *James* £2 and costs, in all £5 10s; and Heath 10s and costs. Solicitor’s fee was also allowed.”

1901 Census

Granville Road, Slack Hillock – SPORTSMAN INN

[1] *Fred Holloway* (43), licensed victualler, born Old Hill;

[2] *Emma Holloway* (44), wife, born Old Hill;

[3] Sarah Portman (17), domestic servant, born Old Hill:

County Advertiser 20/8/1904

“Old Hill and District Football League. At the last meeting of this League it was decided not to accept more than fourteen clubs. At present there are ten clubs entered. Any club wishing to join may do so by attending next meeting on Wednesday, August 24th, at headquarters, SPORTSMAN INN, Old Hill, at 7.30 sharp, when the League will be closed, or by applying early to the League Secretary, B. Reece, 76, Clifton Street, Old Hill.”

County Advertiser 20/1/1906

“Football. Old Hill and District Challenge Cup and Medals (third annual season), open to non-association teams. Draw takes place on Monday, Jan. 22nd, at the SPORTSMAN INN, Old Hill (one minute’s walk from Old Hill Station, GWR), at 8 o’clock pm. Entrance Fee, 3s.

Apply, B. Reece, 76, Clifton Street, Old Hill, Staffs.”

County Advertiser 28/7/1906 - Advert

“A Horse for Sale, eight years old, 15-3 high, good worker; also Wagonette and Harness.

Apply at the SPORTSMAN INN, Old Hill.”

County Express 4/1/1908

“Sick and Draw Clubs.... SPORTSMAN AND RAILWAY INN (Old Hill).

On Boxing day, the occasion being the first annual dinner. Mr G. Buttery was elected to the chair, and Mr. Tandy to the vice-chair. The dividend was 11s 10½d per member, and its announcement by the secretary (Mr. B. Reece) was greeted with applause. The health of the host and hostess (Mr. and Mrs. *F. Holloway*) was drunk.”

1911 Census

64, Station Road

[1] *Frederick Holloway* (53), publican, born Old Hill;

[2] *Emma Holloway* (54), wife, married 34 years, assisting in the business, born Old Hill:

Frederick Holloway died in the 1st quarter of 1915.

George 'Abner' Harris was born in 1878 in Gorsty Hill.

He was a footballer with Stewarts and Lloyds (Coombs Wood Works) FC.

He signed professional forms for Aston Villa in 1899. In 1908 he joined West Bromwich Albion.

He played cricket for Old Hill CC. [1921]

Sportsman Excelsior FC was based here. [c.1914]

Black Country Bugle (November 1980) - Pub of the Month

“.....Soon Slack Hillock Farm became better known as the RAILWAY INN, but it did not lose its agricultural appearance for several decades *Abner Harris* (who played left back for Aston Villa and West Bromwich Albion) bought the place in 1913, and it became the SPORTSMAN AND RAILWAY. The place prospered under *Abner's* ownership and he brought much needed discipline to what had been a tavern notorious for its fighting clientele *Abner Harris* was tragically killed at Enoch Wheeler's scaperyard in 1923, when a heavy leaden ball broke away from the jib of a crane and crushed him. His widow *Rosannah* continued to run the place until her death in 1968.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 5/6/1923

“Mr. *George Harris*, the well-known Old Hill cricketer and former Aston Villa, Albion, and Coventry City footballer, was killed at Old Hill yesterday under tragic circumstances. Just before mid-day he was engaged in conversation with Mr. Enoch Wheeler in the latter's scrap-yard in King Street. A short distance away a crane was being used by some workmen, when suddenly the jib flew out in the direction of the two men. Before Mr. *Harris* could move he was struck on the head and fell to the ground. Medical aid was sent for, but when Dr. Mitchell arrived a few minutes later he could only pronounce life extinct. Death had apparently been instantaneous, the cause being a severe fracture of the skull. Mr. *Harris*, who was 45 years of age, and leaves a widow and one daughter, was the licensee of the SPORTSMAN, Station Road, Old Hill.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 13/6/1923

“At the adjourned inquest on *George Harris*, aged 45, formerly licensee of the SPORTSMAN, Station Road, Old Hill, an old footballer and member of the Old Hill Cricket Club, who was killed under tragic circumstances, a verdict of Accidental Death was recorded.

Evidence was given to the effect that deceased paid a visit to some metal works. A crane which was considered safe with a ton load was lifting about half that weight when the whole structure collapsed and *Harris* was hit, sustaining a fractured skull.”

Dudley Chronicle 14/6/1923

“The funeral of Mr. *George Harris*, better known as ‘*Abner*’ *Harris*, the Old Hill cricketer, and former West Bromwich Albion, Aston Villa, Coventry City, and Stafford Rangers' footballer, who met his death under such tragic circumstances on June 4th, took place at Halesowen Parish Church on Thursday last week, in the presence of a large number of friends and sympathisers. There were many floral tributes of respect. Deceased, as a member of the Old Hill Cricket Club second team, played against West Bromwich Dartmouth as recently as Saturday week.”

Rose Hannah Harris = Rosannah Harris

1939 Register

Station Road – SPORTSMAN INN

[1] *Rose Hannah Harris*, date of birth 23/11/1888, licensee of free house, widowed;

[2] Millicent M. J. (Harris) Forman, dob 5/2/1918, at home, helps with business, single;

[3] George Wood, dob 2/1/1890, tube examiner, steel tube works, married;

[4] Amy Wood, dob 20/8/1889, unpaid domestic duties, married:

Evening Despatch 21/11/1939

“During the last eight weeks £50 6s has been contributed to the Sportsman and Railway Services Fund at Old Hill. Each week parcels are despatched from the SPORTSMAN AND RAILWAY INN, Station Road, to men in the Services.”

Denis Charles Forman was born on 14th August 1909.

Birmingham Mail 5/12/1945 - Engagements

“The engagement is announced between *Denis Charles* (Flt.-Lieut. RAFVR), only son of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. *Forman*, of Surbiton, Surrey, and Joan, only daughter of Mrs. R. *Harris* and the late Mr. G. *Harris*, of the SPORTSMAN INN, Old Hill.”

Birmingham Daily Post 21/1/1977 - Advert

“In the Estate of *Denis Charles Forman*.

The above deceased late of the SPORTSMAN AND RAILWAY INN, Station Road, Cradley Heath, West Midlands, died on the 4th December, 1976. Any Creditors having a claim against the Estate of the Deceased are requested to forward such details to Thomas Cooksey & Co., Solicitors, 223, Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath, Warley, West Midlands, on or before the 7th March, 1977,

after which date the Estate will be distributed.

Dated this 19th day of January, 1977.

Thomas Cooksey & Co., 223 Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath, Warley, West Midlands.”

Birmingham Daily Post 3/11/1977 - Advert

“Cradley Heath, Warley. Of interest to Breweries, Restauraterus, etc.

The SPORTSMAN AND RAILWAY INN, Station Road, Cradley Heath, Warley, West Midlands.

Well appointed freehold licensed premises. Site area 11,976 square yards or thereabouts. Attractive location adjacent to Dudley Canal. Considerably scope for extension.

Auction December 13, 1977.

Scriven & Co. 140-141 High Street, Rowley Regis, Warley, West Midlands.”

Its name was changed to the WHARF in November 1985.

Sandwell Evening Mail 4/8/1987

“A boxing match involving the fearsomely named Skull Crusher and The Tank will be held in the Black Country on Saturday – but no one will get hurt.

The Skull Crusher is *Alan Fairclough*, licensee at the WHARF pub, off Station Road in Old Hill, and he will be taking on Tommy Mills, of Grange Road, Old Hill, in a fancy dress match for charity.

Alan said that Tommy, a regular at the THREE FURNACES in Waterfall Lane, had often ‘threatened’ to get him in a boxing ring and sort him out. ‘Now’s his chance. It’s obviously not going to be too serious and we shall be in long johns and fancy dress,’ said Alan.

The two fighters will be aiming to raise cash for the Father Hudson’s Homes charity and are hoping to get Warley boxer Pat Cowdell to referee.

The match will be on the car park of the WHARF at 3pm.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 22/10/1987

“Old Hill drinking pals Tommy Mills and *Alan Fairclough* were black and blue after challenging each other to a fight – but it was all in a good cause. *Alan*, former licensee of the WHARFE public house off Station Road and Tommy, one of his regular customers, fought each other in a sponsored boxing match there – and for their pains they raised more than £200 for a children’s charity.

The two were sponsored by customers at the WHARFE and the THREE FURNACES public house in Waterfall Lane, Old Hill.

A cheque for £205 raised by the contest, along with some cuddly toys, was presented by Tommy at the THREE FURNACES to Mr. Charlie O’Malley, the local representative of Father Hudson’s Children’s Homes.

Mrs. Helen Robinson whose husband Ian is licensee of the THREE FURNACES, said the contest, refereed by another friend, Mr. Tony Jones, lasted several rounds and was declared a draw. She said, ‘It was all a bit of fun really. Alan and Tommy had always joked about fighting each other and when charity was mentioned they decided to do it for real.’”

Mandy Collins was married to Jim.

It closed in 2005.

It was damaged by fire on 28th February 2006.

Demolished [2009]

WHEATSHEAF

1, Turners Hill, (Darbys Hill), Lye Cross, (Four Lanes End), Oakham, ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

T. W. Williams, Rowley Brewery

Thomas B. Williams and Lizzie Bate, Rowley Regis

Ansells Ltd. (acquired on 15th June 1946)

Admiral Taverns

LICENSEES

Benjamin Woodhouse [1834] – [1861]

Joseph Cox [1861] – [1892]

Joseph Parkes [1896] – 1907;

Walter Woodall (1907 – 1912);
Thomas Holland (1912 – []
Howard Woodhouse [1916]
Thomas Woodhouse [1919] – 1920);
Edward Harrison (1920 – 1929);
Frank Green (1929);
Frank Jinks (1929 – 1957);
Walter Raymond Harris (1957 – 1960);
Frederick William Hughes (1960 – [1965]
Frederick Brown (1968 – []
C Swarbrick (1970 – []
Arthur Isherwood (1981 – []
Glenn Whitehouse [1988]
Sara Harvey (2015 – []

NOTES

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 18/11/1839 - Advert

“Freehold Estate at Portway.

To be Sold by Auction, by Thomas Pitt Stokes, at the house of *Benjamin Woodhouse*, the WHEAT SHEAF, at Lye Cross, near Portway, Tomorrow (Tuesday), November 19th, at five o'clock in the afternoon, under such conditions as will be then produced – a desirable Freehold Estate at Portway, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, within two miles of Dudley, by the side of the road leading to Oldbury, Titford, and Birmingham – consisting of a Farm House, Barn, Cow-house, small Tenement, and four Closes of rich Pasture Land, containing about eight acres, in the occupation of Thomas Woodhouse.

The admirable situation of this property in the immediate vicinity of numerous collieries and iron-works, renders it a most desirable investment.

Further particulars may be obtained at the office of Mr. Wm. Fellowes, jun, Solicitor, in Dudley.”

1841 Census

Lye Cross

- [1] *Benjamin Woodhouse* (50), publican, born Staffordshire;
- [2] Sarah Woodhouse (50), born Staffordshire;
- [3] Ann Woodhouse (20), born Staffordshire:

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 16/8/1841 - Advert

“Darby Bank Cottage, near Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Jesse Wright, on Monday next, August 23, at Mr. *Benjamin Woodhouse's*, the sign of the Wheat Sheaf, Oakham, near Rowley Regis.....”

1851 Census

Lye Cross

- [1] *Benjamin Woodhouse* (64), victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Sarah Woodhouse (63), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Sarah J. Woodhouse (19), daughter, born Rowley Regis:

Hoof marks reported on its roof in 1855.

1861 Census

Lye Cross

- [1] *Joseph Cox* (34), licensed victualler, born Rowley;
- [2] Sophia Cox (36), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] John Cox (6), son, born Rowley;
- [4] Sarah J. Cox (3), daughter, born Rowley;
- [5] Annie E. Cox (1), daughter, born Rowley;
- [6] Sarah Rupp (17), house servant, born Dudley:

Stourbridge Observer 16/2/1867

“An inquest was held on Tuesday last, at the WHEAT SHEAF INN, Rowley, before Mr. E. Hooper, Esq, Coroner, on the body of Samuel Taylor, labourer age 48.

From the evidence it appears that deceased had eaten his supper, and was sitting in a chair, when he fell off it on to the floor. He was picked up, and died in ten minutes.

Mr. Smith (Dr. Horton's assistant) was soon in attendance, but life was extinct.

A verdict was returned of Died from Natural Causes.”

County Advertiser 29/2/1868

“Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, held an inquest on Saturday, at the WHEAT SHEAF INN Turners Hill, on the body of John Lilley, fifty-two years of age. Deceased was at work on the previous Saturday, at the Hailstone Quarry, getting stone. A piece of stone, about 2cwt, suddenly fell, and struck deceased on the back. Mr. Mainwaring, surgeon, was called in, but so severe were the injuries that he died on the following day. The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/6/1870 - Advert

“Sale. This Day (Tuesday). Near the WHEAT SHEAF, Oakham.

By Mr. John Bent, This Day (Tuesday) – the Household Furniture, together with Eight fine, healthy, New-milch Cows, and Dairy Utensils, by order of the Executor of the late Mr. Woodhouse.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.”

1871 Census

Turners Hill

[1] *Joseph Cox* (44), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Sophia Cox* (45), wife, born Dudley;

[3] *Eliza Ann Cox* (18), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *John Cox* (16), son, solicitor's clerk, born Rowley Regis;

[5] *Sarah J. Cox* (13), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[6] *Ann E. Cox* (11), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[7] *Mary S. Cox* (9), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 30/5/1874 - Advert

“Worcestershire. The Ashes, Worley Wigorn, Parish of Halesowen.

To be Sold by Auction, by John G. Wright, at the house of Mr. *Joseph Cox*, the WHEATSHEAF INN, Turners Hill, Rowley Regis, on Wednesday, June 10th, 1874, at Six o'clock in the evening, subject to conditions to be then read.....”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 23/9/1876

“Last evening an inquest was held, before Mr. Hooper, at the WHEAT SHEAF INN, Turners Hill, on the body of Samuel Ruston (16), who was shot with a gun by his companion, William Redfern, on Tuesday.

Emanuel Whitehall, stepfather of the deceased, said he heard ‘a great noise and screaming’ at Joseph Redfern's, and upon going to the house saw the lad Ruston sitting in a chair. The blood was streaming from a wound under the right jaw. He was told the next day it had been done accidentally by the son of Joseph Redfern. His stepson did not recover consciousness, and died in half an hour. He did not think it was done intentionally. He considered it a pure accident. Redfern and Ruston were on good terms. No quarrel ever took place between them.

William Redfern (18) said deceased came to the house at about seven 'clock. His father and mother were out. Ruston asked him to reach the gun from the ceiling where it hung. It had been a long time since it was fired. Deceased said he wanted to look at the gun, and after some persuasion witness took it down. He pulled the cock up to see if there was a cap on, so that he might not give it to Ruston when loaded. He could not see the cap, and he loosed it down again. He let it down of its own force. Ruston was sitting opposite, and the charge went into his right cheek. He ran for the doctor, and neighbours came in and rendered assistance. When he returned, with the surgeon, the boy was dead. His father did not know when the gun was loaded, and cautioned him not to take the gun down. He did not think there was anything in the gun. He was very friendly with deceased.

Joseph Redfern said the gun was not usually kept loaded. He had not used it for years. Last November his eldest son used it, and it was possible it might have been left then with the charge in it.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 18/10/1878

“Yesterday afternoon Mr. Edwin Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the WHEAT SHEAF INN, Turners Hill, on the body of Joseph Woodhouse (53), a milkseller, who died under circumstances already reported.

Mrs. Woodhouse said she had been delivering milk with her husband on Monday night, and when in Gipsy Lane, on the road home, she heard a great shouting, and saw a trap loaded with men behind them. Her husband pulled more on one side, but as he did so the horse became frightened, and bolted with them. She lost consciousness, and when she recovered her husband was lying by the road side insensible. She had fallen on her shoulder, and her collar bone was broken. At the time she recovered the men in the trap were driving off faster than ever. A young man helped witness home, and brought her husband. The men were to blame for shouting so loudly and frightening the pony.

Joseph Harvey, of Tividale, said he heard five or six men in a trap driving at full speed, and shouting to Woodhouse as though they wished him to get out of the way. When the pony bolted both were thrown out, and the trap fell over. He called to the men, but they would not stop.

Police-constable Gevin said he had made full enquiries as to the men in the trap, but had not learned who they were. He received no information of the man's death until late on Tuesday evening.

The Coroner summed up, and asked the jury if they would have an adjournment to give the police more time. There seemed no doubt but that the men would say if brought before the jury that they were simply shouting for the old man to get out of the way.

The wife evidently did not seem to think much of the blame to be attached to the men, for she made no complaint, and did not

inform the police of the death of her husband for a long time. The jury then returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1881 Census

35, Oakham

- [1] *Joseph Cox* (54), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Sophia Cox* (56), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] *John Cox* (26), son, clerk at colliery, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Annie E. Cox* (21), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Mary S. Cox* (19), daughter, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 21/4/1883

“On Wednesday afternoon Mr. Edwin Hooper (South Staffordshire Coroner) held an inquest at the WHEAT SHEAF INN, Turners Hill, Rowley, respecting the death of Thomas Pugh (43), who had died from the effects of burns received on the 9th instant at the Birchfield Colliery, near Halesowen, belonging to the Churchbridge Colliery Company.

Mr. W. B. Scott, her Majesty’s Inspector of Collieries, was present to watch the proceedings.

The evidence of several witnesses showed that at six o’clock in the morning of the 9th instant a fire was discovered in the workings in the ‘wind way’ of the colliery, and efforts were made to extinguish the flames by pouring water from a pipe. On the arrival of deceased he suggested that a tub of water should be emptied on the fire, which was at the back of a heading. At the time the place was full of steam and smoke, and in consequence of deceased opening a trap door the fresh air came in contact with the heated smoke, the result being that an explosion followed, and deceased and a man named Reuben Lewis were badly burnt. The injured men were removed to their homes and Pugh expired on the 15th instant.

In reply to Mr. Scott two of the witnesses stated that there was sulphur in the pit.

The Coroner said he thought the doggy (Simpson) should have been in attendance and thoroughly explained to the jury how the explosion took place.

Mr. T. E. Lloyd, the certificated manager at the colliery, stated that Mr. Simpson’s absence was caused through the workings being still on fire. He might say that deceased was considered to be a skilled workman, and should have known better than to open the trap door in the way that he did.

The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1891 Census

1, Turners Hill

- [1] *Joseph Cox* (64), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Sophia Cox* (66), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] *Annie E. Cox* (31), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Mary S. Cox* (29), daughter, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 1/9/1894

“On Wednesday afternoon Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the WHEAT SHEAF INN, Turners Hill, Rowley, respecting the death of John Henry Turner (43), recently employed as an engineer at Lord Dudley’s Lye Cross Colliery, who died suddenly on Sunday morning last. The evidence showed that for some time past deceased had suffered from heart disease, and expired on Sunday before medical aid could be procured. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

County Advertiser 24/9/1898

“On Sunday afternoon the annual friendly societies’ Sunday service, on behalf of the hospitals, was held in a field at the back of Mountford House, Siviters Lane, Rowley, kindly lent for the occasion by Dr. J. G. Beasley. The members of various societies met at their headquarters, and were formed into a procession as below. The Blackheath Village Band started from the WHEAT SHEAF INN, Turners Hill at one o’clock, with the Church of England Friendly Society, and proceeded through Portway and Perrys Lake, calling at the BULLS HEAD INN for the Sick Club, at the WARD ARMS INN for Court Foresters’ Pride, at the KINGS ARMS INN for Lodge Working Man’s Friend. It then proceeded by way of Ross, Holly Road, Tump Road, and John Street, to the GEORGE AND DRAGON Ground. The Woodgate Brass Band had in the meantime covered its route from the OLD BUSH INN, Powke Lane, with Court Little Band of Hope, calling at the MALT SHOVEL INN for Lodge Lily of the Valley, the VINE INN for Court Mistletoe Bough, proceeding along Station Road to the RAILWAY INN for Court Britannia’s Pride, thence through Halesowen Street, Tump Road, and Hackett Street, meeting the other Courts at the GEORGE AND DRAGON Ground. A united procession was then formed, and marched to Siviters Lane, reaching the ground at three o’clock. The proceedings opened with the hymn ‘All people that on earth do dwell,’ after which the Chairman (Mr. E. Pewtress, CC) delivered a short address.

The Rev. C. W. Barnard, MA, Rector of Kings Norton, then addressed the meeting, after which the hymn ‘Lead, kindly light,’ was sung. Addresses were also delivered by the Revs. W. Hall and N. Haigh, of Blackheath.

At the close a collection was taken on behalf of the Dudley Dispensary and Birmingham Eye Hospital. It amounted to £11 9s 5d.”

1901 Census

1, Turners Hill – Tavern

- [1] *Joseph Parkes* (60), licensed victualler, born Blackheath;
- [2] *Sarah Jane Parkes* (59), wife, born Blackheath:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 1/6/1906

“Bankrupts.....

Fanny Parkes, 4, High Street, Blackheath, grocer (wife of William Parkes). Trustee, *Joseph Parkes*, WHEAT SHEAF INN, Turners Hill, Rowley Regis, victualler. Dated May 21; filed May 28; unsecured liabilities £221 9s 8d; estimated assets, £110.”

1911 Census

1, Turners Hill

- [1] *Walter Woodall* (35), brewer (beer), licensed victualler, born Wednesbury;
- [2] Elizabeth Woodall (36), wife, married 12 years, assisting in the business, born Wednesbury;
- [3] Florence Woodall (11), daughter, school, born Tipton;
- [4] Walter Woodall (5), son, born Tipton;
- [5] Harold Woodall (1), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Mabel Taylor (16), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

Demolished

It was rebuilt behind the original one in 1936.

Evening Despatch 26/1/1939

“Youths’ and Nig Nog Fixtures.....

Youths’ League Division North B.

Kick-off 2.30. Oakham Wanderers v Bush Rangers.

(WHEATSHEAF INN, Oakham).”

1939 Register

WHEATSHEAF INN

- [1] *Frank Jinks*, date of birth 12/7/1900, publican, licensee, married;
- [2] Alice Jinks, dob 13/2/1902, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [4] Alice A. Bayliss, dob 21/6/1874, unpaid domestic duties, widowed:

Birmingham Daily Post 19/11/1958

“After discovering that the key of his house fitted the door to the WHEATSHEAF public house, Oakham, a 13-year-old boy visited the inn 21 times in the early hours of the morning. On 19 visits he took money from a box behind the bar. On another occasion he took a packet of cigarettes. On his last visit he was caught by police.

At a Rowley Regis juvenile court yesterday, the boy admitted breaking into the premises and stealing a total of £11 10s. His father was ordered to pay a total of £4 10s and the boy was placed on probation for three years and ordered to attend an attendance centre for 12 hours.”

Tipton Herald 13/8/1960

“A man who put a wine glass in his pocket after having a drink with his wife and daughter at the WHEATSHEAF INN, Turners Hill, Oakham, pleaded not guilty at Old Hill Magistrates Court on Wednesday to the theft of the glass, worth 1s 3d. He was William Gilbert (45), of 38, Willow Drive, Oakham, who was given a conditional discharge on payment of £1 15s costs.

PC Davies said while in plain clothes, off duty, he saw Gilbert with two women, drinking in the forecourt of the WHEATSHEAF INN. When they had finished drinking, Gilbert put two of the glasses on the window sill of the Inn and put another in his pocket. Gilbert then walked away with the two women down City Road. One of the women told Gilbert not to take the glass. The constable stopped Gilbert when he had gone about 50 yards and told Gilbert he had seen him take the glass from the Inn. Gilbert put his hand in his left-hand pocket, produced a glass and handed it to the constable.

Gilbert said, ‘You must have been drunk, because I took it out of my right-hand pocket.’ Gilbert added that he was having a drink with his wife and daughter, and put the glass in his pocket ‘to tease my wife.’ He had commented about the price of a small drink his daughter had. ‘There was no cause to steal the glass; it was not wanted,’ he said. ‘I was going to nip back with it when the constable stopped me. I had gone only a few yards.’

Supt. Critchley asked Gilbert if it would have been ‘a bit of a shock’ had he known the young man looking at him was a police officer. Gilbert replied, ‘If I wanted to steal anything that would be the last spot in the world I would go to.’

The Superintendent asked Gilbert if he was serious when he said he was teasing his wife by putting a glass in his pocket. ‘You don’t know my wife,’ commented Gilbert.

The Chairman (Mr. John Ball) commented that there was an element of doubt about Gilbert’s intentions.”

Frederick Brown was married to Ingeborg.

See also WALL HEATH TAVERN, Wall Heath, and TEN ACRES, Stourbridge.

Arthur Isherwood was married to Sheila.

He was born c.1928.

See also RED LION, West Bromwich.

Sandwell Evening Mail 3/6/1988

“Gig Guide Friday Red Shoes (WHEATSHEAF Rowley Regis).”

Sandwell Evening Mail 2/12/1988

“A Rowley Regis couple complain trade has slumped at their pub by at least 15 per cent since a road was closed to make way for the merger of two huge quarries. The WHEATSHEAF INN is in Turners Hill Road on top of the 1,000ft high Rowley Hills. Motorists used the road to reach parts of the Black Country from Rowley Regis. But the road was closed as a through road to enable the Hailstone and Edwin Richards quarries on either side of the road to be merged.

The Government closed the road despite protests from Sandwell councillors and hundreds of Rowley Regis families who said the road was a ‘short cut’ to various Black Country areas. The quarrying firms of Tarmac and ARC Roadstone merged the quarries to obtain more stone for making roads. Now WHEATSHEAF licensee Mr. *Glenn Whitehouse* and his wife Dierdre complain that trade has been affected by the road closure.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 17/5/1991

“Gig Guide Thursday Ian The Goat/Bogus Social Workers (WHEATSHEAF Rowley Regis).”

[2019]

Closed [2020]

Express & Star 9/5/2023

“A pub is set to be converted into ‘ultra-modern’ flats, if plans are approved by councillors this week. The WHEATSHEAF, a former pub at the junction of Portway Hill and Turners Hill in Rowley Regis, would be demolished to make way for a three-storey building containing 20 apartments and 23 car parking spaces.....”

Halesowen News 24/11/2023

“Sandwell Council has backed a move to knock down the empty former WHEATSHEAF pub in Rowley Regis and replace it with 20 ‘ultra-modern’ flats. There were concerns about the flats plan by Jugraaj Singh with some objectors saying that two dozen more cars using the ‘perilous’ and ‘dangerous’ four-way junction on the corner of Turners Hill would be a recipe for disaster. Objectors had also said the surrounding streets were already congested and the application did not provide enough parking space for visitors. This would also make the already congested roads during busy pick-up and drop-off times at nearby Oakham Primary School even worse, the objectors said.....”

WHEELIE THIRSTY

215, Halesowen Road, OLD HILL

OWNERS

Fixed Wheel Brewery [2019]

LICENSEES

Scott Povey [2019]

Charlie Pugh [2019] manager

Penny Birks [2021] manager

NOTES

It opened on 2nd May 2019 in a former café.

Charlie Pugh – see also PARK TAVERN, Kingswinford.

Halesowen News 17/5/2021

“The manager of an Old Hill micro pub is fuming after teenagers vandalised its outside seating area for the second time in weeks. The gang of four youths struck at the WHEELIE THIRSTY Micropub on Halesowen Road yesterday (Sunday May 16) at around 6pm, just hours before it was due to reopen. Manager *Penny Birks* said the incident, in which the group of three girls and one boy, ripped up flower beds, snapped small trees and threw rubbish around, left her feeling angry and despondent. It is the second time it has happened as the same youths struck around a fortnight ago. It came as a real blow as the bar did not operate outdoors only

and opened for the first time since November today (Monday 17).

Penny said on Facebook, ‘This has totally ruined my Sunday but felt I had to share in case anyone knows who they are. I am the manager of the WHEELIE THIRSTY Micropub in Old Hill. I have worked extremely hard getting the bar looking great for reopening tomorrow, now for the second time three girls and a boy have vandalised the outside area. I have them on camera and will be calling the police and the local school. Fortunately my children are teenagers and once I enhance the footage they should recognise them! Any help will be appreciated.....’

[2021]

WHITEHEATH GATE

Oldbury Road, (152, Whiteheath Road), (152, (17), (27), Whiteheath Gate), (17, Whiteheath), (Birchfield Lane), WHITEHEATH

OWNERS

George Long
Showells Brewery Ltd. (leased) [1918]
William Butler and Co. Ltd. [1959]
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Job Parkes [pre 1860]
Richard Barnsley [1859] – **1860**;
Thomas Hurley Robertson (**1860** – [1892]
John Evans [1896]
Albert Moore [1901]
George Long [1902]
William Evans [1904] – [1912]
James Mallin [1916]
Tabiatha Horton [1919] – **1920**;
Thomas Prescott (**1920**);
George Hall (**1920** – **1931**);
John Calloway (**1931** – **1942**);
Mildred Miriam Calloway (**1942** – **1964**);
John Robinson Brettell (**1964** – [1965]

NOTES

27, Whiteheath Gate [1881]
17, Whiteheath Gate [1891], [1908], [1912], [1924]
17, Whiteheath [1911]
152, Whiteheath [1939]
152, Whiteheath Road [1940]

WHITEHEATH GATE [1864], [1892], [1896], [1916], [1924]
GATE [1932], [1940]

Oxford University and City Herald 30/8/1856

“On Tuesday afternoon, the inquest on the bodies of the unfortunate men who were killed by the explosion at Lord Ward’s Ramrod-hall Colliery, on the 13th inst, was resumed at the WHITEHEATH GATE. Mr. Brough, the Government Inspector, was present, and was accompanied by Mr. Wynne, inspector for the adjoining district on North Staffordshire. Mr. Wainwright, solicitor, of Dudley, attended to watch the proceedings on behalf of Lord Ward.

The evidence of the witnesses examined at the first enquiry was read, and a large amount of additional evidence was given. Mr. Brough, the Government Inspector for the district, was then examined, and deposed to the following effect. On the day after the explosion he made a careful inspection of the Ramrod-hall colliery. He found all that part of the pit, through which he passed, a perfect wreck, as regarded timber, but otherwise little injured. There was no fireman at the bottom of the up-cast, nor any other means for producing a current of air. There were doors and stoppings in the pit judiciously placed and properly constructed, but no other means for producing ventilation. He descended the pit again on the following Tuesday, when he found the ventilation

restored; the air was good and the pit safe, though still without a furnace. They found fire-damp in three separate points, all at the end of gate roads and but a few yards in each case beyond the air. At the north-eastern end of the first bolt-hole he found a door put up for temporary purposes. It had been placed there since the explosion. The original door at the north-eastern end he found on the floor of the bolt-hole, shattered to pieces. From this he concluded that though one door was closed the other remained duly closed. Therefore he was of opinion that the explosion was not caused by the first bolt-hole having been left open at all. At the north-western end of the second bolt-hole he found a shattered pair of doors, they were prostrated to the north-west, probably by the expansive force of the explosion. He believed these doors were shut when the explosion took place; that, therefore, it could not have been caused by the second bolt-hole having been left open, though had such been the case, the mine would have been left in a perilous state. It was in great danger, even with all the doors closed, in consequence of the want of a furnace at the bottom of the up-cast shaft.

Other evidence having been given, the Coroner said that if Baker, the butty, had been alive, he would have directed the jury to return a verdict of manslaughter against him. As it was, he left it for them to say whether an equal degree of culpable negligence did not attach to the ground bailiff who had the management of the pit. After a short consultation, however, the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, unaccompanied by any remark."

London Daily News 15/9/1856

"The last of the five inquests held upon the bodies of the eleven men and lads who were killed by an explosion at Lord Ward's Ramrod-hall Colliery, near Oldbury, on the 13th of August, took place on the afternoon of Friday last at the DUDLEY ARMS HOTEL, before R. Docker, Esq, acting for W. Robinson, Esq. The inquiry has been opened by viewing the bodies of the deceased on Friday, the 15th ult. The names of the three subjects of the inquiry were Richard Cartwright, Thomas Shaw, and Thomas Round. It may be well to observe that the other four inquests were held as follows: At WHITEHEATH GATE, on the 26th ult, on Thomas Baker, William Simpson, Joseph Fullwood, and Samuel Willets; and at Portway on the 28th, on Thomas Hampton, by G. H. Hincliffe, Esq, the verdict in each of these three instances being Accidental Death; on John Sheldon and John Bryan, by R. Docker, Esq, at Oldbury, on the 4th inst, when the jury found a verdict of Manslaughter against the dead butty, Thomas Baker; and on the 9th inst, at West Bromwich, by G. H. Hincliffe, Esq, on Thomas Waller, when the jury returned a similar verdict, viz, Manslaughter against Baker. The jury in the last case attached no blame to the ground bailiff, and in addition to their verdict on Manslaughter against Baker, they recommended that in future no person be allowed to descend the pit with a lighted candle, or with fire, before safety lamp had been used."

[The jury tried to bring in a verdict of Wilful Murder against Baker, but the coroner would not accept it and eventually they returned a verdict of Manslaughter.]

Bells Life in London and Sporting Chronicle 13/2/1859

"To be shot for, open to all England, tomorrow (Monday) at Mr. R. Barnsley's, WHITEHEATH GATE INN, near Oldbury, a £20 sweepstakes, by 20 members, at £1 each. Conditions: 3 birds each, 21 yards rise, 60 yards boundary; single guns not to exceed ¾ bore, 2oz of shot, double guns 1½oz of shot, allowed two yards. The gun to be held below the elbow till the bird is on the wing. A plentiful supply of the best blue rocks will be on the ground. Shooting to commence at one o'clock precisely."

County Advertiser 25/6/1859 - Advert

"Unreserved Sale, at the WHITEHEATH GATE INN, Whiteheath Gate, near Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. W. Hawkins, on Monday Next, June 27th, 1859, the whole of the excellent Public House Fixtures, Capital Drinking Tables, Four Pull Beer Machine, Piping and Taps, Brewing Utensils, Casks, Household Furniture, Beds, Bedsteads, and other Effects, upon the premises as above, under a Distress for Rent.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock in the Morning."

London Gazette 4/12/1860

"*Job Parkes*, heretofore of WHITEHEATH GATE INN, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, Licensed Brewer, and Retailer of Spirituous Liquors, Wine, Beer, and Tobacco, and Butty Collier, working the Titford Colliery, in the parish of Oldbury, in the county of Worcester, on his own account, then working the Furnace Colliery, in the parish of Oldbury aforesaid, in partnership with Richard Barnesley, then working the Holt Colliery, in the parish of Hales Owen, in the county of Salop, on his own account, and the Alston Colliery, in the parish of Oldbury aforesaid, in partnership with Noah Parkes, at the same time carrying on the business of a Licensed Victualler aforesaid, then working the New Rounds Green Colliery, in the parish of Oldbury aforesaid, on his own account, afterwards working the Alston and Titford Collieries aforesaid, in partnership with Noah Parkes aforesaid, then of Webster's Farm, in the parish of Oldbury aforesaid, working the Alston Colliery in partnership with Noah Parkes, at the same time working the New Rounds Green Colliery aforesaid, and farming at the farm aforesaid on his own account, then of Portway Hall, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, working the Holt and New Rounds Green Colliery aforesaid on his own account, at the same time working the Alston Colliery, in partnership with the said Noah Parkes and Jabez Griffiths, afterwards working the Holt Colliery aforesaid on his own account, then of Pensnett, in the parish of Kingswinford, in the county of Stafford, working the No.41 Coal Pit, Old Park, Pensnett aforesaid, on his own account, and in lodgings, and late of Pensnett aforesaid, out of employment and in lodgings."

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

27th January 1860 - Eliza, daughter of *Thomas Hurley* and *Catherine Robertson*, victualler, Whiteheath.

December 1861 - Lucy Catherine, daughter of *Thomas Hurley* and *Catherine Robertson*, victualler, Whiteheath Gate.

29th March 1863 - Mary Ellen, daughter of *Thomas Hurley* and *Catherine Robertson*, publican, Whiteheath Gate.

12th February 1865 - Robert, son of *Thomas Hurley* and *Catherine Robertson*, victualler, Whiteheath Gate.

12th February 1865 - Joseph, son of *Thomas Hurley* and *Catherine Robertson*, victualler, Whiteheath Gate.

18th April 1869 - Charlotte, daughter of *Thomas Hurley* and *Catherine Robertson*, publican, Whiteheath Gate.

1861 Census

Whiteheath

[1] *Thomas H. Robertson* (35), innkeeper, born Halesowen;

[2] *Lucy C. Robertson* (33), wife, born Halesowen;

[3] *Eliza Robertson* (1), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Mary Ann Collins* (19), domestic servant, born Bricken Hampton, Staffordshire:

Thomas Hurley Robertson was also a carpenter. [1864], [1865]

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

“Open To All. To be shot for, at Mr. *Thos. H. Robinson*'s [sic], the WHITEHEATH GATE INN, Whiteheath Gate, near Oldbury, on Monday, Dec 18, a handsome fat pig, weighing upwards of 18 score, by 20 members at 10s each. The winner to take the pig or receive £9 10s. Conditions, 3 birds each, 21 yards rise, 60 fall, guns not to exceed 11 bore, single guns 1½oz shot, double guns 1¼oz shot, allowed two yards. Best blue rocks provided. The inn is ten minutes' walk from Oldbury station.”

Birmingham Daily Post 19/10/1867 - Advert

“To be Let, with immediate possession, that well-known Old-licensed Public-House, the VINE INN, White Heath Gate, near Oldbury. The premises comprise Tap Room, large Kitchen, Bar, Parlour, Club Room, Chambers, good Cellars, Brewhouse, Malt Room, Piggeries, and good Garden. Rent low. No valuation required.

Apply to Mr. *Robertson*, WHITE HEATH GATE INN; or to Mr. *Hawkins*, Auctioneer, &c, Brierley Hill.”

Aris's Birmingham Gazette 13/6/1868 - Deaths

“On the 1st inst, of scarlatina, aged 5 years and 3 months, *Mary Ellen*, the beloved daughter of *Thomas* and *Lucy Robertson*, Whiteheath, Rowley Regis.”

1871 Census

Whiteheath

[1] *Thomas H. Robertson* (47), builder and publican, born Halesowen;

[2] *Lucy C. Robertson* (43), wife, born Halesowen;

[3] *Eliza Robertson* (11), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Lucy C. Robertson* (9), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[5] *Robert Robertson* (6), son, born Rowley Regis;

[6] *Joseph Robertson* (6), son, born Rowley Regis;

[7] *Charlotte Robertson* (2), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[8] *Elizabeth Oakes* (17), domestic servant, born Oldbury;

[9] *Eliza Newell* (51), visitor, born Halesowen:

Birmingham Daily Post 14/8/1873 - Advert

“Preliminary Announcement. The Titford Estate, Whiteheath Gate, near Rowley and Oldbury.

Valuable Freehold Property, comprising Farm House, Out-Buildings, and about Forty-three Acres of valuable Freehold Land, situate in the townships of Cakemore and Warley Wigorn, in the parish of Hales Owen, in the county of Worcester.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. *Bateman*, on Tuesday, the 9th day of September next, at Six o'clock in the evening, at the house of Mr. *Robertson*, the WHITEHEATH GATE INN, Rowley, subject to condition then to be produced, and either in one or such other lots as may be determined upon.....”

1881 Census

27, Whiteheath Gate – WHITEHEATH GATE INN

[1] *Thomas H. Robertson* (57), licensed victualler, born Halesowen;

[2] *Lucy Catherine Robertson* (53), wife, born Halesowen;

[3] *Lucy Catherine Robertson* (19), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Robert Robertson* (16), son, born Rowley Regis;

[5] *Joseph Robertson* (16), son, born Rowley Regis:

Thomas Hurley Robertson was re-elected to the Rowley Regis Local Board in April 1883.

County Advertiser 27/6/1885 - Advert

“Worcestershire. Sale of Compact Freehold Estate of about Nineteen Acres, called Titford Farm, situate at Whiteheath Gate, near Rowley and Oldbury.

Messrs. *Batmen and Son* are instructed by the Trustees of the late Mr. *John Clay*, to Offer for Sale by Auction, at the house of Mr. *Robertson*, the WHITEHEATH GATE INN, Rowley, on Thursday, the 16th day of July, 1885, at Five for Six o'clock in the Eve-

ning precisely, subject to conditions of Sale to be then produced.....”

County Advertiser 18/7/1885

“On Thursday last Mr. John Bateman offered for sale, at the WHITEHEATH GATE INN, the freehold estate known was Titford Farm, consisting of five closes of arable, meadow, and pasture land, besides the farm buildings, with garden and croft adjoining, measuring in all nineteen acres. There was a good attendance, and the bidding was spirited. The estate realised £1,150. Mr. W. W. Oldershaw, of Blackheath, was solicitor to the vendors.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 16/4/1887

“On Wednesday afternoon an inquest was held at the GATE INN, Whiteheath, before Mr. E. Hooper (coroner), touching the death of Joseph Willetts, who was killed at the Rowley Station Colliery, on Sunday morning last.

Samuel Willetts, brother of deceased, stated that he came up the pit at one o'clock in the morning, from work, and his brother was on the bank waiting for him. They went into the engine house and went to sleep until about 5.30. He had never slept in the engine house before, and afterwards his brother, with Timothy Harris, and John Daniels, started to go down the pit, although cautioned not to do so. Deceased had no business at the colliery whatever.

Timothy Harris, engineer at a quarry, stated that he went about eleven o'clock to the colliery to wait for deceased's brother coming up the pit. He had previously seen deceased at the BULLS HEAD, Mr. Homer's house, where they had share of a pint of ale.

They then went into the engine house and took a quart of fourpenny with them, which they drank. About 6.30 some of the men came to go down the pit, and deceased stated that he wanted to go down with them, but they asked him not to go, but ultimately John Daniels, himself, and deceased went down. They got down safely, and seven of them got on the cage to come up again, and deceased had hold of the chain. After coming up about 150 yards they heard deceased give a squeal, and then heard him drop on the bottom. They went for Mr. E. Simpson, the foreman, and got him out.

John Daniels, horse feeder at the colliery, stated that they went down the pit and cleaned the stables out, and about nine o'clock they came up, and about half-way Timothy Harris said he had gone back again.

The Coroner: You knew these men were strangers to the colliery, why did you not ask why they were going down? – Witness: I don't know.

Coroner: Who were the other men? – Witness: There were seven.

The Coroner: And what brought all these people going down, it seems that the whole parish could go down, if they liked.

Mr. W. F. Clark, who represented the Colliery, said it was news to him.

The Coroner remarked it was the most extraordinary thing he had heard of for some time.

John Sheldon, under doggy, stated he went down to examine the pit and saw the visitors there.

The Coroner: And did you speak to them? – Witness: No.

The Coroner: And did you consider you were doing your duty according to the rules of the pit by letting them remain there? – Witness: No.

The Coroner: I should think not. – Witness: I ought to have given him a reprimand for being down.

The Coroner: And you did not. How many were there in the pit? – Witness: Seven.

The Coroner: And three out of seven had no business there.

Mr. Scott: Who was attending to the bank? The rule says 'That the engineer shall not raise or lower the shaft without someone being present.'

The Coroner: Have you ever read those rules? – Witness: No.

Mr. Scott: And you are the person in charge of the pit? – Witness: I was that morning.

Witness then stated that he dragged the man out of the water quite dead, and his head was off.

Alfred Shirland, engineer at the colliery, stated that he went on duty about five o'clock on Saturday last, and about eleven o'clock deceased and Harris asked him to allow him to stop in the engine house until one o'clock. He did so, although he knew he was breaking the law.

The Coroner: It is the most extraordinary proceeding I have heard of for some years, the law seems to have been broken with impunity in so many cases. He let them all down the Colliery, and knew at the same time that they had no business there.

To witness: Who gave the signal? – Witness: There was no one there, the foreman had not come.

Mr. Franks explained that some 18 months ago they heard rumours of someone going down the pit on a Sunday morning, and the engineer was sent for and cautioned about it.

The Coroner (to the engineer): And yet in face of that you have allowed this to take place? You have allowed them to remain in the engine house contrary to rules. It is giving them an opportunity to interfere with the machinery if they had been disposed to do so. The law has been broken in several instances, and I hope the Company and officers will take the matter up. He also believed the Government Inspector would take the matter up. The Coroner said the engineer had told the truth about the matter, but if he had done his duty, that man's life would have been saved. It was a very sad and distressing case, but the young man had no business at the colliery, and had no right to go down the pit at all. As far as the evidence went there was nothing to lead them to suppose that there had been any violence used towards him, and they must return a verdict of Accidental Death. There had been a flagrant breach of the laws, which no one deplored more than the Colliery proprietors themselves. There was no doubt the engineer would have to answer for it, and he only hoped others would take warning from it. If they returned a verdict of Manslaughter no jury would return a bill against them, and the best course would be to leave it in the hands of the Government Inspector.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 25/6/1887

“At a meeting of the Whiteheath Lodge, No.916, of the Nottingham Imperial Order of Oddfellows, held on Monday at the WHITEHEATH GATE INN, Rowley Regis, the Rev. F. Keatch, Vicar of Blackheath, was instituted as honorary member.

The Secretary (Mr. A. Harper) moved that the degree of PIF, pro forma be conferred on Bro. F. Keatch, which was unanimously carried. This is the highest honour that any minor lodge could confer upon any of its members.....”

West Bromwich Weekly News 20/8/1887

“Nottingham Imperial Order of Odd Fellows.

The annual meeting of the Rowley Regis Provincial Grand Lodge of the above Order was held at the WHITEHEATH GATE INN, Rowley Regis, on Saturday last.....”

Dudley Mercury 13/4/1889

“Halesowen. The following persons were appointed Overseers and Surveyors for the different parishes, at the Police Court, on Tuesday.....

Surveyors Cakemore, *Thomas Hurley Robertson*.”

1891 Census

17, Whiteheath Gate – WHITEHEATH GATE INN

[1] *Thomas H. Robertson* (67), builder and licensed victualler, born Halesowen;

[2] Lucy Catherine Robertson (65), wife, born Halesowen;

[3] Robert Robertson (26), son, contractor, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Joseph Robertson (26), son, carpenter, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Salina Lappage (24), servant, born Tipton:

Birmingham Daily Post 7/4/1893

“Yesterday Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the GATE INN, White Heath, concerning the death of Eunice Law (15), who was found drowned in the Birmingham Canal, near Rowley, on Tuesday last. The deceased disappeared mysteriously about a fortnight ago, under circumstances already reported, and as there was no evidence to show how she got into the water the jury returned a verdict of Found Drowned.”

Birmingham Daily Post 13/12/1893 - Advert

“GATE INN, Whiteheath. This old-established Full-licensed House to be Let; lease 13 years; good lodge, 150 members. Rent £30. Tied for ales only.

Apply, William Henry Pass, Auctioneer and Valuer, 13, Church Street, Oldbury.”

Thomas Hurley Robertson died on 30th August 1896.

1901 Census

Whiteheath – GATE INN

[1] *Albert Moore* (32), publican, born Birmingham;

[2] Elizabeth Moore (30), wife, born Oldbury;

[3] Clarson Moore (7), son, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Florry Moore (6), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Joseph Moore (5), son, born Rowley Regis;

[6] Elsie Moore (3), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[7] Baby (under one month), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

[8] Louis Law (21), domestic servant, born Oldbury:

County Express 17/5/1902

“On January 10th George Farrell, of Arden Grove, Langley, went into the WHITEHEATH GATE INN, and was supplied with a pint of ale, which he drank, but for which he refused to pay. As he became disorderly, the landlord (*George Long*) ordered him out. He refused to go, and upon the landlord endeavouring to put him out, Farrell broke the cup he had had the ale in wilfully, and also struck the landlord in the neck. He was summoned for refusing to quit, for assault, and for malicious damage to a cup and to a collar the landlord wore, and which was torn in the melee.

He was fined 5s and costs for refusing to quit, and ordered to pay 1s damages.”

Smethwick Weekly News 5/7/1902

“On Friday, June 27th, a supper was given by the proprietor of the GATE INN, Whiteheath, Mr. *George Long*. About 40 guests sat down to an excellent spread, which was done full justice to. Great credit was due to the host and hostess for the able manner in which they had catered for the company. Upon the cloth being drawn Mr. W. Griffiths was appointed to the chair, and a good programme of music was got through.....”

County Express 23/8/1902

“Two boys, Thomas Crumpton (9) and Joseph Kesterton (9) of Whiteheath, were charged with stealing a quantity of vetches, value 6d, the property of Edwin Richards; and Mrs. Rebecca Phoebe *Long*, landlady of the WHITEHEATH GATE, was charged with receiving the vetches knowing them to have been stolen, on August 11th. Mr. G. Green appeared for Mr. Richards, and Mr. S. Vernon defended Mrs. *Long*.

The case for the prosecution was that PC James saw the two boys, each with a bag of vetches, coming from a field near the Titford Colliery, belonging to Mr. Richards. From what they told him, he accompanied them to Mrs. Long's house, where he noticed some vetches lying near the stable. He saw Mrs. Long, and stated the boys informed him that she has sent them for the vetches, to which she replied that she had had some from them that afternoon, and had given the boys some coppers for them. At the same time she pointed to the vetches lying near the stable, saying that those were the vetches they had brought in the afternoon. She did not know where the boys had had the vetches from.

Mr. Vernon submitted there was no case made out against his client, for there was no evidence to show where the first lot of vetches came from. The boy Crumpton often cleaned out the stable for Mrs. Long, and on the afternoon in question asked and received permission to go out and get some grass. His client never saw what the boys brought in until the police officer called her attention to it, and she certainly had not the slightest intention of receiving anything that was stolen. He submitted it was a most trumpery and trifling case. Crumpton and Kesterton were dealt with under the First Offenders Act, and ordered to come up for judgement if called upon within twelve months. The case against Mrs. Long was dismissed."

1911 Census

17, Whiteheath

[1] *William Evans* (38), licensed victualler, born Halesowen;

[2] *Annie Evans* (37), wife, married 8 years, assistant in business, born Oldbury;

[3] *Annie Evans* (7), daughter, school;

[4] *Harrold Evans* (5), son, school:

Birmingham Daily Post 14/9/1918 - Advert

"To Close A Trust. To Investors, Brewers, Manufacturers, Speculators, and Others.

Notice of Sale by Auction of a Valuable Old Licensed Freehold Public House, a Choice Residential Property, Building and Accommodation Lands, Dwelling Houses, a Landed Property and Buildings, in and around Warley, Whiteheath, and Rowley Regis. Alfred W. Dando & Co. have received instructions from the Trustees of the late W. C. Hodgetts, to Sell by Auction, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Tuesday, October 1, 1918, at Seven o'clock in the Evening precisely, subject to conditions of sale then to be produced, as follows.

Lot 1. A Very Valuable Old-established Fully-Licensed Commodious Public House, known as the GATE INN, Whiteheath, near Blackheath, in a prominent position on the Oldbury Road at the corner of Titford Road, as let to Messrs. Showells Limited on lease expiring September 29, 1920....."

1939 Register

152, Whiteheath

[1] *John Calloway*, date of birth 11/10/1895, publican, married;

[2] *Mildred Miriam Calloway*, dob 13/12/1900, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *John Calloway*, dob 23/4/1922, trailer tiller, single;

John Calloway died in the 2nd quarter of 1942.

Birmingham Daily Post 10/2/1962

"The owner of two crossbred Labradors was lowered 30ft over the top of Newberry Lane slag quarry, Rowley Regis, last night to rescue his two dogs. He had told the fire brigade that the dogs were too vicious to be rescued by anyone but himself. Apparently the dogs, while chasing foxes in the area, had fallen over the 30ft sheer drop but had landed on a ledge short of the water which fills the hole. The dogs were brought to safety by their master, Mr. Kenneth Wilson, of the GATE INN, Whiteheath, near Blackheath."

The original pub stood on the opposite corner.

A Provisional Removal Order to premises to be erected at Oldbury Road and Throne Road, Whiteheath, was granted. Final Order granted on 25th March 1964.

Demolished

Rebuilt

The new building opened in 1964.

Sandwell Evening Mail 15/3/1988

"Fifteen men have appeared at Warley magistrates court accused of conspiracy to cause violent disorder after being arrested by police who stopped a van in Whiteheath, Rowley Regis, on Saturday night.

They were all bailed to appear before magistrates at Smethwick on March 23 on condition that they did not visit four public houses in the Whiteheath and Blackheath areas – the MANCHESTER, the TRAVELLERS REST, the ROWLEY RAG, and the GATE INN. Thirteen of the defendants who appeared were from Rowley Regis....."

Sandwell Evening Mail 12/1/1991 - Advert

"The GATE INN, White Heath offer traditional home made lunches from 12-2pm.

Telephone orders welcome.”

It closed in 2007.

Halesowen News 8/12/2008

“Plans for a shopping and housing development in Rowley Regis have been approved despite fears it could create traffic ‘mayhem.’ An application to build a Tesco Express store and six apartments on the derelict site of the WHITEHEATH GATE pub, on Oldbury Road, were passed by Sandwell council on Wednesday December 17. The decision will anger some residents who claim the new store will increase traffic on an already busy junction. Speaking at the committee meeting, Amrit Singh, manager of the nearby Whiteheath Supermarket, said he had witnessed four accidents in the last month. He said, ‘The new store will cause total chaos with the traffic.’

Those concerns were echoed by councillor Iris Boucher, who said the development would be ‘an accident waiting to happen,’ while councillor Trevor Crumpton claimed it would create ‘mayhem.’

The committee eventually agreed to approve the application when council highway engineers agreed to take another look at the traffic situation. A council highways officer told the committee he did not believe the new store would significantly increase traffic in the area. When complete the new store could create up to 25 new jobs and parking for 24 cars.”

[2009]

Demolished [2010]

Shops were built on the site. [2011]

WHITEHEATH TAVERN

400, (403), (404), (83), Birchfield Road, (Birchfield Lane), (83, Birchy Field Lane), WHITEHEATH

OWNERS

Gresley Brewery Company, Burton [1894]
William Hodgetts, Whiteheath
J. Hodgetts, Clent
Edwin Richards, Birchfield Lane, Oldbury
Nathaniel Sadler, Dingle Street, Rounds Green (acquired c.1905)
T. A. Sadler, Dingle Street, Rounds Green
Grigg and Brettell Ltd. (acquired in 1928)
Ansells Ltd.
Inn Business
[Richmond Hill Brewery \[2023\]](#)

LICENSEES

Richard Pearsall [1845] – [1851]
George Moseley [1854] – [1856]
Noah Parkes [1857] – [1859]
Richard Clifton [1861]
Samuel Clifton [1870] – [1872]
Thomas Collins [1880] – **1889**;
George Trainer **(1889 – 1890)**;
John Willis **(1890 – 1891)**;
Mrs. Hannah Willis **(1891 – 1892)**;
James Peacock **(1892 – 1893)**;
Alfred Eardley **(1893)**;
William Comley **(1893 – 1903)**;
Edwin Gerrard Carroll **(1903 – 1904)**;
Nathaniel Sadler **(1904 – 1908)**;
Charles Withers **(1908 – 1926)**;
Arthur Jones **(1926 – 1927)**;
William Edwin Colesley **(1927 – 1929)**;
Arthur Harold West **(1929 – 1933)**;

Eli Shenton (1933 – 1935);
Daniel Jeavons (1935 – 1950);
Thomas George Edward Tipping (1950 – 1954);
Alfred Edwin Tongue (1954 – 1959);
Harry Stewart Parkes (1959 – 1962);
Barry Nock (1962 – []
Ray Hingley [1960s]
Anthony ‘Tony’ Barnard [1987] – [2001]

NOTES

83, Birchfield Lane [1873]
83, Birchy Field Lane [1881]
403, Birchfield Lane
404, Birchfield Lane [1896]
400, Birchfield Lane [1896], [1916], [1921], [1939]
400, Birchfield Road [1995]

It was originally the NEW HOTEL [1845], [1850], [1873], [1892], [1916]

It was known locally as “Jedknapps”.

Richard Pearsall was also a butcher. [1845], [1850]

[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 24th of July last, in Messrs. Houghton’s pit, by the fall of a quantity of coal. The deceased lingered till the 18th 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.”

1851 Census

Whiteheathgate

- [1] *Richard Pearsall* (36), butcher and beer shop, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Sarah Pearsall (33), wife, born Halesowen;
- [3] William Pearsall (14), son, scholar, born Warley Wigorn;
- [4] Richard Pearsall (11), son, scholar, born Warley Wigorn;
- [5] Alfred Pearsall (10), son, scholar, born Warley Wigorn;
- [6] Joseph Pearsall (3), son, born Halesowen;
- [7] Isabela Hall (18), general servant, born London;
- [8] Thomas Pearsall (33), visitor, butcher, born Birmingham;
- [9] Hannah Pearsall (30), visitor, born Birmingham:

George Moseley was also a butcher. [1854]

[Birmingham Journal 16/8/1856](#)

“On Wednesday evening an inquest was held at the house of Mr. *Moseley*, the NEW HOTEL, Oldbury adjourned.”

[Birmingham Journal 30/5/1857 - Advert](#)

“Road-Side Corner Public House.

To be Let, that capital Old-established Public House, known as the NEW INN, situated at the junction of the roads leading from Hales Owen to Oldbury, and from Titford to Rowley Regis, being in the midst of the new Coal Mines, now in full operation. Valuation under £100 if required.

Enquire of Mr. *Noah Parkes* upon the Premises, Whiteheath, near Oldbury.”

[County Advertiser 27/6/1857 - Advert](#)

“Sale at the NEW INN, Whiteheath Gate, near Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Hawkins, on Tuesday, July 14th, 1857, the whole of the excellent Public House Fixtures, Beer Machine, Screens, Tables, Brewing Plant, Malt Crusher, Well-seasoned Casks, varying from 50 to 500 gallons, several Pockets of Prime Hops, of the growth of 1856; together with part of the modern Household Furniture, and effects, belonging to Mr. *Noah Parkes*, who has taken to the GEORGE AND DRAGON, and had no further use for the same.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock in the Morning.

Any person wishing to take to the House previous to the sale, may have any portion of the Fixtures at a fair valuation; for particulars apply on the Premises, or to the Auctioneer, Brierley Hill."

Birmingham Journal 16/1/1858 - Advert

"To be Disposed of, a Licensed Public House, near Oldbury, with Butcher's Shop attached, in which good business is done. Satisfactory reasons will be given for the Proprietor parting with the Business. Apply at the NEW HOTEL, White Heath Gate, near Oldbury."

County Advertiser 25/9/1858 - Advert

"To Publicans, Brokers, Butchers, and Others.

Unreserved Sale at the NEW HOTEL, White Heath Gate, near Oldbury.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. W. Hawkins, on Tuesday next, September 28th, 1858, the whole of the Public House and Butcher's Shop Fixtures, Four-pull Beer Machine, Drinking Tables, Casks, Mashing Tub, Coolers, Wood Vats, part of the Household Furniture, and effects.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock in the morning."

County Advertiser 15/10/1859

"Joseph Willetts and Richard Fereday, colliers, were charged with breaking into the cellar of Mr. *Noah Parkes*, landlord of the NEW INN, Whiteheath Gate, Rowley, and stealing a quantity of ale therefrom, his property. It appeared in evidence that the two prisoners in company with other men were drinking and bowling on Monday night last at the public house called the SWAN, kept by Benjamin Slim, which adjoins or is in close proximity to the prosecutor's premises. The NEW INN had been lately taken to by *Parkes*, and the house was unoccupied. In the cellar, however, were two or three thirty-six gallon casks containing ale, one of which was in tap, and about two gallons had been taken out. The cellar had been properly secured during the afternoon, and about seven o'clock in the evening prosecutor received information that the cellar had been broken into and that the ale was being carried away. He immediately went to the place, and saw the prisoner Fereday in Slim's yard in the rear of the premises, and separated from prosecutor's house by a seven feet wall, but he had nothing in his possession. He went to the other side of the wall, and there found an iron bucket full of ale, and on examining the cellar, which had been entered by breaking open the trap door, he found that the barrel which was in tap was about half emptied of its contents. It was estimated to be worth at least 1s per gallon. The prisoner Fereday had endeavoured just previously to borrow a bucket from Mrs. Slim, but was refused, and he then took it. He was also heard to say that he would have some ale, and that it should come from the other side of the wall, pointing towards the cellar; and another witness swore to seeing the prisoners handing the beer to each other over the wall. They were each committed to take their trial at the ensuing Stafford Sessions on Monday next."

Wolverhampton Chronicle 19/10/1859

"Staffordshire Quarter Sessions.....

Richard Fereday, 23, and Joseph Willetts, 35, both miners, were charged with breaking into the dwelling house of *Noah Parks*, the keeper of the NEW INN, White Heath, Rowley Regis, and stealing 18 gallons of ale from a 36 gallon cask in the cellar. Fereday was seen bringing some of the ale away from the cellar in a bucket; Willetts, it was alleged, aided him in passing it over the wall at the back of the NEW INN. Fereday was now sentenced to three months' hard labour, and Willetts was acquitted."

1861 Census

Birchyfield Lane – NEW HOTEL

- [1] *Richard Clifton* (55), victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Sarah Clifton* (51), wife, born Oldbury;
- [3] *Vaughton Clifton* (21), son, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Sarah Clifton* (18), daughter, housekeeper, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Mary Clifton* (10), daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [6] *Hannah Egginton* (15), general servant, born Langley:

Richard Clifton – see also ALBION, Oldbury.

Samuel Clifton, beer retailer, Birchfield Lane. [1870]

1871 Census

Birchy Field Lane

- [1] *Samuel Clifton* (37), publican and farmer 30 acres, employs 1 labourer, born Oldbury;
- [2] *Jane Clifton* (35), wife, born Smethwick;
- [3] *Susan Clifton* (4), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] *Mary Clifton* (2), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [5] *Ann M. Bissell* (12), nurse girl, born Dudley;
- [6] *Phillis Willetts* (19), domestic servant, born Rowley:

Birmingham Daily Post 2/9/1872 - Advert

“Youth Wanted, to attend to Cows and make himself useful.
Apply, *S. Clifton*, White Heath, near Oldbury.”

Jane *Clifton* married *Thomas Collins* in the 4th quarter of 1879.

1881 Census

83, Birchy Field Lane – NEW INN

- [1] *Thomas Collins* (51), farmer, 50 acres, 2 men and 1 boy, and licensed victualler, born Oldbury;
- [2] Jane Collins (42), wife, born Tipton;
- [3] Elizabeth A. Collins (2 months), daughter, born Oldbury;
- [4] Susan Clifton (13), step-daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [5] Mary Clifton (11), step-daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [6] Samuel Clifton (8), step-son, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [7] Amy Clifton (6), step-daughter, scholar, born Oldbury;
- [8] Phillis Willetts (28), domestic servant, born Oldbury;
- [9] Ann Collins (48), sister, unmarried, born Oldbury:

Bradford Observer 31/5/1882

“From last night’s [London] Gazette Liquidations by Arrangement. . . .
Thomas Collins, licensed victualler, Whiteheath Gate, Oldbury.”

Thomas Collins was also a shopkeeper. [1884], [1888]

West Bromwich Weekly News 27/8/1887

“*Thomas Collins*, landlord of the NEW HOTEL, Whiteheath Gate, was charged with keeping open during prohibited hours, on the 14th inst, and Charles Withers, of Whiteheath, and Jonathan Gething, of Birchfield Lane, were charged with being on the premises. PC Clarke stated that he watched the premises closely on the Sunday in question, and saw the defendants enter the public house by a door leading from a field. He followed one of them and there found both defendants in the house with ale before them. He called the attention of the landlady to it, but she vouchsafed no reply.

Mr. *Collins* pleaded that he was not aware the men were there.

Withers stated that he went for the purpose of getting some eggs, and the beer that was filled he understood was for the manservant.

Collins was fined 10s and costs, and Withers and Gething 5s and costs each, or in default seven days.”

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. . . .

Thomas Collins, NEW HOTEL, White Heath. . . .

The Bench cautioned the applicants as to their future conduct, and then renewed the licenses.”

Birmingham Daily Post 5/7/1889 - Advert

“Grand Litter, champion-bred, perfectly-marked St. Bernard Pups. Sell cheap.
NEW HOTEL, Whiteheath, near Dudley.”

Birmingham Mail 23/3/1891 - Advert

“*John Willis*, Re (The NEW HOTEL, Birchfield Lane, near Oldbury), Licensed Victualler.

Claims forthwith to undersigned, Trustee’s Solicitor.

J. W. Phillips, 13, Old Square, Birmingham.”

1891 Census

Birchfield Lane – NEW HOTEL

- [1] *John Willis* (50), general labourer, born Bromsgrove;
- [2] *Hannah Willis* (45), wife, licensed victualler, born Defford, Worcestershire;
- [3] William Packwood (15), son, born Bromsgrove;
- [4] Annie Parkes (19), general servant, born Oldbury;
- [5] John Wright (56), visitor, caretaker, born Fazeley, Staffordshire;
- [6] Enoch Green (59), visitor, bailiff in possession, born Princes End:

Warwick Advertiser 27/6/1891 - Advert

“Oldbury. To Brewers, Wine and Spirit Merchants, Publicans, and Others.

To be Sold by Auction (Without Reserve) by Bill, Son, and Gamble, at the TALBOT HOTEL, Oldbury, on Thursday next, the 2nd day of July, punctually at Six o’clock in the Evening, subject to conditions to be then produced.

The very Valuable Free Lease, having 12 Years unexpired, at the low rent of £35 per Annum, together with the Goodwill and Possession of the well-accustomed Fully-licensed Roadside Inn, known as the NEW HOTEL, White Heath, Tifford, near Oldbury,

together with the Fittings and Fixtures therein.....

Birmingham Daily Post 18/11/1891

“Yesterday, at the Oldbury Police Court – before Messrs. H. Heaton and A. M. Chance – *Hannah Willis*, landlady of the NEW HOTEL, Whiteheath, was charged with refusing to admit the police on the 11th inst.

Police-constable Stevens said he and Police-constable Davis visited the defendant’s house at 11.25pm, and saw a light in the bar and in the passage. They listened near a side window for a few minutes, and hearing voices and sounds of laughter inside they knocked at the front door and asked to be admitted. Defendant appeared at the front window downstairs and asked what was the matter. Witness replied that he wanted to come in. Defendant then said there was no one in the house except her own family.

Witness repeated his request to be allowed to enter the house, but defendant refused to open the door, and, upon witness threatening to report the case, she said they could do what they liked but they would not enter her house that night.

Police-constable Davis corroborated.

Defendant now said she was under the impression that her house was private after eleven o’clock until the next morning.

Mr. Wright (clerk) said she was bound to admit the police at any time.

She was fined 19s 6d, including costs.”

Birmingham Daily Post 8/3/1894

“Yesterday afternoon, at West Bromwich County Court – before Judge Griffiths – an action was brought by Alfred Yardley, of the Sun Hotel, Hunnington, against the Gresley Brewery Company, Burton, to recover £22 7s alleged to be due from defendants in connection with the sale and transfer of the NEW HOTEL, Whiteheath. Mr. J. S. Sharpe appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Hugo Young (instructed by Messrs. James and Barton, Birmingham) appeared for defendants.

Mr. Sharpe explained that plaintiff was formerly engaged in farming. In early last year he paid a deposit of £100 to go into the NEW HOTEL, which belonged to defendants. The defence was that the plaintiff had signed a receipt in settlement of all accounts between himself and the company. After a long legal argument, his Honour ultimately gave a verdict for defendants.”

Birmingham Daily Post 28/9/1895

“Yesterday, at the County Court – before Judge Griffiths – an action was brought by Richard Clarkson Smith, boatbuilder, Bridge Street, Smithwell against *William Comely* NEW HOTEL, Whiteheath, to recover £9 7s for thirty-four weeks hire of two boats at 5s 6d per week. Mr. J. Clark appeared for the plaintiff.

The defendant pleaded that he hired the boats during the severe frost last winter, and it was customary for hirers of boats to be exempt from payment when the boats were stopped through strikes, lock-outs, or the frost.

The Judge held that the plaintiff was entitled to the full amount claimed in law, but said it would be only doing justice to the defendant if the plaintiff made him a reasonable allowance for the time when the boats were frozen up. He gave a verdict for the plaintiff £9 1s 6d, and Mr. Clark intimated that the plaintiff would make the defendant an allowance.”

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 29th, 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 NEW HOTEL, Birchfield Road aforesaid, let to the Albion Brewery Co., under lease expiring 25th March, 1903.....

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 29th, 1899.....

Lot 6. The NEW HOTEL, Birchfield Road, Oldbury, a Fully-Licensed Freehold House, situate in and fronting to Birchfield Road aforesaid, and in a good neighbourhood for business. The house is well built, and has ample accommodation for the trade. There is stabling for five horses, with Coach-house, Shed and Yard. It is now held by the Albion Brewery Company, under lease which expires on the 25th March, 1903.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 18/8/1900 - Advert

“Titford Pool Now Open.

A Steam Launch and a Good Fleet of Rowing Boats.

Terms: Steam Launch and Rowing 6d per hour, Children 3d each. Fishing per day, Angling 1s, Pike 2s 6d. Season Tickets for Fishing on Special Terms.

N.B. Promenade Season Tickets, 5s 6d each.

Dinners and Teas Provided on the Island, Pool, or at the NEW HOTEL.

Ales, Wines, Spirits, Cigars and Refreshments of the Finest Quality.

Proprietor *W. Comley*, NEW HOTEL, Whiteheath, nr. Dudley.”

1901 Census

Birchfield Lane

- [1] *William Comley* (49), licensed victualler, colliery agent, born Firley, Gloucestershire;
- [2] *Mary Comley* (47), wife, born Whiteheath;
- [3] *Georgina Comley* (24), daughter, hotel assistant, born Whiteheath;
- [4] *Mary Comley* (22), daughter, born Whiteheath;
- [5] *Alexander Comley* (18), son, born Whiteheath;
- [6] *Albert Comley* (12), son, born Langley;
- [7] *Sarah Hodgetts* (16), housemaid, born Whiteheath:

Smethwick Weekly News 20/4/1901

“*William Comley*, landlord of the NEW INN, Whiteheath, was summoned for driving a vehicle without having a light attached in Brades Road, Rounds Green, on Good Friday.
PC Haden gave evidence, and defendant, who was represented by Mr. H. Jeffries, was ordered to pay the costs, 6s 6d.”

Smethwick Weekly News 5/10/1901

“Mr. *William Comley*, of the NEW HOTEL, Whiteheath, gave a supper to the members and friends of the money club held at the hotel, on Saturday last. A good number of the members and friends sat down to an excellent spread, presided over by the host, and after the cloth was drawn a musical evening was spent. Master Bert *Comley* delighted the audience by his exceptionally good rendering of several selections on the banjo.”

Smethwick Weekly News 1/3/1902

“Mr. *William Comley* of the NEW HOTEL, Whiteheath, gave a supper on Saturday evening last, in connection with the Money Society held at the hotel, and also to celebrate the promotion of his son, Mr. Ernest *Comley*, to the rank of sergeant in His Majesty’s Army. The proceedings were given quite a military air by the number of officers present from the Battery stationed at Great Brook Street Barracks, Birmingham. After a splendid spread a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. and Mrs. *Comley* for their hospitality. A smoking concert followed.....”

Smethwick Weekly News 23/8/1902

“The members of the money society held at the NEW HOTEL, Whiteheath, were entertained to dinner by the host (Mr. *William Comley*) on Saturday evening last, and an excellent spread of good things were provided and thoroughly enjoyed.....”

William Comley – see also NAVIGATION, Titford Road, Oldbury.

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.”

Charles Withers was nicknamed ‘Jedknapp’.

Smethwick Telephone 14/6/1913 - Advert

“The Birmingham & Midland Motor Omnibus Company Ltd.

Oldbury & Blackheath Motor Omnibus Service.

Commencing Saturday, May 24th, 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.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 27/2/1915

“Sergeant-Major C. *Withers*, of the 1st South Staffordshire Regiment, a son of Mr. and Mrs. *Withers*, of the NEW HOTEL, Whiteheath, Black Heath, is in a base hospital suffering from rheumatism. Mr. and Mrs. *Withers* have three sons at the front. Private Jack *Withers*, who is in the 2nd South Staffordshires, and went through the Boer War, was some time ago reported killed in action, but his wife has received a letter from him saying he is alive and well.”

Arthur Harold West – see also WAGGON AND HORSES, Oldbury.

1939 Register

400, Birchfield Lane

[1] *Daniel Jeavons*, date of birth 7/4/1887, public house keeper, married;

[2] *Nellie Jeavons*, dob 15/4/1886, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] *Daniel Jeavons jun*, dob 25/9/1915, turner, aluminium alloy rolling mills, single:

Sandwell Evening Mail 29/5/1987

“Hoping for a smashing boost for charity – that’s *Tony Barnard*, licensee of the WHITEHEATH TAVERN at Oldbury, and his wife Pat. On Tuesday a gallon size whisky bottle which has been filled with coins by customers will be smashed open. The proceeds will go to the children’s ward at Sandwell District General Hospital.

Mr. *Barnard* said, ‘The cash has been donated over several months but until the bottle is emptied it is difficult to say how much is in.’

Warley boxer Pat Cowdell and two directors from Ansells Brewery had agreed to attend the pub on Tuesday to help him and his wife find out how much money has been collected.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 5/6/1992

“Customers at the WHITEHEATH TAVERN, Birchfield Road, Oldbury, are planning to take part in 12-hour darts marathon on July 4 to help raise funds for equipment for the Birchley School and the Causeway Green Adult Training Centre for the Handicapped, Oldbury.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 14/10/1992

“On the Oche.....

Oldbury Sunday League division two leaders Molliett continued their winning ways with a 5-2 success against WHITE HEATH TAVERN B.”

[2023]

WHITE HORSE

Old Hill Road, BLACKHEATH

OWNERS

Steven Rollinson, Blackheath

LICENSEES

Thomas Ashfield (1868 – [1871])

Steven Rollinson (1877 – [])

NOTES

WHITE HART [1872]

County Express 25/4/1868

“*Thomas Ashfield* was charged with keeping his public house open after eleven o’clock, on the 15th inst. Police-constable Thomas Clee said at about twenty minutes past eleven he found several men in with some ale before them. Plaintiff had only been at the house a fortnight. Ordered to pay costs.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/8/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for Rowley Regis division was held on Friday, at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill.....

The following beerhouse keepers had been fined during the last five years.....

Thomas Ashfield, WHITE HORSE, Blackheath.”

County Advertiser 7/10/1871

“*Thomas Ashfield*, of the WHITE HORSE public house, Blackheath, was charged with assaulting his landlord, Steven Rollinson, of Blackheath. Mr. Hayes appeared for the complainant, and Mr. Shakespeare, of Oldbury, for the defendant.

The defendant some time ago gave the complainant three months’ notice to leave the WHITE HORSE. The notice expired on the 29th September, and on that day Rollinson went to take possession. Meeting with opposition, however, he forced open the door, and was violently assaulted by defendant and his wife. Mr. Shakespeare held that the Court had no jurisdiction, as it was not competent for any Justices to try a case of assault and battery, in which the question of right or title to lands or tenements was involved. The case was, therefore, dismissed.

There was a cross-summons against Rollinson for damage to a door, but this was also dismissed on the consent of Mr. Shakespeare.”

AND

Stourbridge Observer 7/10/1871

“*Thomas Ashfield* was charged with assaulting Stephen Robinson, on the 29th ult, and Stephen Robinson was charged with wilfully damaging a door, the property of *Ashfield*. Mr. Hayes appeared for Robinson, and Mr. Shakespeare for *Ashfield*.

Mr. Hayes, in opening the case, said the complainant is the owner of the WHITE HORSE, at Blackheath, and defendant is the tenant. He gave him notice to leave, which expired on the 29th September. Complainant went to take possession of the house. Defendant refused to give up possession, and assaulted complainant.

Complainant said he lived at Blackheath, and was landlord of the WHITE HORSE, and the defendant was the tenant. He gave him notice to leave, which expired on the 29th September. Went to take possession, when the defendant refused to leave, and struck him several times. Defendant’s wife scratched his face.

Cross-examined: The door was fastened. I pushed the door open. It burst the latch off. I have given the defendant three months’ notice.

Mr. Shakespeare, for the defence, said the notice was bad, and it was a question of disputed right, and the Bench had no jurisdiction.

The Bench took this view of the case, and dismissed both summonses, each party to pay costs.”

Stourbridge Observer 14/12/1872

“Transfers Mr. Addison applied on behalf of Stephen Rollinson, owner of the WHITE HART, Blackheath. Mr. Laister, of the HANDEL INN, opposed the application. Mr. Hayes read the Act bearing upon the point.

Mr. Hingley said he was informed that the house was not wanted, and should refuse the transfer until he had taken time to consider whether it was legal.

Mr. Addison said that the late tenant was out of the house, and that the present applicant gave him £9 to go out, because he had been convicted, and urged upon the Bench to transfer the license.

Mr. Hingley: I am not to be bothered out of it by a lot of stuff. I shall take time to consider the question.

The further hearing of the case was adjourned until next week.”

County Express 8/8/1874 - Advert

“To the Overseers of the Poor, and the Superintendent of Police, of the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, and to all whom it may concern.

I, Stephen Rollinson, do Hereby Give Notice that it is my intention to Apply, and the General Annual Licensing Meeting, for the Division of Rowley Regis, to be holden at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, at Old Hill, in the said County, on the 28th day of August, next ensuing, at the hour of Eleven o’clock in the Forenoon of the same day, for a License to Sell Beer by Retail, to be consumed on the premises, situate at Blackheath, Rowley Regis, and known as the sign of WHITE HORSE, and was then in the occupation of *Thomas Ashfield*, who kept it as a beerhouse for five years, but is now in my own occupation, in pursuance of the Acts Geo.IV, and Wm.IV, c.64, and Acts amending the same, and which said premises are duly rated for the relief of the poor as by law is required.

Given under my hand this 20th day of July, 1874.

Stephen Rollinson.”

County Express 29/8/1874

“The Rowley annual Brewster Sessions was held at COOKSEY’S HOTEL yesterday morning.....

Steven Rollinson applied for a beer license for a house known as the WHITE HORSE, Blackheath. The application was refused.”

County Express 25/8/1877

“After the business of the Petty Sessions had been disposed of the Annual Licensing Sessions were held.....

Stephen Rollinson's application (supported by Mr. Hayes) for an indoor license to sell beer at Blackheath, was granted; the only person opposing being Mr. Laister, of the HANDEL HOTEL.”

AND

County Advertiser 25/8/1877

“*Stephen Rollinson*, WHITE HORSE, Old Hill Road, Rowley, was granted a retail license.”

WHITE LION

Powke Lane / Cox's Lane, OLD HILL

OWNERS

Mrs. Ann Cole [1881]

Mrs. Emily (Cole) Sippitts [1900]

John Rolinson and Son Ltd. (acquired c.1901 for £2,800) [1903]

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd.

LICENSEES

Thomas Cole [1850] – [1851]

Mrs. Ann Cole [1856] – **1859**);

Thomas Cole [1861]

Thomas Bird (**1859 – 1872**);

Mrs. Ann Bird (**1872 – [1873]**)

Ann Cole [1880] – [1885]

Thomas William Cole [1888] – [1892]

Mrs. Emily (Cole) Sippitts [1892] – [1898]

James Thomas Cole [1901]

William Edward Broadbent [1903] – **1909**);

Thomas Rawlings (**1909 – [1912]**)

Mrs. Alice Rawlings [1916] – **1964**);

Albert Thomas Rawlings (**1964 – 1965**);

Mrs. Ethel Violet Rene Cope (**1965 – []**)

NOTES

Coxes Lane [1860]

Thomas Cole, beer retailer and butcher, Cox's Lane. [1850]

1851 Census

Cox's Lane

[1] *Thomas Cole* (37), butcher, employs 1 man, born Dudley;

[2] Elizabeth Cole (44), wife, born Rowley;

[3] Joseph Cox (19), butcher's assistant, born Rowley;

[4] Sarah Cole (18), daughter, born Dudley:

Wolverhampton Chronicle 29/11/1854

“G. W. Hinchcliffe, Esq, coroner, held an inquest on Wednesday last at the WHITE LION INN, on the body of Phillis Jeavons, aged six years, who on the 17th of November went with other children to a pit mouth where there was a fire, and in a short time her clothes caught fire. A man at the wharf being alarmed, speedily went to the spot, and extinguished the flames, and found the deceased was badly burnt. She died from the effects of the burns on the Monday following. Verdict Accidental Death.”

County Advertiser 8/11/1856

“*Ann Cole*, of the WHITE LION INN, for having her house open at illegal hours on Sunday morning, the 26th ult, was fined 20s and costs.”

Brierley Hill Advertiser 17/1/1857

“William Powell, a collier, was charged with stealing a pair of boots belonging to the child of Mrs. *Ann Cole*, a publican at Row-

ley. It appeared that Powell in company with several other men was in the public house on Tuesday morning last, drinking. Mrs. *Cole* was washing the child and as soon as the parties had left she missed the boots. Mrs. *Cole* gave a man named Sims a pint of ale to apprehend Powell, and when he did so he denied all knowledge of the affair; Sims then told him to search his pockets, which he did, and in the right hand pocket of an overcoat he found the boots. In defence Powell denied taking the boots, did not know they were in his pocket, and alleged that some of his companions must have placed them where found, as he had no children or any person to steal them for. Committal to the House of Correction for one month hard labour.”

County Advertiser 13/6/1857

“The following persons, keepers of public houses, were fined for offences against the tenor of their licenses, the respective charges being proved by the testimony of Police-officer Burton. Anne Cole, WHITE LION INN, Rowley Regis, 5s, including costs, for having her house open for the sale of liquor during the hours of divine service on Sunday, the 31st ult; Edward Hewlett, of Garratts Lane, 2s 6d and costs for a similar offence on the same day.”

Brierley Hill Advertiser 26/9/1857

“The license of *Ann Cole*, WHITE LION, Rowley Regis, was likewise, from a consideration of the fact that no case had been brought against her during the last twelve months, granted..... These cases were suspended at the last general licensing day.”

Birmingham Journal 6/2/1858

“One of Messrs. Badger’s pits at Bell Farm Colliery has been standing for seven or eight weeks past, owing to a dispute between the master and butties as to the charter on which they had been worked; but some satisfactory arrangement having been made on which they (the butties) were again to proceed, measures were adopted on Monday with a view to recommencement. At about twelve o’clock the butties, George Morgan and Isaac Attwood, went to the pit and got into the skip to descend, it is said, to inspect the workings. The machinery was put in motion, and the men slowly disappeared from the surface, but ere they had descended many yards the chain broke, and they and the skip were precipitated to the bottom of the shaft, a distance of about 180 yards. All was consternation at the shocking occurrence; but in the hope that the men might not be dead, a messenger was despatched to Mr. W. E. Johnson’s surgery, at Dudley, for medical aid. Men were in the meantime lowered into the pit, and at the bottom found the bodies of Morgan and Attwood frightfully mutilated, so cut to pieces as to render it necessary to collect their remains into sheets. Morgan was a publican, and kept the OLD CROWN public house, at Darby Hand; and Attwood, also a respectable man, lived at Old Hill.

The inquest on the body of the man Attwood took place on Tuesday, at the house of Mrs. *Ann Cole*, the WHITE LION, Garratts Lane, before G. H. Hinchliffe, Esq, and a jury.

William Walker, a banksman at the pit, was examined, and said that the pit was at work the whole of the Monday morning, and therefore the skip and chain which broke had been constantly ascending and descending. The butty and Attwood went down about ten o’clock, and soon after eleven they called out to be drawn up. The witness fancied that they had come about half-way up, when heard a jerking of the chain, and in a moment afterwards he heard the skip fall at the bottom. He had been at work there about a week, but he had not seen the chain examined during that time. He never heard any one complain about the chain. If this chain was a good one it would be capable of raising two tons. The engine in drawing the men up, worked at the usual speed. The rivets were broken. The plates seemed to be all right.

William Slim, the engineer at the pit, said he had worked there about twelve months. He said the pit was 200 yards in depth; its mouth was thirty yards from the engine house, and the chain for that distance was supported by three rollers. He had not seen the broken rivet, and he did not think it had been found. He said if the chain had been in good repair, it was capable of raising eight tons. He could not account for the breakage. It was the duty of the chain maker to examine the chain, but he must have orders first. The banksman looked at the chain as it went up and down, and then if he saw anything the matter he told the masters. This was the only opportunity he had of examining it. Richard Priest was the banksman, but he had not been at work lately. Thomas Smith, Lincoln, examined the chain about two months ago, by having the engine worked very quietly. He (Smith) took one rivet out of the chain, and put a new one in. It was about the middle of the chain. This was all he did at it. The witness never heard anything as to the chain being unsafe and dangerous. He could not say how long the chain had been at work.

Benjamin Bourne, of Windmill End, one of the men at work in the adjoining pit at the time, found both the deceased at the bottom, lying near together at the centre of the shaft. The skip was broken to pieces, and was lying about them. The chain was also lying on and about them. The log of the chain was lying on Attwood’s head, which was crushed to a ‘mummy.’ His right arm and left leg were nearly cut off. He (witness) had worked at the pit about three years. The chain was bought from Mr. Oliver Billingham’s about eighteen months ago, and he believed it was then quite new. It was at first placed to work at the thick coal pit, but being too heavy for the balance, it was removed to the pit where it broke about eight or nine months ago. Mr. Attwood, one of the deceased, was in the habit of searching the chain, and had half-a-dozen times sent for the chainmaker to repair it.

The Coroner said it would be desirable to have the evidence of Mr. Billingham, who made the chain, and of some other person who understood chains. It would also be desirable to have the attendance of Mr. Brough, the Government Inspector, and for that purpose it was necessary that they should adjourn the inquiry.

An adjournment for a week then took place.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 13/2/1858

“The adjourned inquests on the bodies of George Morgan and Isaac Attwood, killed last week at a colliery belonging to the Messrs. Badger, near Old Hill, by the breaking of a rivet in the pit chain by which the skip was being drawn up, were held on

Monday and Tuesday, before Mr. G. H. Hinchliffe, coroner. The only point of interest in the enquiry was in reference to the chain used. The chain in this case was what is called a flat iron rivet chain. Three links of the chain are riveted to two others, the ends of which are placed between them and two flat pieces similarly riveted outside, one rivet joining the whole together, and passing through seven thicknesses of iron. The evidence was clear as to the quality of the iron in the chain being good and the care taken to examine it; but Mr. L. Brough, Government inspector, said he considered this kind of chain, which he described as a series of three links and a rivet the whole length of the chain, the most dangerous that could be used. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death in each case, with a recommendation that the use of rivet chains be discontinued, owing to the great difficulty in discovering the state of the rivets.”

Thomas Bird married Ann Cole in the 4th quarter of 1858.

Thomas Cole, beer retailer, Cox Lane. [1861]

1861 Census

Cox's Lane

[1] *Thomas Bird* (32), licensed victualler, born Dudley;

[2] *Ann Bird* (28), wife, born Dudley;

[3] Thomas Cole (6), son, born Rowley;

[4] Benjamin Bird (1), son, born Rowley;

[5] Susannah Highs (13), niece, born Dudley:

Birmingham Daily Post 15/10/1864

“The man Daniel Parkes, alias Trick, who was apprehended on Thursday morning on a charge of having thrown a can of gunpowder into the cottage of a miner named Samuel Rowley, residing at Mushroom Green, Dudley, was yesterday taken before Mr. W. Haden, at the Town Hall, for examination.....

George Rowley, sworn, deposed: I am a miner, working at No.19 pit, at the Earl of Dudley's Saltwells Colliery an explosion took place in my house. I went downstairs and found the place full of smoke, and I opened the door to let the smoke out. I then went upstairs and carried the children down. The window of the downstairs room was broken, and the gable end of the house was blown out.....

Superintendent Mills, of Brierley Hill, deposed: In consequence of information I received I went to the cottage where Rowley lives. I found the kitchen window broken, and the walls very much injured. The premises were altogether very much shaken; the roof was broken, and the bricks and tiles were scattered about the yard.....

Thomas Bird, of the WHITE LION, Old Hill, victualler, was the first witness for the defence. He deposed: I have known the prisoner twenty years. He lived about a mile from my house. He was at my mother's house on Wednesday night – the ROSE AND CROWN, at Darby Hand. I saw him there at half-past eleven o'clock, and left him there. The prisoner lives right opposite to my mother's house. He was drinking when I saw him, and was 'fresh.'

Cross-examined: I know that he is a miner on strike. He is brother-in-law to me. I don't think he could have walked half a mile.....”

[Daniel Parkes was committed to Worcestershire Assizes. On 12th December 1864 he appeared charged with 'Feloni-ously by explosion of gunpowder, destroying part of a dwelling house, persons being therein.' He was found guilty and sentenced to ten years' penal servitude.]

County Advertiser 4/11/1865

“Thomas Whittall, a banksman, was charged with stealing a watch-seal and key, the property of a German Jew, named Samuel Friedman, hawker, of Birmingham. On the previous Wednesday the prosecutor called at the WHITE LION INN, Old Hill, and exposed a quantity of jewellery, which he had in a box, for sale. While the prosecutor's back was turned for a moment, the landlord (*Thomas Bird*) saw prisoner take something from the box and walk to the other side of the room. Prosecutor immediately afterwards missed the seal and key, and prisoner was charged with taking it. He denied the charge, and asked to be searched, and he said he would accompany prosecutor to the Police Station. As soon as they had got outside of the house, however, he took to his heels. He was apprehended the same night by Police-constable Daulman. The Bench committed the prisoner to the House of Correction for one month. Mr. Shakespeare defended.”

Stourbridge Observer 10/3/1866

“On Tuesday, an inquest was held before E. Hooper, Esq, at the WHITE LION, Coxes Lane, on the body of George Harcourt, aged 7 years, the son of Richard Harcourt, horse fettler. It appears that the deceased's mother left her four children, of which he was the eldest, in the house while she took dinner. Deceased for some purpose or other, bolted the door, and while in the act of reaching a hook from the crane, caught fire and received such injuries about the body and neck as caused his death. The boy was burnt at 1pm on the 2nd inst, and lingered until 3pm on the 3rd inst. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

1871 Census

Cox's Lane – WHITE LION

[1] *Thomas Bird* (42) licensed victualler, born Dudley;

[2] *Ann Bird* (39), wife, born Dudley;

[3] Thomas Cole (16), step-son, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Catherine Gower (18), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

Stourbridge Observer 8/7/1871

“A fatal accident occurred on Tuesday last, to a man named William Watehorn, aged 49 years.

It appears that deceased was employed at the Canal Wharf, Old Hill, belonging to Mr. Rose, when a fall of timber took place, which struck the deceased, and he was so injured that he died in four hours after.

The unfortunate man was removed to Mr. *T. Bird*'s, the WHITE LION, where an inquest was held before E. Hooper, Esq, coroner. After hearing the above facts, the jury found a verdict of Accidental Death.”

Thomas Bird died in the 1st quarter of 1872.

County Advertiser 10/2/1872

“The following transfers were made.....

WHITE LION INN, Old Hill, from *Thomas Bird* (deceased) to *Ann Bird*, widow.”

[It appears that when *Thomas Bird* died, his widow took over the license again, and reverted to the surname *Cole*.]

County Advertiser 19/7/1873

“Samuel Johnson was charged with intent to commit felony. Benjamin *Bird* said that the defendant was in a stable at the WHITE LION INN. On being asked what he was doing there defendant said he had lost some money. The defendant's father said his son was not possessed of all his faculties. The defendant paid costs.”

Thomas William Cole married Emily Guest in the 4th quarter of 1873.

Dudley and District News 2/10/1880

“Adjourned Licensing Sessions. These sessions were held on Wednesday at Old Hill.....

Mr. Hayes applied for a license for a house in the course of erection, in place of the WHITE LION INN, which recently fell down. Mr. Waldron opposed on behalf of Mr. Darby, landlord of the THREE FURNACES INN, that gentleman being of opinion that there were public houses sufficient in the neighbourhood to supply the wants of the population.

The application was granted, the Bench stating that there was almost a promise at the time Mrs. *Cole*'s house fell down, that when she re-built it her license should be renewed.”

West Bromwich Weekly News 26/3/1881

“Joseph Darby (67), Black Wagon Street, went to the WHITE LION INN, Powke Lane, on the night of the 19th inst, when he accidentally fell down the cellar steps, and was so severely injured that he died on the 22nd inst.”

1881 Census

Powke Lane – LION INN

[1] *Ann Cole* (49), widow, licensed victualler, born Dudley;

[2] *Thomas Cole* (26), son, brewer, born Dudley;

[3] *Emily Cole* (26), wife, born Dudley;

[4] *Thomas Cole* (2), son, born Dudley;

[5] Sarah A. Bastable (14), general servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 21/8/1881 - Notice

“To the Overseers of the Poor, and the Superintendent of Police of the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, and to all whom it may concern.

I, *Ann Cole*, Licensed Victualler, now residing at the WHITE LION, Cox's Lane, in the Parish of Rowley Regis, in the County of Stafford, do hereby give Notice, that it is my intention to apply, at the General Annual Licensing Meeting, for the Division of Rowley Regis, to be holden at the Public Office, at Old Hill, in the said County, on the 31st day of August instant, at the hour of Eleven o'clock in the forenoon of the same day, for a Seven Days' License to hold any Excise License or Licenses, to Sell by Retail under The Intoxicating Liquors Licensing Act 1828, and the Acts amending the same, all Intoxicating Liquors to be consumed either on or off the Premises, situate at the WHITE LION, Cox's Lane, in the said Parish, and known by the sign of the WHITE LION, which said premises are of the annual value by law required, of which house and premises I am the owner, and the same are now in my occupation.

Given under my hand this 4th day of August, 1881.

Ann Cole.”

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.....

Mr. Hooper (Messrs. Stokes and Hooper) applied on behalf of *Ann Cole*, of the WHITE LION INN, Powke Lane, Old Hill for a seven days' license, in lieu of a six days' certificate. The license was granted.”

AND

County Express 3/9/1881

“The annual licensing session for the division of Rowley Regis was held on Wednesday at the Police Court.....

Mr. Hooper (Messrs. Stokes and Hooper) applied on behalf of *Ann Cole*, of the WHITE LION INN, Powke Lane, Old Hill for the omission of the six days' clause from her license. He urged that for 24 years the applicant had, without complaint, held the license of the old WHITE LION INN, which had now, however, been demolished. Application granted.”

County Express 21/12/1882

“*Ann Cole*, landlady of the WHITE LION INN, Old Hill, was fined 5s and costs for allowing a horse to stray in Cox's lane, Old Hill. She had been convicted once before for a similar offence.”

County Advertiser 7/3/1885

“*Ann Cole*, WHITE LION INN, Old Hill, was charged with allowing a horse to stray in Dog Lane, Old Hill, on the 1st inst. Police-constable Wickstead proved the case, and defendant was fined 5s and costs.”

County Advertiser 21/1/1888

“*Thomas William Cole*, landlord of the WHITE LION, Powke Lane, Old Hill, was charged with selling liquor during prohibited hours on Sunday the 15th inst.

Police-constable McHugh saw a lad go to defendant's house at twenty minutes past three o'clock, where he was supplied with a bottle containing whiskey, for which he paid the landlady.

Mr. Tanfield, who appeared for the defence, said that the liquor was sent for by a man named Caddick, who was engaged at repairing the canal which had recently burst. He lived at Dudley Port and had been at work for 36 hours on the previous day. He was very exhausted, and sent for the whiskey to revive him. He did not know he was doing wrong, because he thought he was entitled to it, living so far away.

In answer to the Bench it was stated that Caddick slept at home on the previous night.

The Bench said the offence was only technical, and they should dismiss the case.”

County Advertiser 30/6/1888

“Mr. Edwin Hooper, coroner for the South Staffordshire district, opened an inquest, yesterday, at the WHITE LION INN, Old Hill, touching the death of Richard Northall (42), Withymoor Road, Old Hill, and Henry Johnson (34), Moor Lane, Old Hill, who were killed on Wednesday whilst engaged at the Gawn Colliery, belonging to Mr. B. Hingley, MP. Deceased, who were colliery engineers, had been engaged in doing some repairs to the pumping apparatus at the bottom of the water shaft, which is some 60 yards deep. They had completed their task for the day, and were being brought up the shaft when the accident occurred which resulted in their death. The men are raised and lowered by means of a gin, and had arrived within about two yards of the top of the water shaft when by some means, at present unaccounted for, the rope, a wire one and practically a new rope, slipped from the drum to the spindle. The rope was naturally jerked with considerable violence, and both Northall and Johnson were thrown from the bowk or skip and fell to the bottom of the shaft, a distance, as already intimated, of some sixty yards. Some men afterwards descended the shaft and found the bodies so terribly mutilated that there was some difficulty experienced in gathering up the remains. Mr. Davis, manager, attended to represent Mr. Hingley, the owner of the colliery.

Jane Northall, wife of one of the deceased, identified the body of her husband. The other body was identified by Enoch Partridge, horsenail maker, of 39, Elbow Street, Old Hill.

The Coroner said it was not his intention to take any further evidence on that occasion. Mr. Scott, the Mines' Inspector, unfortunately, was unable to be present, as he had some cases before the magistrates at Wolverhampton, and had written asking for an adjournment of the inquest. He (the Coroner) proposed to adjourn the inquest for a week. The inquiry was accordingly adjourned.”

County Advertiser 7/7/1888

“Mr. Edwin Hooper, Coroner for South Staffordshire, resumed his inquiry yesterday, at the WHITE LION INN, Powke Lane, Old Hill.....

The Coroner said it was certainly a very unsatisfactory case, as the actual cause of the slipping of the rope was unknown. They might form conjectures as to how it occurred, but it was utterly impossible to say how it did occur. There did not appear to be any breach of the Mines Regulation Act, and the Government Inspector did not attribute culpable blame to anyone, though he made one or two suggestions, which, no doubt, would be carried out.

The Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death, and recommended that there should be a deeper 'shrouding' on the drum, and that in future there should be someone to mind the rope, unless the gin was shifted.”

County Express 3/5/1890

“An inquest was held by the Deputy Coroner (Mr. F. W. Topham), at the WHITE LION, Old Hill, on Monday, respecting the death of William Henry Hodgkiss (48), miner, of Lion Road, who died suddenly on the 25th inst. Elizabeth Hodgkiss, wife, said her husband was taken ill, and after partaking of some stout he fell down dead. The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes.”

County Advertiser 19/7/1890

“On Monday evening the members of Court Loyal Marlborough, No.4340, A.O.F. held their annual meeting at the house of Mr. *Thos. Cole*, the WHITE LION INN, Powke Lane, and a capital dinner was provided. Brother Alfred Lewis Williams, PCR, was appointed chairman, and Brother John Appleby, vice-chairman. The Chairman commented on the satisfactory progress which the

Court was making, after which a resolution was unanimously passed thanking the whole of the officers for the admirable manner in which they had carried out their duties. Dr. de Denne was appointed surgeon, and Brother John Williams, PCR, secretary for the ensuing year. Some capital songs rendered by Brothers Eli Cooksey, Thomas Cutler, Joseph Smith, Arthur Grainger, and others, and altogether a very enjoyable evening was spent.”

1891 Census

Powke Lane

[1] *Thomas W. Cole* (36), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Emily Cole* (36), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *James Cole* (12), son, scholar, born Netherton;

[4] *Joseph Cole* (10), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[5] *Benjamin Cole* (8), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[6] *Rosannah Cole* (5), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

[7] *Hannah Hodgetts* (18), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Express 11/7/1891

“On Saturday evening an accident of an alarming character occurred at the top of Long Lane, near Halesowen. It appears that a wagon laden with hay, belonging to Mr. William Morris, of Green Hill Farm, Halesowen, was being drawn by horses along the main road in charge of boys, when a gig belonging to Mr. *Thomas Cole*, of the WHITE LION INN, Old Hill, containing Mr. *Cole*, his son, and a man named Hewitt, collided with the wagon, the result being that the gig was capsized, one of the shafts was broken off, and *Cole*, the owner, sustained serious injuries to the head. The other occupants of the vehicle were also thrown out, but escaped without injury. *Cole*, who was rendered unconscious, was removed to his home.”

Thomas William Cole died in the 4th quarter of 1891.

In April 1892 *Emily Cole*, landlady of the WHITE LION, gave evidence in the case of Edward and Elizabeth Costella, who were charged with obtaining goods on false pretences.

County Express 21/8/1897

“The first of what is intended to be an annual demonstration of the friendly societies in the Old Hill district, was held on Sunday, the object in view being to help the funds of the Dudley Guest Hospital, Dudley Dispensary, and Birmingham Eye Hospital the day was bright and promising, and there were large numbers of people all along the route.

At one o'clock the 1st Worcestershire Volunteer Band started from the CROSS INN, proceeded across Halesowen Road, calling at Trinity Schools and GEORGE HOTEL; then across Lawrence Lane into Reddal Hill Road, calling at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, and proceeding to the Cross, where the final procession was formed. Meanwhile the Old Hill Brass and Red Band started from the WHITE LION INN, proceeded by way of Powke Lane and Garratts Lane to Wrights Lane (as far as the PRINCE OF WALES INN), and returned to Garratts Lane, calling for lodges at the BRITISH OAK INN, FOX HUNT INN, Tabernacle, DUKE WILLIAM INN, VINE INN, to the Cross. On the arrival of this contingent a huge line was formed, and very pretty it looked. Members of the various lodges wore their regalia, and these being interspersed with the more elaborate honorary members' scarves, gave the line a very bright appearance.....”

Emily Cole married *Richard Sippitts* in the 4th quarter of 1897.

Mrs. *Emily Cole* was also a brewer. [1898]

County Advertiser 27/8/1898

“On Sunday afternoon the annual hospital parade and open-air service, arranged by the various friendly societies in Old Hill and the surrounding district took place. Processions were formed at different points of members of the Foresters, the Free Gardeners, and provident societies, numbering altogether about 1,000, and these, accompanied by the Blackheath, Halesowen Temperance, and Old Hill Bands, paraded the principal streets of the locality, after which they marched to a field in Garratts Lane, lent for the occasion by Mr. A. Sidaway, where a special service was held. Addresses were delivered by the Revs. E. Brewer, MA (vicar of Old Hill), and W. B. Cheshire (Primitive Methodist). A collection was made along the route and at the service in aid of the Guest Hospital, Dudley Dispensary, and Birmingham Eye Hospital, this realising £25 14s 5³/₄d.

The following was the order of procession issued by the committee. The Blackheath Village Band will start from the WHITE LION INN, Powke Lane, at 1-45 prompt, proceed down Garratts Lane, calling for societies at the BRITISH OAK INN, Tabernacle, DUKE WILLIAM INN, and VINE INN, turning across Queen Street on to the old football ground (by kind permission of Mr. W. H. Jarvis). The Halesowen Temperance Band will start from the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Wrights Lane, at 1-45 prompt, proceed round Cherry Orchard Street, into Wrights Lane, turning down Wagon Street, calling at the OLD ENGINE INN, proceeding down Elbow Street and King Street, across Halesowen Road, to the old football ground. The Old Hill Band will start from the CROSS INN at 1-45 prompt, calling for societies at Trinity Schools and GEORGE HOTEL, proceed across Lawrence Lane, turning up New Street, Ridding Street, Pear Tree Street, Pear Tree Lane, thence into Reddal Hill Road, calling at the ROSE AND CROWN INN, and proceeding to the old football ground. A grand procession will be formed as follows.....”

County Advertiser 25/11/1899

“Richard *Sippetts*, of the WHITE LION INN, Old Hill, was charged with driving a vehicle at 11-15pm on the 17th inst, without a light. Police-constable Watts said that on the date named, he saw defendant in Garratts Lane, Old Hill, in charge of a vehicle without a light. Witness afterwards found a lamp under the seat in the cart. Defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs.”

Emily Sippitts died in the 4th quarter of 1900.

County Advertiser 15/12/1900 - Advert

“Preliminary Notice.

E. H. Boilstone has been favoured with instructions to Sell by Auction, on Tuesday, the 8th day of January, 1901.

All that Important and Well-known Freehold Old-Licensed Public House, the WHITE LION INN, Powke Lane, Old Hill, and other Freehold Properties.

For particulars apply, Thos. Cooksey, Esq, Solicitor, or the Auctioneer, both of Old Hill.”

County Advertiser 29/12/1900 - Advert

“Old Hill, Staffs.

Highly Important Sale of a Valuable Freehold Old-Licensed Public House and Other Properties.

E. H. Boilstone has been favoured with instructions from the Representatives of the late Mrs. *Emily Sippitts*, to Sell by Auction, at the House of Mr. Philip Chatwin, the VICTORIA HOTEL, Old Hill, on Tuesday, the 8th day of January, 1901, at Six for Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to Conditions to be then produced.

Lot 1. All that Well-known and Truly Valuable Freehold, Old -Licensed Public House, known as the WHITE LION, Powke Lane, Old Hill (junction of Cox's Lane).

The House contains Front Smoke Room, 16ft by 14ft; Hall, 4ft wide, with two vestibule doors; Vaults, 21ft by 14ft; Private Bar Parlour, 14ft by 12ft; Sitting Room, 14ft by 14ft; China Pantry, 11ft by 4ft 6in; Club Room, 32ft by 18ft 6in; Three Capital Bed Rooms, Extensive Cellaring; together with large enclosed Yard, approached by Cartway Entrance; Brewhouse, 19ft 6in by 13ft, with Cooking Range and Washing Boiler; Private Stable, 13ft by 8ft; Four-stall Stable, with Loft over; Capital Coach-house, Two very large Pigsties, and all other usual Outbuildings.

This well-known Licensed Premises is surrounded by large Ironworks, Blast Furnaces, Collieries, and other Works, and is favourably situated as a calling house in a district of much traffic. The Property has an excellent and imposing frontage on the junction of the aforesaid roads; it is entirely free, and possession may be had upon completion.....”

County Advertiser 16/2/1901 - Advert

“To Parties Furnishing, Brokers and Others.

Unreserved Sale at the WHITE LION INN, Powke Lane, Old Hill.

E. H. Boilstone has been favoured with instructions from the Exors. of the late Mrs. *Emily Sippitts* to Sell by Public Auction, on the Premises, on Monday, the 4th day of March, 1901, the whole of the Household Furniture and Effects, comprising Mahogany Leather-covered Sofas and Chairs, Cane-seated and Windsor Chairs, Easy Chairs, Arm Chairs, Mahogany Tables, Hall Stand, Superior Pianoforte, by Steinhart; Mahogany Chiffonier, Gilt and other Pier Glasses, Brass Fender, Ashpans and Fire Brasses, Coal Vases, Barometer, Case of Stuffed Birds, High-back Screen, Deal Tables, Hanging Lamps, Pictures, Linoleums, Oak Bureau, Oak Long-cased Clock, Eight-day Clocks, Carved Mahogany Half-tester Bedsteads, Brass-mounted Bedsteads, Feather Beds, Wire Mattresses, Wool Palliasses, Mahogany Chests of Drawers, Mahogany Wardrobe, bevel plate; Duchess Stands, superior Carved Oak Chest, Mahogany Night Chair, Carpets and Rugs, Toilet and Trinket Sets, Dressing Tables, Swing Glasses, Iron Safe, on Stand; Wringing Machine, Step Ladders, Wheelbarrows, Tubs, Kitchen and Culinary Requisites, Crockeryware and Glass, Cutlery, &c, &c.

Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock prompt.

For Catalogues apply to the Auctioneer. Offices: Old Hill, Staffs.”

1901 Census

Powke Lane

[1] *James Thomas Cole* (22), publican, born Dudley;

[2] *Eliza Jane Cole* (19), wife, born Lye:

County Express 6/4/1901

“Richard *Sippetts*, of Wright's Lane, Old Hill, was charged with being disorderly on licensed premises, and reusing to quit the same when asked. *James T. Cole*, landlord of the WHITE LION INN, Cox's Lane, proved the case, and defendant was fined 12s, including costs.”

A football team from here took part in the Quarry Bank and District League. [1902-3]

County Advertiser 14/2/1903

“On Wednesday the annual licensing session for the Rowley Regis Petty Sessional Division were held at the Court House.....

Mr. Gandy (instructed by Jobson and Marshall) applied to the Bench to grant a license for the new WHITE LION INN, Powke Lane, Old Hill, to *William Broadbent*. He explained that the old premises had suffered considerably from mining operations, and arrangements had been made to build a new house on the opposite side of the road to the existing premises. This was now completed, and he asked the Bench to grant the license. There was no objection on behalf of the police, and the application was

granted.”

County Advertiser 16/5/1903 - Advert

“On Friday Next. To Builders and Others.

Notice of Sale by Auction, of the whole of the Building Materials, comprised in the WHITE LION INN, Powke Lane, Old Hill, Within 2 minutes of the Tram Line.

The House was erected about 20 years ago of Red and Blue Brick, with Stone Dressings, and Slate Roof, and is in First-class Condition.

Alfred W. Dando has received instructions to Sell by Auction, in one Lot, for Immediate Removal, upon the Premises as above, on Friday Next, May 22nd, 1903, the above Capital Building, with the Stabling, Outbuildings, and Internal Fittings.

Sale of 3 o'clock in the Afternoon Sharp.

To View, apply Mr. Broadbent, opposite the House; and further Particulars may be had of the Auctioneer, Wolverhampton Street, Dudley. Telephone 56.”

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

County Advertiser 24/10/1903

“Airgun Shooting. Rowley Regis and District League.

QUEENS HEAD, Old Hill v WHITE LION, Old Hill. Shot at WHITE LION.....”

[QUEENS HEAD won 314 - 302.]

Sports Argus 19/3/1904

“Special Late News. Today's Football Results.....

Old Hill WHITE LION 4, Old Hill Jun 2.”

County Advertiser 8/10/1904

“A branch of the Small Heath Harriers' Club has been opened at Old Hill, and its headquarters are the WHITE LION HOTEL, Cox's Lane. The members have already had preliminary runs, which, considering that the majority of the newly-formed organisation are novices, have turned out extremely satisfactory. On Saturday last the branch started from headquarters, under the leadership of Mr. Fred Priest (vice-captain) and had a very enjoyable run of about ten miles through the Halesowen, Woodgate, Quinton, and Blackheath districts, all finishing in grand style and excellent condition. The actual opening run takes place on October 15th, when the branch members will be augmented by a pack from Small Heath. The opening of this branch offers a splendid inducement to athletes of the district, and the hon. secretary, A. F. Pateshall, King Street, Cradley Heath, will be pleased to hear from, and supply information to, any person wishing to become a member.”

County Advertiser 10/12/1904

“Cross-Country Running. Birchfield (Tipton Branch) v Small Heath (Old Hill Branch).

This run took place from the WHITE LION, Old Hill, on Saturday last, 15 of each club turning out. The trail was laid over a course of about nine miles through Cradley Heath, Colman Hill, Witley, Hasbury, Halesowen, and Coombs Wood. From the start Pateshall took the lead and made the pace hot for about three miles. For the rest of the distance Buckley, Freeman, and he led alternately, with Taylor (Birchfield) not far behind. Unfortunately, about a mile from home the trail men were overtaken, so in these circumstances the result of the race could not stand.

The results of each club were Old Hill 38, Tipton 43.

Old Hill were thus first by five points. Taking into account that this is the first inter-club run in which the new club has taken part, the result is extremely satisfactory, and the members were greatly disappointed when the race had to be declared off. The return takes place at Tipton on December 17th. Today's run is an ordinary one from headquarters.”

County Advertiser 19/5/1906

“Unattended Horses. The following were ordered to pay the costs for not having the control of their horses at Hagley on the 10th inst: Joseph Smith, Halesowen Road, Old Hill; Frank Brawn, Belbroughton; Frederick Griffin, Fairfield, Belbroughton; *William Edward Broadbent*, WHITE LION INN, Old Hill. Police-constable Gibbs proved the cases.”

County Express 9/7/1910

“At the weekly meeting of the Parade Committee, held on Thursday, at the WHITE LION INN, Cox's Lane, there attended Messrs. W. J. Smith (chairman), J. H. Willetts (vice-chairman), J. Burns, J. Goodwin, F. Bowen, J. Williams, R. Cooksey, W. Partridge (secretary), E. Jones, W. Somerton, J. Griffiths, E. Chater, I. Brain, S. Bagot, A. Marsh, T. Edge, J. Marsh, E. Townsend, J. Adams, N. Bagley, etc.

The Chairman presented Mr. H. Taylor, of Park Street, Netherton, the owner of the collecting dog Prince, with a silver medal for his services last year. He explained that the medal had been purchased by Mr. Joseph Birch, confectioner, of High Street, Old Hill, whom the committee thanked for his generosity. They also thanked Mr. Taylor for what he had done for the parade, and hoped that he would long continue to do good work (applause). Mr. Taylor briefly returned thanks, and explained that the dog's total collection last year was £20 16s 4½d. He announced that at any time a subscription list was opened for the sake of a sick or infirm friend he would be pleased to go round with his dog as he did at the parades (applause). He thanked the committee for their appreciation, and also Mr. Birch. Arrangements were afterwards made for the flower stalls and collecting stations. It was resolved

to hold the next meeting at COOKSEY'S HOTEL on Tuesday night.”

1911 Census

Powke Lane

- [1] *Thomas Rawlings* (36), publican, born Dudley;
- [2] *Alice Rawlings* (35), wife, married 10 years, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Albert Thomas Rawlings* (7), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *William Rawlings* (2), son, born Rowley Regis:

Thomas Rawlings died in the 1st quarter of 1913.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 19/7/1924

“More Accident Claims Paid. Insurance Benefits for *Gazette* Readers.

The latest list of registered readers who have received benefits under the *Gazette* free insurance scheme is as follows.....

Mr. *A. Rawlings*, WHITE LION INN, Cox Lane, Old Hill. Motor-cycling accident.

Newsagent: Mr. Potter, High Street, Old Hill.”

1939 Register

Cox's Lane – WHITE LION INN

- [1] *Alice Rawlings*, date of birth 6/5/1875, publican, licensed victualler, widowed;
- [2] *Albert T. Rawlings*, dob 9/7/1903, electrician, married;
- [3] *Ethel N. Rawlings*, dob 16/12/1910, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [4] *Sarah Grainger*, dob 24/2/1888, unpaid domestic duties, widowed:

Sports Argus 3/11/1962

“Angling Contests and Meetings.....

Mario Manufacturing: GM Wednesday, 8.30, at WHITE LION, Old Hill. All members to attend.”

Alice Rawlings died in the 2nd quarter of 1964.

Sandwell Evening Mail 7/3/1986

“Darts There were a couple of surprises in the Netherton Thursday League. Leaders COOKSEY were pushed all the way before beating lowly HOPE TAVEN B by the odd game, while third-placed WHITE LION (Cox's Lane) suffered only their fourth defeat in 23 matches. They went down 4-3 to WHITE SWAN (Cradley Road).”

Sandwell Evening Mail 19/8/1989

“Kind-hearted customers at three Black Country pubs have given a huge boost to a £4,700 appeal for a heart monitor at Halesowen and Stourbridge ambulance stations. Regulars at the BALDS LANE TAVERN, in Lye, donned fancy dress for a tour of 12 pubs in the area at the weekend and raised £225. Now the pub is planning to raise another £100 though a cabaret night on September 2.

Customers at the COOKSEY pub in Halesowen Road, Old Hill, raised £170 through a sponsored 10-mile run to the Clent Hills and back and another sponsored event where a regular travelled on as many buses as he could in 12 hours. This figure was on top of £330 already raised at the COOKSEY thanks to a jumble sale and a pub crawl.

Regulars at the WHITE LION, Cox's Lane, Old Hill, have also got in on the fund-raising act. A dozen customers completed a sponsored pub crawl on Friday and collected £417. Mrs. *Elaine Gordon*, who runs the pub with her husband *Robert*, said that a car boot sale and a raffle were also planned and it was hoped to raise £1,000 altogether towards the appeal.

Halesowen ambulance station officer Mr. Bev Barrett said he was delighted with the efforts of the three pubs and was very grateful for what was being done for the appeal. He added that it was hoped to raise over £1,000 from an open day being held at the Halesowen station, in Old Hawne Lane, on September 9.”

[1990]

Closed

It was converted into a café.

WHITE SWAN

276, (245), (190), Halesowen Road, OLD HILL

OWNERS

William Foley
Exors. of William Foley
Albert E. Sidaway
Mitchells and Butlers Ltd.

LICENSEES

Jacob Coley [1867] – 1872);
William Foley (1872 – 1919);
John Foley [1882]
Henry Ernest ‘Harry’ Foley (1919 – 1923);
Mrs. Elizabeth Foley (1923 – 1924);
Thomas Johnson (1924 – 1926);
Charles Thomas Smith (1926 – 1931);
Francis Henry Scriven (1931 – 1941);
John Leonard Wright (1941 – 1954);
Harold Preston (1954 – 1956);
Albert James Bailey (1956 – 1957);
Frederick Stanley Crumpton (1957);
John Henry Hatfield (1957 – [1965]

NOTES

190, Halesowen Road [1881]
245, Halesowen Road [1896], [1901], [1904], [1908]
276, Halesowen Road [1911], [1912], [1924], [1932], [1939], [1940]

SWAN [1870], [1872], [1876], [1881], [1882], [1889], [1890], [1891], [1892], [1893], [1894], [1912]

County Advertiser 31/8/1867

“Rowley. The Annual Licensing Meeting.....

There were thirteen applications for spirit licenses. The applications of the following were refused.....

Jacob Coley, Old Hill.”

Jacob Coley, beer retailer, Old Hill. [1868], [1870], [1872]

See also WAGGON AND HORSES, Cradley Heath.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 30/8/1869

“The annual licensing meeting for Rowley Regis division was held on Friday, at COOKSEY’S HOTEL, Old Hill.....

The following applications were made for alehouse licenses.....

Jacob Coley, WHITE SWAN, Old Hill. Application granted.”

1871 Census

Halesowen Road – WHITE SWAN

[1] *Jacob Coley* (36), licensed victualler, born Dudley;

[2] Eliza Coley (36), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Mabell Coley (14), daughter, scholar, born Dudley:

County Advertiser 18/1/1873

“Solomon Tromans was charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the WHITE SWAN INN, Old Hill, on the 11th inst. The landlord said defendant came into his house and was about to fight with his brother. He put him out, but he returned and made a disturbance, eventually leaving of his own accord. Defendant was ordered to pay costs.”

Stourbridge Observer 3/1/1874

“*William Foley*, landlord of the WHITE SWAN, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, was charged with keeping his house open during prohibited hours on the 27th ult.

Police-constable Kettle said he visited defendant’s house on the night in question at a quarter past eleven o’clock and found from forty to fifty in the house drinking. He called defendant’s attention to it and he said he thought he had until twelve o’clock.

Mr. Hingley to defendant: Did you open on the 26th?

Defendant: Yes, sir, and I thought I had got the 27th as well. It was my mistake.

Mr. Mills said if the Bench thought it was a mistake on defendant’s part he should be willing to withdraw the case on defendant’s paying expenses.

Defendant was ordered to pay costs.”

The Era 13/12/1874 - Advert

“Dudley. WHITE SWAN Music Hall, Old Hill. (Proprietor, Mr. *William Foley*).

This Hall, which has been Closed for Alterations, will Reopen on Monday, December 21st, 1874. Serio-Comic and Characteristic Ladies and Negro Comedians may write in for that date. Piano and Harmonium, R. Barlow. Glad to hear from all Friends.”

County Express 22/1/1876

“Thomas Bryant was charged with being disorderly and refusing to quit the SWAN INN. Mrs. *Foley* said the defendant came into the house and raised a disturbance. He refused to quit when ordered to do so. Defendant was fined 10s and costs.”

County Advertiser 26/2/1876

“Samuel Jones, navvy, was charged with being drunk and disorderly. Police-constable Kettle said he saw defendant leave the SWAN INN, Halesowen Road, on the night of the 19th inst, and he used obscene language. Fined 1s and costs.”

County Express 11/11/1876

“John Holloway was charged by *William Foley*, landlord of the WHITE SWAN INN, with being disorderly and refusing to quit his premises. The case was proved and defendant was fined 20s and costs, or twenty one days’ imprisonment.”

The Era 1/9/1878 - Advert

“SWAN Music Hall, Old Hill, Near Dudley. (Proprietor, *W. Foley*).

Wanted, Good Talent, for Monday, September 17th, and future dates. Send lowest terms. Pianist, E. Smith.”

County Express 21/12/1878

“Henry Yorke, miner, was charged with having on the 5th July, 1876, refused to quit the WHITE SWAN INN, Old Hill, and also with having being drunk and disorderly in the public highway on the same date. Evidence was given as to the former charge by the landlady of the house, and in the latter charge by Mr. Inspector Price. Defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs in each case, or fourteen days’ imprisonment.”

County Advertiser 4/1/1879

“Herbert Hall, fruiterer, Halesowen, was charged by Police-constable Farrell with allowing his vehicle to remain in the road for an improper time, on the 7th ult. The officer’s evidence was that he found defendant’s cart standing outside the WHITE SWAN INN, Halesowen Road, Rowley, on the night of the above date. Defendant was drinking in the house, and remained there a long time. Defendant pleaded he was only in the house a quarter of an hour. He was fined 1s and costs.”

County Advertiser 1/3/1879

“Henry Pugh, miner, Old Hill, was charged with being disorderly on the licensed premises of *William Foley*, WHITE SWAN INN, Halesowen Road, Old Hill. Police-constable Farnell found him at the house on the 7th ult, challenging another man to fight, and causing disturbance.

A fine of 5s and costs, with the alternative of fourteen days, was inflicted.”

The Era 11/1/1880 - Advert

“Wanted, for SWAN Music Ha, Old-hill, near Dudley (Proprietor, Mr. *Foley*), for Monday, January 12th and future dates, Talent of all descriptions well up in Concert Business, Gymnasts excepted. Comics and Serio-Comics write at once, stating lowest terms.”

Dudley Herald 4/9/1880

“The miners in connection with the Old Hill District Branch held their annual gathering at Mr. *William Foley*’s, Halesowen Road, on Monday last. A marquee was pitched on the ground in front of Mr. *Foley*’s house, wherein a large number of the miners partook of an excellent dinner. The cloth being removed, Mr. Richard Davies was vote to the chair, and after a few introductory remarks, he called upon Mr. William Breakwell, miners’ agent, who gave an address upon the necessity for better organisation and the advantages arising therefrom. Mr. George Pearson, secretary of the Branch Society, read the yearly financial report, which showed that the finances were in a healthy state. The remainder of the evening was spent in conviviality. Votes of thanks to the host and hostess, and chairman, terminated the proceedings, which were most successful throughout.”

Dudley and District News 12/3/1881

“On Tuesday night, at ROYAL EXCHANGE, Netherton, a capital meeting of miners was held, Mr. Breakwell occupying the chair. A deputation from South Yorkshire attended to solicit aid for those on strike in that district. The Chairman briefly introduced the deputation, and called upon Mr. George Cragg, Chairman of the South Yorkshire Miners’ Association, who gave an interesting account of the condition of his association, and entered fully into the merits of the dispute at present prevailing.

Mr. John Bowen added a few remarks bearing upon the dispute.

Mr. Fletcher, another member of the deputation, delivered a powerful address upon the absolute necessity for, and the benefits arising from organization; he clearly demonstrated the evils which were growing among the men of various districts from the want of proper union, and made an urgent appeal on behalf of their fellow-craftsmen in South Yorkshire.

Mr. Bowen supported the appeal, and the following resolution was unanimously passed ‘That a contribution be raised at the

various pits throughout this district on behalf of the men now on strike in the district of South Yorkshire; such subscriptions be forwarded to the committee every Saturday evening, at the house of Mr. *William Foley*, SWAN INN, Old Hill.’

A similar meeting was held at the house of Benjamin Talbot, VINE INN, Old Hill, last night, when a similar resolution was passed.”

1881 Census

190, Halesowen Road

- [1] *William Foley* (31), publican, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Hannah Foley (32), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] William Foley (8), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Joseph Foley (5), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Henry Foley (1), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Elizabeth Whorton (22), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Hannah Webb (27), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

Dudley and District News 13/5/1882

“At the Old Hill Police Court on Wednesday, before Messrs. W. Bassano and C. Holcroft, William Ball, alias George Keel, Poplar Place, Bridge Street, West Hockley, Birmingham, pearl and stud turner, and John Johnson, 12, Eaton Street, Hockley, pearl turner, were charged with uttering and putting off counterfeit coins representing half-crowns, and one florin, at Old Hill and Cradley Heath, on the 8th inst. On the prisoner Ball was found 8s 9d and five coins, and on Johnson 29s 7½d and two coins.

Joseph Manning, QUEENS HEAD, Corngreaves Road, said on Monday evening last the prisoners came to his house while he was sitting at tea. Ball called for two drinks, and was served by his wife, who called him to look at the half-crown they had tendered for the drink. He looked at the coin and broke it in two. It was bad, and he sent for a police officer, and detained Ball, but Johnson would not stay, and went out because he said he had nothing to do with Ball.

Aquilla Parkes, landlord of the BIRD IN HAND, Spinners End, said Ball came to his house on Monday afternoon about 4.30 and called for a glass of ale, tendering the base half-crown produced, he filled the glass of ale and gave him 2s 4½d back. It rang well on the counter. Ball drank the ale and went out. The next morning a police officer came and asked if he had taken any bad money, and his wife examined the money they took on Monday and picked the half-crown out, it being the only one they took that day. He identified Ball next day.

Susan Harris, wife of Thomas Harris, licensed victualler, CROWN AND ANCHOR INN, Providence Street, New Town, said on Monday Ball came to her house and asked for a bottle of soda water, she had none and gave him a bottle of ginger beer, he tendered her half-a-crown, she gave him 2s 4½d in change and he went out. Next day she found that the coin was bad.

Louisa Nicklin said she was servant to Priscilla Foley, who kept the BRITISH OAK, High Street. On Monday afternoon both the prisoners came to the house and Ball called for a pint of ale. She filled it and Ball gave her half-a-crown which she took to her mistress who gave her change. She was quite sure that Johnson was with Ball. Priscilla Foley said when her servant brought the half-crown and she had given her the change she went into the shop and saw the prisoners standing by the counter. Two more men were with them. When she went into the bar Ball asked for the cup to be filled, and gave her a two shilling piece, she gave him 1s 9½d in change, they did not wait to empty their cup but said they must go so as not to be caught in the rain. Ball and Johnson then left the other men and went out. The two coins she received were bad, and she gave them to the police.

Emma Johnson (14), daughter of Samuel Johnson, the HEARTY GOOD FELLOW, King Street, Old Hill, said she saw the prisoners come into the house on Monday afternoon. Ball called for a quart of ale, she supplied it and Ball gave her half-a-crown in payment. She gave the change, Ball threw the drink down and both went out. Her father wanted some change and she took it to Chances for sixpences.

Hanna Webb, barmaid at Mr. *John Foley*'s, the SWAN INN, Old Hill, said the prisoner came into the house and Ball asked for some ale and tendered her half-a-crown, she took the coin to Mrs. *Foley* and gave Ball the change. Hannah *Foley* said Hannah Webb brought her a half-crown which she put in her pocket with the other money. The same night she gave it to a police officer. PC Litherley said he was sent for to the QUEENS HEAD, Corngreaves Road, on Monday and received the half-crown produced, from Mr. Manning, who said in the presence of Ball, that he had received it from him. He took Ball into custody, and he at first gave the name of George Keel, Hart Yard, Hatton Garden, London, and said it was not half-a-crown but a two shilling piece which he gave. PCs Litherly and Lawrence proved receiving the base coins produced from the witnesses.

Inspector Walters said on Monday the prisoner Ball was brought to the station and gave the name of George Keel, Hart Yard, Hatton Garden, London. He declined to give any reference, and said witness might enquire about it. He took him to Birmingham to the detective department, where he saw detective Baker, who called Keel by his right name, and said, ‘How do William Ball.’ He then went to Ball’s address in Bridge Street, West Hockley, and on going into the house he found the prisoner Johnson lying on a screen, he then gave the name of George William Hobson, No.13, Eaton Street, Abbey Fields, Hockley. He told him he would be charged with being in company with Ball the previous day at Old Hill, and passing counterfeit coins. He replied, ‘I know nothing at all about it.’ He searched him and found £1 9s 7½d all in small coins. He told him he would have to go with him to Old Hill, when he became very violent, and rushed to the table to get a knife, but he put the handcuffs on him and brought him to Old Hill. He was present in the office when Ball was identified, and he might add that he went to Eaton Street, Hockley, but no such person as the prisoner Johnson was known there.

Honor Chance, wife of John Chance, 2, King Street, underground manager for Messrs. Hingley, said she changed half-a-crown for Emma Johnson on Monday afternoon. Emma came and told her that it was a bad half-crown, and took it back.

Eliza Johnson, wife of George Johnson, publican, KINGS HEAD, Elbow Street, said four men came to her house on Monday, and Ball asked for half-an-ounce of tobacco and a pipe, and gave her half-a-crown which she changed. PC Rowlands came at night,

and she found the coin was a bad one.

Mr. Henn, Cradley Heath, said PC Litherly showed him three half-crowns which he examined and found to be bad. They were made principally of lead. PC Rowlands also showed him four half-crowns, and one two shilling piece which were counterfeit.

The half-crowns were all from the same mould, dated 1875, and plated.

Prisoners were remanded to Stafford to appear on Wednesday."

[At the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions, William Ball (32) and John Johnson (27), both button makers, were each sentenced to twelve months, Ball pleading guilty.]

The Era 4/11/1882 - Advert

"Wanted a Respectable Pianist and Vocalist (Female). Must be a good Vamper. A comfortable shop for a competent person.

Cartes de Visits forwarded.

Address, *W. Foley*, SWAN INN, Old-hill, Staffordshire."

Dudley and District News 24/11/1883

"William Green, Old Hill, was summoned for being disorderly and refusing to quit the licensed premises of *William Foley*, known as the WHITE SWAN INN, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, on the 12th inst. Defendant while in the house commenced a quarrel and refused to leave when requested by the landlord, but he was subsequently ejected from the premises. A fine of 10s and costs, with the alternative of 14 days' imprisonment was imposed upon the defendant."

Dudley and District News 3/5/1884

"William Clemson, of Penn Common, was charged with leaving a horse and cart in the public highway for an unreasonable space of time. PC Bradbury stated that the horse and cart were in the road while the defendant was drinking in the WHITE SWAN INN, Halesowen Road. Defendant pleaded guilty, but said he was very sorry, and produced a good character. The Bench, in consideration of this, only fined him 10s, including costs."

County Advertiser 29/1/1887

"Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest on Monday at the WHITE SWAN INN, Old Hill, respecting the death of William Smith, labourer, who resided at 248, Halesowen Road, and who was killed on the 22nd inst. Deceased was employed at the Corngreaves Works, Cradley Heath, to attend to the trucks as they came up the pit. On the above date, at about 8.15am, whilst he was standing in front of an iron plate near the mouth of the pit, a truck, unperceived by him, came down a slight incline and caught his neck between the plate and the truck. He was extricated by a man named Charles Willett, but expired soon afterwards. Deceased was not inexperienced at the work, and it was his duty to have made the trucks secure. The Coroner remarked that it appeared to him deceased had come by his death through his own neglect, and the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death."

AND

"On Tuesday, Mr. E. Hooper, coroner, held an inquest at the WHITE SWAN INN, Old Hill, relative to the death of Phoebe Hollis (59), 184, Halesowen Road, who died suddenly at her residence. Timothy Hollis, husband of the deceased, stated that shortly after supper-time his wife fell prostrate on the floor, without having any symptoms of illness of any kind beforehand, and died very soon afterwards. He sent for a doctor immediately. His wife had complained of pains between the shoulders, and had also been subjected to fainting fits. A verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned."

Dudley Mercury 6/4/1889

"Thomas Jackson, turner, Handsworth, was charged with refusing to quit the SWAN INN, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, on the 23rd ult, and also with assaulting the landlord, *William Foley*, on the same date. The landlord stated that the defendant and a number of his friends came into his house and caused a disturbance. He asked them to leave, and defendant struck witness on the face and knocked him down. The defendant's friends pulled witness to the ground, and he was struck and kicked several times. John Tromans corroborated.

Henry Perks, Handsworth, said that the landlord struck the defendant first.

Defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs in each case."

County Advertiser 26/10/1889

"On Thursday morning, at the WHITE SWAN INN, Old Hill, an inquest was held before Mr. Edward Hooper (coroner), touching the death of a boy named William Henry Haynes, aged nine years, of Halesowen Road, Old Hill, who was killed on Saturday last by a gate falling upon him at the entrance of the New Connexion Chapel. Mr. Cooksey watched the proceedings on behalf of the trustees of the chapel.

Martha Haynes, wife of William Haynes, labourer, said she was the mother of deceased. The boy left home on Sunday morning at nine o'clock to go to school, and in a quarter of an hour afterwards was brought home dead. Witness was told that an iron gate had fallen upon him. He was in perfect health when he left home, and when brought back he had a wound on his left temple. She could not tell how the accident happened.

William Pugh (12), residing at Lawrence Lane, stated that he was with deceased at the time of the accident. The gate led from the road to the school as well as to the chapel; and deceased was pulling in and out that portion of the gate which fell upon him. The gate fell out towards the road and knocked deceased down. Witness endeavoured to raise the gate while another boy tried to get deceased from under. When they had extricated deceased a policeman came and picked him up.

In reply to the coroner, witness said that before the accident some boys told deceased that the gate was not safe. Witness had never seen or heard of the gate falling before.

In reply to further questions from the jury, witness said that on the Sunday preceding the occurrence there was a staple in the wall, to which was attached a chain holding the gate in its position. On the date of the accident, however, witness noticed that the staple was out of the wall.

In answer to Mr. Cooksey, witness said deceased would have had to give a good pull to get the gate out of its position, as there was a stop in the centre of the slide to keep it from coming too far. There was a proper gate in front of the chapel; and the schools were also used as Sunday schools.

Police-constable Pailing proposed to call three other lads, but the Coroner thought it would not be advisable to hear evidence from them, as they were too young, and the officer proceeded to give evidence himself. He was on duty at the Police Station, which is almost opposite the chapel, when he heard a noise as of something falling down. He at once went across to the place, and found the last witness and a lad named Mark Underhill endeavouring to get deceased from beneath one of the large iron gates at the entrance of the chapel. Witness took hold of deceased, and found a large wound on his left temple, and blood also running from his ears and mouth. Deceased only breathed once in witness's arms and expired. Dr. de Denne was sent for and attended, but was unable to do anything, as death had taken place. Witness subsequently made an examination of the gate, and on the handle, which corresponded with the wound on deceased, was a quantity of blood. The gate was in two sections, and worked in and out from the wall on slides, in the centre of which was an elevated stop, to prevent the halves coming out beyond the necessary point. On the back of the lift section was a chain, holding the gate in its position, but to that section which fell the chain was not secured by a staple to the wall, and was, therefore, utterly useless. He could not see any place in the wall where there had been a staple, although he made a minute examination. He had never heard of any complaints respecting the gate prior to the accident, but he had since heard by accident of several. One man had made a statement to him that, on the 17th inst, his daughter, a girl of eight years, was hurt by the same gate, and that he had been to the trustees about it.

One jurymen thought that the stop in the slide was not sufficient to prevent the gate getting out of position.

The question as to the position of the gate, however, was not further dealt with, and a verdict of Accidental Death was ultimately returned."

County Express 16/8/1890

"*William Foley*, landlord of the WHITE SWAN INN, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, was summoned for permitting drunkenness in his house on the 29th ult. Mr. Waldron prosecuted on behalf of the police, and Mr. Shakespeare defended.

Police-constables Illsley and Kegan stated that on the night in question they visited the defendant's house twice, and each time they found a woman named Rosannah Harper drunk. Mr. Shakespeare said the defendant had kept the house for upwards of twenty years, and during that long period it had been well conducted. Mrs. Harper only had three glasses of ale in the house, and Mrs. *Foley*, perceiving that she had had enough to drink, requested her to leave, and she refused to do so. Under the circumstance he hoped the magistrates would dismiss the case. Mr. Bassano said seeing that the house had been well conducted for twenty years, the magistrates were sorry that an offence had been committed. They should only inflict a nominal penalty of 10s and costs, £1 11s 6d."

County Advertiser 27/9/1890

"Adjourned Licensing Session at Old Hill.....

William Foley, of the SWAN INN, Halesowen Road, Old Hill. Inspector Bishop said the house had been well conducted. The applicant was getting old, and the conviction was the first one. Mr. Bassano cautioned the applicant, and the license was renewed."

1891 Census

Halesowen Road – WHITE SWAN INN

- [1] *William Foley* (41), innkeeper, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Hannah Foley (42), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] William Foley (18), son, bicycle agent, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Joseph Foley (15), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Florence Foley (1), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Hannah Webb (37), domestic servant, born Sedgley;
- [7] Anny Cooksey (21), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] Henry Foley (11), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

The Era 28/11/1891 - Advert

"Mr. Geo. Danvers, Comedian and Burlesque Actor, Musician, Pantomimist, and Dancer, Liberty. Tour or Panto. SWAN HOTEL, Old Hill, Staffs."

Birmingham Daily Post 24/2/1892 - Died

"On the 22nd inst, at the SWAN HOTEL, Old Hill, aged 19, William, dearly-beloved son of *William* and *Hamah Foley*; deeply regretted."

County Advertiser 6/5/1893

"William Holding, tramp, was charged with being drunk and disorderly in the SWAN INN, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, and with vagrancy on the 29th ult. Prisoner went to the public house begging and asking for beer. He was refused, and then commenced making a disturbance. Inspector Bishop said the prisoner was a pest to the neighbourhood, had several times been convicted, and was well up in prison discipline. Prisoner was committed to prison for 14 days with hard labour."

County Advertiser 9/9/1893

“Barzillai Homer, Cradley Heath, was fined 2s 6d and costs for being drunk and disorderly and refusing to quit the SWAN INN, Cradley Heath, kept by *William Foley*, on the 5th inst.”

County Advertiser 1/12/1894 - Advert

“Magpie Row, Halesowen Road, Netherton, near Dudley.

Mr. Joseph Smart had been favoured with instruction from the Mortgagees to Sell by Auction, at the House of Mr. *William Foley*, SWAN HOTEL, Old Hill, Staffordshire, on Tuesday, December 11th, 1894, at Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions incorporating the common form conditions of the Birmingham Law Society, the following Valuable Property.....”

County Express 13/1/1900

“Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner) held an inquest on Wednesday, at the WHITE SWAN HOTEL, Old Hill, upon Annie Eliza Danks (30), of Macefield House, Old Hill, who had been found dead in a water tank, on Tuesday.

Thomas Albert Danks, boiler manufacturer, husband of the deceased, stated that about seven weeks ago the deceased was confined, and was attended by Dr. Beasley, and apparently went on favorably. At times she was slightly depressed, but had not threatened to take her life. At three previous confinements she had suffered from melancholia. Between six and seven years ago deceased threatened to commit suicide with a razor. On the 8th inst she was quite rational, and made no complaint. They went to bed between twelve and one o'clock on Tuesday morning. Shortly after six he missed the deceased and heard the baby crying. He searched for his wife and upon going to the top of the house found her in a tank which contained eighteen inches of water. She was in her nightdress and apparently dead.

The foreman of the jury (Mr. Hadley) suggested that bars should be placed before the tank for protection of the children.

Witness: I will provide them.

Dr. Tibbetts stated that Mr. and Mrs. Danks had, to the best of his knowledge, always lived happily together. On Sunday night he saw deceased, and she was then in apparently good spirits. Early on Tuesday morning he was called again to see her, and she was then apparently dead. He tried artificial respiration, but it was evident she had been dead half an hour. Death was due to suffocation from drowning, and there was no doubt deceased suffered from melancholia after confinement.

Inspector Given said he had made every enquiry into the case, and he corroborated Dr. Tibbett's statements that Mr. and Mrs. Danks had lived happily together. The key to the door leading to the water tank was kept on a ledge, and had evidently been taken away by the deceased.

The Coroner said it was a most distressing case, and there was no doubt the deceased when suffering from a fit of melancholia took her own life. They all sympathised with Mr. Danks in the irreparable loss he had sustained.

The jury returned a verdict that the deceased committed Suicide when Temporarily Insane.

The Foreman added they very much sympathised with Mr. Danks, and this feeling, it may be added, is general in the district.”

1901 Census

245, Halesowen Road

- [1] *William Foley* (51), born Old Hill;
- [2] Hannah Foley (51), wife, born Old Hill;
- [3] Frederick J. Foley (27), son, brewer, born Old Hill;
- [4] Henry Foley (21), son, publican barman, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] May Foley (11), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Hannah Webb (42), general servant, born Pensnett;
- [7] Florrie Davis (24), general servant, born Cradley Heath:

Tipton Herald 28/2/1903

“Mr. H. A. Pearson, coroner, held an inquest at the WHITE SWAN INN, Old Hill, on Monday morning, relative to the death of Thomas Hart (43), who formerly resided at King Street, Old Hill, and who was killed on Saturday morning last whilst following his employment at Mr. Robert Fellow's Corngreaves Colliery.

Mr. Makepeace (HM Inspector of mines) was present, and Mr. George Green, of Cradley Heath, represented the widow of the deceased.

The first witness called was Clara Ann Hart, the deceased's wife, who gave evidence of identification. Her husband, she said, went to work in his usual good health on Saturday morning at 6.30. At half past eight they brought him home dead. Her husband was not subject to fits. There were five children.

Samuel Leonard, a miner, of Overend, Cradley, who worked at the colliery, deposed that at 7.30 he saw the deceased at the bottom of the shaft. A few minutes later he took a loaded tub to the bottom of the shaft, and could not find Hart. He called out for him, but got no answer. Subsequently he found the deceased pressed under the cage. He signalled to the engine man to draw the cage up, and when he had done so he discovered that the deceased's head was forced between his legs. With help he got him from under the cage. Deceased gave one breath and expired. Deceased had worked at the colliery for three weeks, and was a competent man. He could not say how the accident happened.

Mr. Makepeace: Was deceased a careful man? – Witness: Yes.

Mr. Makepeace: When you pulled the deceased from under the cage did it settle down level? – Witness: Yes, sir.

Mr. Makepeace: Was there anything that would cause him to be tripped up? – Witness: No, sir.

William Hart, the deceased's son, also works at the colliery, and was near to his father when the accident happened. He heard

Leonard shout for help and he assisted to get his father out.

By Mr. Makepeace: He had often seen his father pass underneath the shaft as the cage was ascending and descending.

Cyril Lander, a miner, of Belle Vale, Halesowen, gave corroborative evidence.

Benjamin Palmer, underground manager at the colliery, said the deceased had been employed at the colliery some time. He saw the place shortly before the accident happened and a minute after. Deceased, in his opinion, was trying to pull a bolt or put something under the cage to make it settle down level when he met with the accident. He had cautioned the deceased many times of the dangers that existed. Deceased was a competent workman, and was trustworthy.

Dr. T. M. Tibbetts made a post mortem examination on the body, and said deceased had bruises across the back. Death was due to asphyxia or suffocation, caused by the compression of the stomach.

The foreman of the jury remarked that the evidence had been given very straightforwardly. He had known of several similar accidents, and he suggested that this was an accident.

A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

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

1911 Census

276, Halesowen Road – WHITE SWAN

[1] *William Foley* (63), licensed victualler, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Hannah Foley* (63), wife, married 42 years, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *Joseph Foley* (34), son, assisting in business, born Rowley Regis;

[4] *Henry Foley* (30), son, assisting in business, born Rowley Regis;

[5] *May Foley* (21), daughter, assisting in business, born Rowley Regis;

[6] *Hannah Webb* (56), domestic servant, born Coseley;

[7] *Lizzie Kidson* (30), domestic servant, born Netherton:

County Express 25/5/1912 - Deaths

“On the 21st inst, *Hannah Foley*, wife of *William Foley*, of the SWAN INN, Halesowen Road, Old Hill. Interred on Thursday, at St. Luke’s Churchyard, Cradley Heath.”

AND

County Express 25/5/1912 - Acknowledgment

“Mr. *W. Foley* and Family, of the SWAN INN, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, wish to thank their numerous friends who have sympathised with them in their recent sad bereavement.”

William Foley died in the 1st quarter of 1919.

Henry Ernest Foley married *Elizabeth Hartshorn* in the 2nd quarter of 1919.

William Foley and Co., SWAN BREWERY, Old Hill.

Proprietors – *H. E. Foley* and *F. M. Coley*. [1920s]

Henry Ernest Foley died on 31st May 1923 and was buried at St. Luke’s Church, Cradley Heath.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 27/8/1923

“Mr. *Henry Ernest Foley*, of the WHITE SWAN INN, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, licensed victualler, has left £15,953.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 21/1/1928

“The public examination in bankruptcy of *Thomas Johnson*, 40, Trinity Street, Old Hill, an underground fireman and formerly tenant of the WHITE SWAN INN, Old Hill, took place at Dudley yesterday, and was closed. Debtor, who had a deficiency of £177 15s 3d, in the course of his examination, said his takings began to fall off when the coal strike occurred. Many of his customers were miners, and, being a safety man, he had to continue working, with the result that his house was more or less boycotted.”

Charles Thomas Smith – see also TWO FURNACES.

Dudley Herald 6/6/1931

“The following transfers were granted.....

WHITE SWAN, Old Hill, from *Charles Thomas Smith* to *Francis Harry Scriven*.....”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 29/9/1937 - Advert

“Bar-General, live in, references essential.

Apply, WHITE SWAN, Halesowen Road, Old Hill, Staffs.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 25/1/1938 - Advert

“Bar-General Wanted, live in, referenced required.

WHITE SWAN, Old Hill, Staffs.”

1939 Register

276, Halesowen Road

[1] *Francis Henry Scriven*, date of birth 7/6/1895, licensed manager, core maker, foundry work, married;

[2] A. Maud Scriven, dob 22/12/1901, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[3] Dorothy Maud (Scriven) Ashman, dob 4/12/1922, learning chemist department, single;

[4] F. Thomas Scriven, dob 26/6/1924, drop forge worker, single;

Harold Preston – see also RAILWAY, Blackheath.

Albert James Bailey – check also HARGATE TAVERN, West Bromwich.

Closed

Demolished

WHITE SWAN

Powke Lane, OLD HILL

OWNERS

J. Rolinson and Son Ltd.

LICENSEES

WHY NOT

128, (93), Reddal Hill Road, OLD HILL

OWNERS

Samuel Perry

Wolverhampton and Dudley Breweries Ltd. (acquired on 2nd November 1950)

LICENSEES

Thomas Perry [1865] – 1877);

Mrs. Esther Perry (1877 – [1896]

Alfred Perry [1900] – [1903]

Thomas Perry [] – 1904);

Daniel Perry (1904 – [1912]

Samuel Perry [1919] – 1928);

Alfred Perry (1928 – 1933);

Mrs. Laura Lavinia Perry (1933 – 1950);

Wilfred White (1950 – 1952);

Bert Arthur Davies (1952);

Thomas Brookes (1952 – 1955);

Joseph James Henry Onions (1955 – 1962);

Septimus Harvey Gobleret (?) (1962 – 1963);

Kenneth Johnson (1963 – 1969)

NOTES

93, Reddal Hill Road [1881], [1891], [1896], [1901]

128, Reddall Hill Road [1911], [1924], [1939], [1940]

It had an ante '69 beerhouse license.

Thomas Perry, beer retailer and fruiterer, Old Hill. [1865]

1871 Census

Reddall Hill – WHY NOT

- [1] *Thomas Perry* (48), publican and iron dealer, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Ester Perry* (46), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Samuel Perry* (23), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Daniel Perry* (20), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *George Perry* (18), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Sarah J. Perry* (12), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *Alfred Perry* (8), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] *Martha Lewis* (18), general servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 28/4/1877

“The Bench allowed the following licenses to be transferred....

WHY NOT INN, Reddall Hill, from *Thomas Perry* to *Esther Perry*, his wife.”

1881 Census

93, Reddall Hill Road – WHY NOT INN

- [1] *Esther Perry* (56), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Bewdley;
- [2] *Samuel Perry* (32), son, carter, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Daniel Perry* (29), son, chain manufacturer, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *George Perry* (20), son, carter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Sarah J. Perry* (22), daughter, domestic servant, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Alfred Perry* (17), son, brewer, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *William Perry* (9), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 10/6/1882 - Advert

“For Sale, Three 120-gallon Barrels, good as new, made by best workman.

Apply, *Esther Perry*, WHY NOT INN, Old Hill, near Dudley.”

Dudley and District News 25/10/1884

“On Tuesday evening last, the members of the Trinity Cricket Club held their annual dinner at the house of Mrs. *Perry*, WHY NOT INN, Reddall Hill. Upwards of 30 members and friends partook of an excellent repast which had been provided by the hostess. After the drawing of the cloth Mr. T. Cooksey was voted to the chair.....”

County Express 3/1/1891

“William Nock, Reddall Hill, Old Hill, was charged with being disorderly on the licensed premises of *Esther Perry*, landlady of WHY NOT INN, with refusing to quit the same, and with assaulting the landlady on the 24th. Complainant said defendant had had too much beer and she asked him to leave. He went out for some time but returned and struck her violently in the eye, blacking it. Defendant was fined 20s and costs or a month for the assault, no proceedings being taken in the other case.”

1891 Census

93, Reddall Hill Road

- [1] *Esther Perry* (65), widow, beerhouse keeper, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Samuel Perry* (42), son, scrap iron dealer, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Daniel Perry* (40), son, warehouse man, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Sarah Jane Perry* (30), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Alfred Perry* (27), son, brewer, journeyman, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *William Perry* (19), son, office clerk, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 30/12/1893

“The members of the WHY NOT sick and draw club held their fourth annual meeting at the WHY NOT INN, Reddall Hill, Old Hill, on Saturday evening last. The report showed that the society now numbered 50 good members, and though the payments for sickness and deaths during the past year had been heavy, a dividend of 8s 9d per member was declared, leaving a good balance in hand towards next year. Ten new members were elected. The meeting proved the most successful yet held.”

County Advertiser 29/12/1894

“The annual meeting of the WHY NOT sick and draw club was held at the WHY NOT INN, Reddall Hill, on Christmas Eve, a large majority of the members being present. The auditors (Messrs. J. Humphries and O. Jones Aston) presented the report, which

showed that during the year a considerable amount of sickness among the members had prevailed. After paying all expenses a dividend of 8s 6d per member was declared, leaving a good balance in hand. Votes of thanks were passed to the secretary and treasurer, and 26 new members were elected. The members were unanimously of opinion that though trade during the year had been bad, the society had had the most successful year, since its formation, five years ago."

Mrs. *Esther Perry*, beer retailer, 93, Reddal Hill Road. [1896]

County Express 16/1/1897

"A largely attended meeting in connection with the Old Hill and District Cricket League was held on Monday evening at the WHY NOT INN, Reddal Hill, Old Hill, Mr. F. T. Hill (Old Hill Mutual) in the chair. The clubs of which the league is composed are Blackheath, Brierley Hill and District, Cradley Heath Mutual, Doulton's, Lye, Old Hill Mutual, Swan Village Gas and Tividale. The fixtures for the coming season were arranged, and other business was transacted, including the completion and adoption of the rules of the league. The proceedings were marked by that spirit of enthusiasm and good feeling which, it is believed, will influence each of the eight teams when the time for operation arrives. It was stated that the formation of the league will, undoubtedly, be the means of popularising local cricket, and will tend to give that local impetus to the game which it has, for several years past, so much needed. A vote of thanks to the chairman brought the meeting to a close."

County Advertiser 1/1/1898

"The annual meeting of the WHY NOT Sick and Draw Club was held at the WHY NOT INN, Old Hill, on Christmas Eve. Mr. R. Bagley presided over a crowded meeting, over a hundred members being present. The auditors, Messrs. Wm. Southall and Jos. Bennett, in presenting their reports, congratulated the members on a most prosperous year. The statement of accounts showed that the receipts amounted to £124 17s 5d, that the sick pay was £25 14s and payments for deaths £6, and that after all other payments a dividend of 12s per member was declared, a balance of £8 2s 11d being left in hand towards next year. The Secretary reported that the number of members entitled to draw was 135, being an increase of 18 on last year. In responding to a vote of thanks, he said he would still continue his best efforts on behalf of the society. Thirty-five new members were nominated for election, and the chairman and other officers were elected. Votes of thanks to the retiring officers were passed, and the most successful meeting ever held was brought to a close by singing some old carols."

County Express 6/1/1900

"Sick and Draw Clubs WHY NOT INN, Old Hill.

The annual meeting of this club was held on Saturday. Mr. R. Bagley presided over a crowded meeting. The auditors (Messrs. J. Bennett and J. Johnson) presented their report. The receipts had been £177 17s 5d; sick pay, £40 4s; payments for deaths, £11; and after all payments a dividend of 12s 9d each was declared, a balance of £8 18s 5d being left in hand. The secretary said the number entitled to draw was 174 against 157 last year, and though the payments for sick were again heavy, the draw was the best on record. Nearly 30 new members were nominated."

County Advertiser 3/11/1900

"Sergeant J. Hill, of the E Company, 2nd Worcestershire Regiment, in a letter dated the 17th September, and written to Mr. *Fred Perry*, of the WHY NOT INN, Reddal Hill, Old Hill, says, inter alia, I shall have some fine old yarns to relate, for I think I have seen my share in everything, both in hardships, fighting, and marching. We only had our last fight a few days ago, on the 11th I did not think there would be a man left of the Worcesters to tell the tale, but, fortunately, we only had about 32 killed and wounded, and we think it was marvellous, for shells and bullets were falling all round us. But anyhow, after nine months at it it finds me alive and kicking. We only remained in Pretoria one day. We are now in Hekpoort Valley, about thirty miles north-west of Pretoria, and our last fight was at Bloemfontein, about twelve miles from here."

1901 Census

93, Reddal Hill Road

- [1] *Alfred Perry* (37), beerhouse keeper, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Samuel Perry* (52), brother, scrap iron dealer, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Daniel Perry* (49), brother, chain warehouseman, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Sarah Jane Perry (41), sister, house keeper, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] William Perry (29), brother, clerk, nail and chain manufacturer's office, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Mary Ann Green (23), general servant, born Rowley Regis;

County Advertiser 29/8/1903 - Advert

"Cleveland Place, Park Street, Old Hill Staffs.

Highly Important Sale of Freehold Property.

E. H. Boilstone has been favoured with instructions from the Owner, who is going abroad, to Sell by Auction at the house of Mr. *Alfred Perry*, WHY NOT INN, Reddal Hill, on Monday, the 7th day of September, 1903....."

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

Alfred Perry died on the 2nd February 1904.

County Advertiser 13/2/1904

“The following licenses were transferred.....

WHY NOT INN, Reddal Hill, Old Hill, from the executors of the late *Alfred Perry* to *Daniel Perry*.”

Birmingham Daily Gazette 14/3/1904

“Mr. *Alfred Perry*, of Reddal Hill Road, Old Hill, who died on February 2 last, left estate valued at £2,117 9s gross, with net personalty nil. Probate of his will has been granted to his brothers, Mr. *Daniel Perry*, of the WHY NOT INN, Reddal Hill, and Mr. *William Perry*, of Belgrave Road, Blackheath.”

County Advertiser 14/1/1905

“On Tuesday the death occurred of Mrs. *Sarah Jane Perry*, sister of the landlord of the WHY NOT INN, Reddal Hill, at the age of 45 years. The deceased lady, who was well known and highly respected in the district, had been ailing for some time, but was taken worse on Monday. The funeral took place yesterday at St. Luke’s Church, Cradley Heath.”

County Express 8/8/1908

“On Sunday afternoon there was held the twelfth annual service promoted by the united friendly societies in the Old Hill district. The occasion was favoured with brilliant weather, and there was a large attendance at the services. The proceedings opened with a large procession, which aroused considerable interest in the district. The Old Hill Ironworks Band started from the PRINCE OF WALES INN, Wrights Lane, at one o’clock, and proceeded to the OLD HOUSE AT HOME INN for sick and draw club, through Cherry Orchard, calling for Court Robin Hood’s Cave and BRITISH OAK sick and draw club; by way of Wagon Street, calling for Success-to-the-FOX-HUNT Lodge; Elbow Street for Court Benjamin and KINGS HEAD sick and draw club; Halesowen Road, calling for Provident Institution, and on to the field. The Cradley Heath Salvation Army Band started from COOKSEY’S HOTEL at one o’clock with Snowdrop Lodge, by way of Halesowen Road, calling for Court Loyal Marlborough; Bank Street, Queens Street, High Street, and on to the field. The Cradley Heath Town Prize Band started from the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Reddal Hill, with Court Robin Hood the Brave; by way of Reddal Hill Road, calling for the WHY NOT sick and draw club, and on to the BRIDGE INN for Welcome to the Bridge Inn Lodge, across Plant Street, Lawrence Lane, Clyde Street, Petford Street calling for Druids Society; Pear Tree Street, Riddings Street, New Street, Halesowen Road, calling for Court Royal Sherwood and Rechabites Society and ROYAL EXCHANGE sick and draw club; High Street to the field. A grand procession was then formed.....”

Birmingham Mail 8/2/1911

“The annual general Licensing Sessions for Old Hill were held today.....

Superintendent Johnson objected to the renewal of the license of the WHY NOT INN, Reddal Hill Road, to *Daniel Perry*, on the ground that the premises were structurally unsuitable and difficult of police supervision. In reply to the Justices’ Clerk (Mr. T. Cooksey), *Perry* said he was willing to block up a doorway before the adjourned licensing sessions. Superintendent Johnson said upon giving that undertaking he would withdraw the objection.”

1911 Census

128, Reddal Hill Road

- [1] *Daniel Perry* (59), unmarried, beerhouse keeper, born Old Hill;
- [2] *Samuel Perry* (63), unmarried, scrap iron dealer, born Old Hill;
- [3] *James Perry* (18), nephew, mechanical pulley block works, born Rowley;
- [4] *Alfred Perry* (16), nephew, cabinet maker’s apprentice, born Rowley:

County Express 23/9/1911

“On Wednesday, at Old Hill, *Daniel Perry*, landlord of the WHY NOT INN, Reddal Hill Road, Old Hill, was charged with selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 14 years of age without the vessel containing it being sealed.

Inspector Needham said he saw *Samuel Griffiths*, aged 11, leave defendant’s house with a pint of ale in a bottle which was not sealed. He saw defendant, who said, ‘I served it; it had only to go across the way, and I didn’t think it mattered.’

Defendant repeated this statement to the Bench, and promised to be more careful in future.

He was ordered to pay 10s including costs.”

Daniel Perry, beer retailer, 93, Reddal Hill Road. [1912]

Samuel Perry, beer retailer, 128, Reddal Hill Road. [1924]

Dudley Chronicle 13/2/1924

“The Adjourned Licensing Sessions for the Old Hill Petty Session Division was held at the Police Court on March 5.....

The licenses of the WHY NOT INN, Reddal Hill Road, Old Hill which had been adjourned from the annual sessions, would be renewed.....

Mr. E. H. Grove supported an application by the licensee of the WHY NOT INN, Reddal Hill Road, Old Hill, for permission to carry out alterations. He explained that it was proposed to put a window in the passage, by which persons in the outdoor department could be served without having to go into the bar.

The architect (Mr. C. A. Bloomer) said persons and children who had to go into the house for beer had to stand in the bar and be

served.

The Chairman said the proposal commended itself to the justices and the plans would be approved.”

Samuel Perry died in the 3rd quarter of 1928.

Thomas Brookes – see also HOLLY BUSH, Cradley Heath.

Boxing matches were staged here in the 1930s.

1939 Register

128, Reddall Hill

[1] *Laura L. Perry*, date of birth 27/9/1895, licensed victualler, public house keeper, widowed;

[2] Samuel G. A. Perry, dob 12/9/1920, seamless steel tubes, single;

[3] Alfred Smith, dob 7/9/1912, window cleaner, married;

[4] Cissie Smith, dob 24/8/1913, warehouse assistant, married:

Laura L. Perry was also a brewer. [1940]

A Publican's license was granted on 7th February 1951.

Kenneth Johnson was married to Shirley.

He died in 1972.

See also COOKSEY.

Black Country Bugle 20/7/2000

'Cross Guns Whippet Racers Named'

“....the whippet enthusiasts used to meet at the WHY NOT INN on a Sunday lunchtime after racing, and that there would usually be more dogs than customers!”

[1990]

Closed

WINDMILL

ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Mrs. Caroline Mills [1867]

NOTES

County Express 25/5/1867

“Emmanuel Perry, parish constable, was charged with assaulting Mrs. *Caroline Mills*, of the WINDMILL INN, Rowley, on the 2nd instant. Complainant said defendant, in company with Mr. Parkes and another man, came to distraint for arrears of income and property tax. Complainant said she was a married woman, but her husband had left her about seven months. She told defendant that she had no money, but would send for her brother. Perry said he would not wait any longer. He pushed her aside, and after words, struck her under her left breast and knocked her down. She had been under the doctor's hands ever since.

Jane Taylor was next examined. Was in the house with complainant, when Perry, Brown and another man came in and said they were come to distraint. Witness asked them to wait a few minutes, but they refused. Perry afterwards pushed complainant so violently that she fell down.

Elijah Dobey said he was in the house at the time the men went in. The men were Perry, Parkes and two other men. He saw Perry begin taking things out of the house. Mrs. *Mills* spoke to him, and asked him to wait while her brother came, but Perry pushed and knocked her down. Defendant was under the influence of drink at the time, and broke some pictures as he was carrying them out.

The defendant said Mr. Parkes asked him to go with him to the house of complainant and levy a distress. The complainant was in

at the time and refused to let them out, and when he endeavoured to remove her from the door she fell. James Brown said complainant would not let them remove the articles. She stood against the door, and when they endeavoured to remove her she fell. Witness had not met with such resistance during his 'experience.'

Joseph Parkes, collector of taxes, said he went to Mrs. *Mills*' house to collect taxes on the 2nd of May he had repeatedly made application for the money due. As the complainant refused to pay the money he ordered the men to destrain. He went to another house till the men removed the articles. As they stopped a long time he went to complainant's house, and found the house full of people, who would not allow the men to remove the goods. Heard the complainant say, 'The first man that removes anything I'll break his arm.' The bench dismissed the case."

[1868]

WIZARD AND GLASS

52, (62), Cradley Road, (Tyes Green), (Haden Hill), CRADLEY HEATH

OWNERS

Benjamin Westwood
Plant's Brewery Ltd., Netherton
Ansells Ltd. (acquired on 2nd June 1937)
John Welding (acquired in 1986)

LICENSEES

William Stephens [1849] – [1861]
Benjamin Westwood [1864] – [1897];
Mrs. Charlotte Chatham (1897 – [1902]
Ann Chatham [] – 1903);
William Meldrum McWhirter (1903 – 1904);
Ezra Crampton (1904 – 1907);
Joseph Richard Scott (1907 – [1908]
Thomas Raybould [1908] – 1909);
Mary Ann Raybould (1909 – 1911);
John Philip Hill (1911 – [1912]
Ernest Hall [1916]
Thomas Williams [1919] – 1922);
William Botfield (1922 – 1934);
Thomas Baker (1934 – 1946);
George Harry Raybould (1946 – 1949);
Jack Johnson (1949 – 1955);
William George Newman (1955 – 1956);
Gordon Oliver (1956 – 1958);
William Henry Gutteridge (1958 – 1960);
Matthew Mark Partridge (1960 – 1964);
John Paterson Parker (1964 – [1965]
Mrs. Beatrice Sisely (1968 – []
John Welding (1986 – [1987]
Colin Smith [1991]
Thomas A McFadden (1994 – [2007]

NOTES

62, Cradley Road [1881], [1891], [1904], [1908], [1912], [1916], [1921], [1924], [1932]
52, Cradley Road [1939], [1940], [2005], [2015]

It was originally the JOLLY COLLIER.

William Stephens = William Stevens

Birmingham Journal 1/9/1855 - Advert

“Staffordshire. Haden Hill, Rowley Regis.

To be Sold by Auction, by Mr. Hawkins, on Monday, the 10th day of September, 1855, at the house of Mrs. Lucy Tibbetts, the ROSE AND CROWN INN, Haden Hill aforesaid, at Six o'clock in the evening, and subject to conditions.

All that Freehold Public House known by the sign of the JOLLY COLLIER, situated at Haden Hill, in the parish of Rowley Regis, comprising front Parlour and Tap Room, Kitchen, Pantry, Cellaring, Club Room, two Bed Rooms, Brewhouse, Piggeries, Shopping, Yard, Garden, and Appurtenances, late in the occupation of *William Stevens*, deceased. Annual value £15.

Also, all those Two Freehold Dwelling Houses and Premises adjoining, in the occupation of Widow Cole and Joseph Parsons, producing a rental of £9 15s per annum.

The Property occupies 683 square yards of Land; has a frontage of twenty-one yards to the turnpike road leading from Hales Owen to Dudley, and close to the Collieries of Messrs. Brettell, Homfray, and Bennet.

For further particulars apply to the Auctioneer; or at the Offices of Mr. Jeston Homfray, Solicitor, Brierley Hill.”

[This implies there were *William Stevens*' senior and junior.]

Benjamin Westwood was formerly a miner.

He married Eliza Attwood.

He was described as a beer retailer. [1864], [1865], [1868], [1870]

Wolverhampton Chronicle 27/4/1864

“On Thursday afternoon, Mr. E. Hooper, the District Coroner, held an inquiry at the house of Mr. *Westwood*, the JOLLY COLLIER, respecting the death of a labourer, named Henry Parish, aged fifty-three, who had drowned himself on the previous Tuesday morning. The deceased, it appears from the evidence adduced, had sustained an injury to his head some twelve months since, and on the Monday had left his home with scarcely any money in his pocket. At an early hour on the following morning his body was discovered in a pool of water near the Coneygreave Works. A singular fact connected with the case was, that, when found, the body was perfectly upright in the water. The jacket and cap of the deceased were found on the flood-gates, so that no doubt could be entertained that the unfortunate man had deliberately prepared himself for the act of suicide. The Jury found as their verdict that the deceased had destroyed himself whilst labouring under Temporary Insanity.”

County Advertiser 27/8/1864

“Yesterday, the annual licensing of the Rowley division was held at COOKSEY'S HOTEL, Old Hill.....

There were nine applications by beerhouse keepers for licenses, only one of which was granted.....

Benjamin Westwood, JOLLY COLLIER, Cradley Heath (refused).”

County Advertiser 25/8/1866

“Rowley annual licensing meeting was held yesterday.....

The following are the new applications and their results.....

Benjamin Westwood, Cradley Heath, refused.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 14/11/1866

“At the Police Court, on Friday, before J. Hunt, R. L. Freer, and W. C. Firmstone, Esqs, Susannah Bagott, a young woman living at Quarry Bank, was charged with obtaining a quantity of goods by false pretences from Francis William Gower, grocer, Cradley. It appeared that about twelve months ago the prisoner was in the service of Mrs. *Westwood*, landlady of the JOLLY COLLIER public house, Cradley Heath. Mrs. *Westwood* occasionally had goods from the prosecutor. On the 25th ult, and on the 1st and 8th inst, prisoner went to his shop, and on each occasion obtained a quantity of goods, on the representation that they were for Mrs. *Westwood*. The goods amounted in value to £1 5s 11d. Mr. Gower having had his suspicions aroused, made inquiries, and found that Mrs. *Westwood* had not authorised the prisoner to obtain any goods in her name. The prisoner made no defence, and was committed to the Sessions for trial.”

[At Worcestershire Quarter Sessions Susannah Bagott was sentenced to four months' hard labour.]

County Advertiser 31/8/1867

“Rowley. The Annual Licensing Meeting.....

There were thirteen applications for spirit licenses. The applications of the following were refused.....

Benjamin Westwood, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 22/2/1868 - Advert

“To be Seen Alive, at Mr. *B. Westwood*'s, JOLLY COLLIER INN, Cradley Heath, the Largest and Handsomest Pig in Staffordshire. Weighs upwards of Fifty Scores.”

Stourbridge Observer 17/7/1869

“On Tuesday evening last, a chainmaker, of middle age, named Jonah Robinson, went to bathe in the Corngreaves Pool, near the Lodge Forge, Cradley. About a quarter of an hour afterwards he could not be seen, and on a search being instituted his dead body was dragged from the pool. Deceased, who was an expert swimmer, was said to be tipsy at the time he went to bathe. From the time he went into the water until his dead body was brought out could not have been more than half an hour. At the place deceased was dragged from the water was not six feet in depth.

An inquest was held yesterday, at the house of *Benjamin Westwood*, before the Deputy Coroner. After hearing the evidence, the jury returned a verdict of Drowned while bathing.”

1871 Census

Tyes Green – JOLLY COLLIER

- [1] *Benjamin Westwood* (47), publican, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Eliza Westwood (46), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Jeremiah Westwood (15), son, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Henrietta Westwood (13), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Alice Westwood (11), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Esther Westwood (8), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] Patty Westwood (5), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] Priscilla Westwood (2), daughter, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 27/7/1872

“On Monday last the members of the Flower of the Valley Lodge (No.1126) of the Brierley Hill District, met at Mr. *Benjamin Westwood*’s, JOLLY COLLIER INN, Cradley Heath, to celebrate their first anniversary. Mr. W. Feldon presided, and Mr. Timothy Shaw officiated as vice-chairman. The business usual on such occasions having been disposed of, the remainder of the evening was spent in a convivial manner.”

County Advertiser 27/11/1880 - Advert

“Money! Money!! Money!!! to be obtained on easy terms at the Cradley Heath Loan and Investment Society, held at Mr. *B. Westwood*’s, the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Cradley Heath (Near the Gas Works).
Scale of Payments, viz, 1s per week for each and every £5 Share.
Business Hours: Six to Eight o’clock every Monday Evening.
Any person willing to become a Member may obtain every information on application as above.
NB. Refreshment not compulsory.”

County Advertiser 26/2/1881 - Advert

“Cradley Heath Loan and Investment Society.
Any Person wishing to Obtain Money (or Invest) are requested to see the Rules of the above Society, which can be obtained at the house of Mr. *Benjamin Westwood*, the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Cradley Heath, near the Gas Works; or on application to the Secretary.
Business Hours, Six to Eight o’clock every Monday Evening.
Cash Advanced from £5 and upwards on Personal Security, repayable by easy Instalments.
Wm. Lane, Secretary, Eagle Foundry, Cradley Road.
NB. Refreshments not compulsory.”

1881 Census

62, Cradley Road – JOLLY COLLIER INN

- [1] *Benjamin Westwood* (55), publican, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Eliza Westwood (54), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Esther Westwood (20), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Lotty Westwood* (15), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Priscilla Westwood (13), daughter, born Rowley Regis:

Dudley and District News 28/5/1881

“On Tuesday last an inquest was held by E. Hooper Esq, district coroner, at the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Cradley Heath, on the body of James Yarnold (7), who was killed whilst crossing the road opposite the RAILWAY HOTEL, on the 17th inst by being knocked down by a passing vehicle. It having been shown that no blame could be attached to any one, the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

County Advertiser 11/11/1882 - Marriages

“On the 7th inst, at Black Heath, Alfred, eldest son of James Lane, Eagle Chain and Anchor Works, Cradley Heath, to Esther, fifth daughter of *Benjamin Westwood*, JOLLY COLLIER INN, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 27/6/1885 - Advert

“Cradley Heath and Cradley. Valuable Freehold Houses and Premises.
Mr. T. Pateshall is instructed to Sell by Auction, at the house of Mr. *Benjamin Westwood*, the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Cradley Heath, on Tuesday, the 7th day of July, 1885, at Six for Seven o’clock in the Evening, subject to conditions.....”

County Advertiser 6/2/1886

“Dudley County Court. Tuesday, Before Sir Rupert Kettle, Judge.
A case came on for hearing in which *Benjamin Westwood*, James Lane, and Benjamin Thompson, trustees of the Cradley Heath

Loan and Investment Society were plaintiffs. The defendants were John Young, of Birmingham Street, and Samuel Bayley, of Wollaston. The claim was for £12 12s 11d. Mr. Cooksey appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. Waldron for the defendants. The case for the plaintiffs was that in January, 1883, a man named John Turnbull made application to the plaintiffs for a loan of £20, and gave the names of John Young and Samuel Bayley as securities. After inquiries had been made a man named George Burford took the promissory note to Messrs. Turney's works, at Stourbridge, where Turnbull and the defendants worked. Burford saw Turnbull sign the note, and also saw a man sign it as John Young. Turnbull then said that the man Samuel Bayley, who was to have been his other surety, was not at work, and that he (Turnbull) would get the note signed in a day or two. A few days afterwards Turnbull took the note to the plaintiffs, bearing the signatures 'John Young' and 'Samuel Bayley,' and the £20 was paid to him. Part of the money had been since paid, and the remainder was now claimed from the defendants. The defendant Young was now called into Court, and the witness Burford said that to the best of his knowledge he was the man who signed the note as 'John Young.' He never saw the man till the day the note was signed. In support of the plaintiffs' case the two defendants were called. Young said he worked at Messrs. Turney's works in January, 1884, and there was no other man of the name John Young employed at the works at the time. He never signed a promissory note in January, 1883, and the signature on the note produced was not his, nor did he authorise anyone to sign the note for him. The signature on the note, dated December, 1881, was his. Cross-examined: The last time he signed a promissory note was in November, 1882. He had been sued for the sum under that note at the Stourbridge County Court, and he was now paying the money. The defendant Bayley said he worked at Messrs. Turney's works in January, 1883. The signature on the note 'Samuel Bayley,' was not his, nor did he authorise anyone to attach his name to the note. In cross-examination the witness said he never signed a note for Turnbull after November, 1882. His Honour gave a verdict for the defendants, with costs."

County Advertiser 22/1/1887 - Advert

"Special General Meeting of the Confidential Loan and Investment Society, Cradley Heath, January 20th, 1887.

The following Resolutions were Proposed and Carried.

- (1.) Proposed that this Meeting agree voluntarily (and not by Court) to Wind Up this the Confidential Loan and Investment Society, held at the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Cradley Heath, in the County of Stafford.
- (2.) Proposed that Messrs. T. Cooper and M. Gardner be appointed Liquidators, to whom all money shall be paid, and all Books, Bond Notes, and all other Vouchers belonging to the aforesaid Society shall be handed over.
- (3.) Proposed that Three Members shall be appointed as a Committee of Inspection, who shall be consulted by the Liquidators."

County Express 28/6/1890

"On Thursday afternoon Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Cradley Road, Cradley Heath, relative to the death of Charles Williams (26), gas stoker, of Careless Green, Cradley Heath, who was found hanging from a beam by a rope in the store room at Cradley Heath Gas Works on the morning of the 25th inst.

William Morton, brother-in-law of the deceased, who is employed at the same works, said the deceased had been living apart from his wife for some time, owing to domestic troubles, and he had recently been addicted to drink. When entering the works on Wednesday morning he was told that the deceased had been found hanging to a beam by the neck in the store room.

In answer to the Coroner, witness said he did not take any steps to get into the room and cut the body down, as he did not like to interfere until a policeman arrived. He had previously heard deceased say that he would make away with himself, owing to pecuniary difficulties that he alleged his wife had brought him into.

Jabez Walters, who made the discovery that deceased had hanged himself, was also examined.

The Coroner asked why he did not cut the body down, and the witness replied that he thought it would be best to leave the body until the police arrived. It was half an hour before the police were on the spot to cut the body down.

Police-constable Davis said the body was warm when cut down, but life was extinct. Witness found in deceased's pocket a book in which was entered, 'I have done this all through a woman. Take me straight to my father's.'

The Coroner commented strongly upon the conduct of the witnesses Morton and Walters in not breaking the door open and cutting the body down. It was highly probable that the man's life would have been saved if this had been done. He should mark his disapproval of their conduct by disallowing their expenses.

The jury concurred in the remarks of the coroner, and returned a verdict of Suicide whilst Temporarily Insane."

1891 Census

62, Cradley Road

- [1] *Benjamin Westwood* (65), innkeeper, licensed, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Priscilla Westwood* (64), wife, born Brierley Hill;
- [3] *Priscilla Westwood* (23), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Lucy Willetts* (17), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 17/2/1894 - Advert

"Rich-Toned Pianoforte, in Walnut Case; 7 Octaves, by Chas. McDay, in splendid condition. Apply to *B. Westwood*, JOLLY COLLIER INN, Cradley Heath."

County Advertiser 22/9/1894 - Advert

"Cradley, Staffs. Highly Important Freehold Property.

Mr. E. H. Boilstone has received instructions from the Mortgagees, to Offer for Sale by Auction, on Wednesday, the 26th day of September, 1894, at the house of Mr. *Benjamin Westwood*, the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Cradley Heath, at Six for Seven o'clock in the Evening, subject to conditions.....”

County Advertiser 27/4/1895 - Advert

“General Wanted, not under 20; with good character.

Apply, Mrs. *Chatham*, JOLLY COLLIER INN, near Gas Works, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 11/5/1895

“Stourbridge County Court. Wednesday. Before Sir Richard Harington, Bart, Judge.

Westwood v Homer. This was an action brought by *Benjamin Westwood*, licensed victualler, of Cradley Heath, against Mr. Thomas Homer, Solicitor, of Brierley Hill, to recover the sum of £50, which had been paid to defendant for the purpose of arranging a composition. Mr. Kettle (instructed by Mr. Waldron) appeared for the plaintiff, and the defendant was not represented, neither did he appear.

It was stated that in 1893, the plaintiff's son, who was then occupying the BEEHIVE INN, at Cradley Heath, got into financial difficulties, and consulted defendant on the matter. A meeting of creditors was held, when they decided to accept a composition of 4s in the pound. Defendant had at that time £64 in hand, the moneys of Mr. J. *Westwood*, and the plaintiff advanced the £50 to Mr. Homer on the understanding that the composition should be arranged with the whole of the creditors. That this composition should be made was laid down by plaintiff on a special condition of the advance of the £50 to make up £114; and if Mr. Homer failed to secure the acceptance of the composition he was to return the money. The money was advanced by plaintiff on May 15th, 1893, but no composition had been made. The present action to recover the £50 referred to had been adjourned twice at the defendant's request. On the preceding day Mr. Waldron received from the defendant a cheque, which he did not think fit to accept, and that morning Mr. Waldron received a letter from defendant stating that he would be at the court with the cash, but he had not appeared. Mr. Waldron was called and gave evidence in keeping with counsel's statement, and His Honour gave a verdict for plaintiff for the amount claimed.”

County Advertiser 20/3/1897

“An old and well-known inhabitant in this locality has passed away in the person of Mr. *B. Westwood*, who had held the license of the JOLLY COLLIER INN for about 35 years. His honest and straightforward disposition won for him the respect of all with whom he came into contact, and his jovial manner stamped him as a true ‘jolly collier,’ in which occupation he spent the earlier portion of his life.”

County Express 29/5/1897 - Advert

“JOLLY COLLIER INN, Cradley Heath. Household Furniture, Brewing Plant, and Casks.

To be Sold by Auction by Oates, Perrens, and Wooldridge, at the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Cradley Heath, on Tuesday, June 1st, 1897, a portion of the Household Furniture, comprising the contents of Sitting Room and Four Bed Rooms, including superior Bedsteads, Mattresses, Beds, Chests of Drawers, superb Dressing Tables and Wash-hand Stands, Linen, etc, and also the Complete Brewing Plant, Well-seasoned Casks, Two Large Wrought-iron Boilers, Six Pockets of Hops, and Effects.

The Sale to commence at Twelve o'clock.

Catalogues may be had at the Place of Sale, or of the Auctioneers, Stourbridge.”

County Express 19/6/1897 - Advert

“Wanted, General Servant, of good character, with knowledge of plain cooking.

Apply, Mrs. *Chatham*, JOLLY COLLIER INN, Cradley Heath.”

County Advertiser 29/1/1898 - Notice

“*Benjamin Westwood*, Deceased.

Pursuant to an Act of Parliament made and passed in the 22nd and 23rd years of the Reign of Her Present Majesty, cap.35, intituled ‘An Act to further amend the Law of Property and to relive Trustees.’

Notice Is Hereby Given, that all Creditors and Persons having any Claims or Demands upon or against the Estate of *Benjamin Westwood*, late of the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Cradley Heath, in the County of Stafford, Licensed Victualler, deceased (who died on the 11th day of March, 1897, and whose Will was proved by William Griffin, the Younger, of Victoria Forge, Cradley Heath aforesaid, Chain and Anchor Manufacturer, the sole Executor therein named, on the 23rd day of April, 1897, in the District Registry at Lichfield of the Probate Division of the High Court of Justice) are hereby required to send in the Particulars of their Claims and Demands to the said William Griffin, the Younger, or to the undersigned his Solicitor on or before the 5th day of February, 1898; and Notice Is Hereby Given, that after that day the said Executor will proceed to distribute the Assets of the said deceased among the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the Claims of which the said Executor shall then have notice, and that he will not be liable for the Assets or any part thereof so distributed to any Peron of whose Debt or Claim he shall not then have had notice.

Dated the 28th day of January, 1898.

William Waldron, 17, High Street, Brierley Hill, Solicitor to the said Executor.”

County Advertiser 11/6/1898

“On Wednesday afternoon an inquest was held by Mr. H. A. Pearson (coroner), at the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Cradley Road, Cra-

dley Heath, respecting the death of Alice Bloomer, aged 40, formerly residing in Cradley Road, Cradley Heath, who committed suicide by hanging herself on Tuesday last.

Amy Bloomer, daughter, stated that her mother was engaged as a chainmaker at Mr. Joseph Clee's, Bank Street. She last saw deceased alive on Monday night, and when she came from work she looked very sad and depressed. Deceased remarked that the women who worked with her were continually talking about the master giving her the best work to do. On the Tuesday morning witness was aroused by her brother, who said his mother was not in. Witness went to her room and found that she was not there, and upon going into an outhouse witness's brother found deceased lying on the floor. Witness had never heard her threaten to take her life.

John Bloomer, son, gave corroborative evidence, and said he had never heard his mother threaten to commit suicide. He had heard that the women at the works had chaffed her about the master giving deceased the best work to do.

Harry Gill also gave evidence, and Police-constable Maisey stated that the height of the outhouse was 5ft 11½in and the width 2ft 19in.

A juryman said it appeared to him that deceased strangled herself.

The jury returned a verdict of Suicide whist of Unsound Mind.

The Foremen of the Jury (Mr. Thomas Pateshall) said as it was the first occasion on which Mr. Pearson had held an inquiry in that district they would like to congratulate him upon his appointment and accord him a hearty welcome, and also to thank him for the courtesy he had extended towards them.

Mr. Pearson thanked the jurymen in reply for their kind expressions, and said he hoped he should always get as intelligent a jury in Cradley Heath as he had on that occasion."

1901 Census

Cradley Road

[1] *Charlotte Chatham* (35), married, licensed victualler, born Cradley Heath;

[2] *Adelaide L. Chatham* (13), daughter, born Cradley Heath;

[3] *Rupert Chatham* (6), son, born Cradley Heath;

[4] *Emma Westwood* (66), mother, widow, born Cradley;

[5] *Mary Davies* (17), domestic servant, born Dudley:

County Express 17/5/1902

"A painful matrimonial case occupied the attention of Messrs. W. Bassano, J. F. Pearson, G. H. Holcroft, and F. Green, at the Old Hill Police Court on Wednesday, when Herbert Jones *Chatham*, described as a coal merchant, of Whitehall, Cradley Heath, was charged with deserting his wife, *Charlotte Chatham*, and with wilfully neglecting to maintain his children. Mr. Waldron appeared for Mrs. *Chatham*, and Mr. Ward defended.

Mr. Waldron stated that Mr. and Mrs. *Chatham* were married in 1886, and there were three children of the marriage. In 1894 – 7½ years ago – they were keeping the GEORGE INN, Old Hill. Prior to September that year Mr. *Chatham* was guilty of great cruelty to his wife. He bit her, dragged her up and down stairs, shook her, and pinched her wrists. The result of the cruelty was that she suffered very much in health, and was compelled in 1894 to leave her husband. She went to live with her father, Mr. *Westwood*, who at that time kept the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Cradley Heath, and resided with him until his death. When she left her husband she took with her a daughter, and subsequently another child was born, but the eldest son continued to live with his father until a few days ago. During his lifetime, Mr. *Westwood* was content to keep his daughter and grandchildren, and after his death Mrs. *Chatham* took the public house as a tenant, and had been earning a living there for herself and her children ever since. Of course that duty was rather an expensive one, and Mrs. *Chatham* felt the time had arrived when her husband should be called upon to contribute towards the support and maintenance of his own children. He was not instructed to ask for one farthing towards Mrs. *Chatham*'s maintenance, for she felt that she could support herself. From the moment Mrs. *Chatham* left her husband at the GEORGE HOTEL the last named had never contributed anything towards the support and maintenance of his children. As to means, Mr. *Chatham* was ostensibly carrying on business as a coal merchant, and from the way he lived must be in a fair condition.

Mrs. *Charlotte Chatham*, in her evidence, bore out Mr. Waldron's opening statement. She was cross-examined at great length by Mr. Ward. As to her means, she said she was not well off, but her position had improved very much financially within the last few years. She admitted she had received thousands under her father's will, but she would not state how many. She denied that she had left her husband in a passion; it was after consulting Inspector Given. That was the third time she had left him. When asked to give particular instances of cruelty and the dates, complainant said if her husband would produce her diary it would answer all that was required. In the January of 1894, after he had been drinking, he bit her in the thick of the arm, and she bore the marks for three weeks. He expressed his sorrow for it afterwards, and said he did it 'in a fit.' On the August Bank Holiday he took hold of her two wrists, shook her, and threw her into the passage. She did not know why he did this, and added she did not think her husband knew either. She admitted she retaliated when she had the chance, and her husband occasionally got the worst of it, and added to Mr. Ward, 'I am little and plucky like yourself' – (laughter). Mr. Ward remarked it was not very often he was complimented by a witness. Continuing under cross-examination complainant admitted throwing a shooting boot at her husband on one occasion, but denied throwing a pudding at his head, neither did she ever threaten him with a poker, nor do her best to aggravate him. Although she said her husband drank to excess at the GEORGE HOTEL, which was in a few yards of Old Hill Police Court, she admitted he was never summoned for being the worse for drinking his own house. She thought her conduct had been wise and prudent, and she had not written to say that she and her husband were a couple of fools.

Mr. Ward here produced a letter written by Mrs. *Chatham* in 1893, in which she said, 'Dear old boy. You are a fool, and so am I, to make each other think we love each other. We have both made a mess of it, but never mind, I will meet you as you wish.'

Complainant said that letter did not truly represent the state of affairs down to September, 1894, between her and her husband. She did not admit there was a good deal of bad temper on both sides; there was bad temper on the one side, and very great provocation on the other. Her husband was very jealous of her, and there might have been mutual recriminations. She admitted writing five letters, which were put in. One, dated June 27th, 1895, stated, 'I have received your letter, and regret you should trouble to write me again. I cannot consent to see you at all. My experience of you and your treatment in the past have turned my love into hatred, and your present position makes me feel more hopeless for any differences in the future. I think if you had any love for your children you would endeavour to keep them. You need not trouble about me any further. I have no wish to see you, and it is a pity we ever met.'

Witness explained that the reference as to her husband's 'present position' meant his drunkenness, not his position in life. Asked if she would return to her husband, complainant said she would not return if he would give her £5,000.

Mrs. Sarah Grove (now living at New Street, Cradley) who was formerly a servant at the GEORGE HOTEL, said Mr. *Chatham* treated his wife miserably, and was constantly 'cursing and raging over her.' Mrs. *Chatham*'s life was most unhappy. Cross-examined there was a great deal of quarrelling between the husband and wife. She remembered Mrs. *Chatham* throwing a dish at her husband. She considered Mrs. *Chatham* was very patient – far more patient than witness would have been.

Mr. Ward, for the defence, submitted that the summons for wilful negligence must be dismissed, for the evidence showed there was no neglect within the period which the Statute permitted.

Mr. Walter Bassano said the clerk had advised them of that, and that summons would drop.

Mr. Ward contended that as regard the desertion the evidence showed there had been frequent quarrels, and it was said three separations had taken place. Before they could grant an order on a summons for desertion in a case of this kind, there must be proved to have been conduct by the husband which would justify the woman leaving her husband. He suggested there had been faults on both sides, and the wife had taken her remedy into her own hands. Mr. Ward then dealt with the evidence in detail, and said the defendant was now getting a living by selling coal. He was working for his mother, and was practically a servant. He asked the court to say there was not sufficient evidence to justify the allegation that Mrs. *Chatham* left her home because it was unsafe for her to live with her husband. Her means were amply sufficient to maintain the children in a way consistent with their station, and he pointed out on the other hand they had no evidence as to the means of the defendant.

The Defendant stated he did not know why his wife left him in September, 1894. She took advantage of his absence to remove her goods, and when he returned, he found she had gone. There was no quarrel at that time that he could remember. His wife had an ungovernable temper, and was very aggravating. There was a quarrel between them on one occasion over some poetry he found in her pocket. He never assaulted his wife violently, and denied throwing her into the passage. He may have caught hold of her wrists to prevent her using violence to him. She threw anything at him she could get hold of in her temper. The utmost he could earn now was £1 per week.

Mr. George Chatham was called, and said he once saw Mrs. *Chatham* threatening the defendant with a poker.

The Bench held there had been desertion. They gave Mrs. *Chatham* custody of the children, and ordered defendant to contribute 10s per week towards the children's maintenance, and to pay costs and solicitor's fee of £1 1s."

County Advertiser 2/5/1903 - Advert

"To Let, the JOLLY COLLIERY INN, Cradley.

For particulars, apply personally, Plant's Brewery Ltd, Netherton."

William Meldrum McWhirter – see also CROSS, CROWN, COOKSEY'S HOTEL and CORNGREAVES HOTEL.

County Advertiser 22/10/1904

"Charlotte Parsons, a married woman, of New Street, Cradley, was charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Cradley Road, Cradley Heath, kept by *Ezra Crampton*, on the 5th inst. Prosecutor stated that defendant came into his house on the date named and commenced to use very bad language. Witness ordered her to leave, but this she refused to do. Defendant pleaded that she went into the house after her husband, who was drinking, and that she did not think she was doing wrong. The Bench decided to dismiss the case."

County Advertiser 26/1/1907

"An interesting point respecting the fitness of publicans was raised in connection with an application made by Mr. W. Waldron for sanction to the transfer of the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Cradley Heath, from *Ezra Crampton* to Eli Dunn.

Applicant, in reply to Superintendent Johnson, said he kept the HOLLY BUSH INN, Cradley, for five years. He admitted that in May, 1904, a man was convicted for being drunk upon his premises. He instructed a solicitor to defend the man, and he swore in the Police Court that he was sober, but in spite of this the justices convicted him. He also admitted that in November last a woman named Kirton was convicted for drunkenness upon his premises. He attended the Court on this occasion, and swore the woman was sober. She was not drunk upon the tap room floor, but was found by the police lying on the public-house steps. Sergeant Clark, formerly of Cradley, had cautioned him twice in 1904, with reference to the disorder on his premises, but he denied that he had spoken to him about harbouring women and children in the house. He received some notice to leave from the brewery firm, but he did not know that this was due to his last conviction. They, however, put in another manager. He admitted that Sergeant Nobes, who succeeded Sergeant Clark, had spoken to him about permitting gambling on his premises. He did not know a disgraceful fight took place outside his house over a gambling dispute until Sergeant Nobes told him of it. In answer to Mr. Waldron Dunn said no charge had been made against him by the police during the time he held the license. On the last occasion he visited the Court the magistrates' clerk informed him that there was no charge against him.

Sergeant Nobes said he had known the applicant for two years, and during that period he had kept the house at Cradley in a very

loose manner. People who were convicted for drunkenness and larceny resorted to it, and he had those persons on his premises whom other publicans declined to serve. He did not think applicant was fit to hold the license. Gambling had been allowed, and when spoken to about a disgraceful disturbance near his house caused by four or five men fighting, he promised to stop it. Mr. Waldron, addressing the Bench, described it as a very bold attempt on the part of the police to take away a man's living and reputation by what were known as innuendoes. The Bench ought not to refuse the application on mere suspicion. The Bench declined to grant the application. On the application of Mr. Travis, the Bench granted a temporary authority to *Joseph Richard Scott*, and dispensed with the customary notice."

County Express 12/9/1908

"Friendly Societies' Parade. On Wednesday evening the committee of the above met at the PLOUGH AND HARROW INN, Mr. W. Coley presiding over a large attendance. The following was a complete list of those boxes which contained amounts of 1s and upwards.....

Mr. *T. Raybould*, JOLLY COLLIER, 1s 11d."

1911 Census

Cradley Heath – JOLLY COLLIER INN

[1] *Mary Ann Raybould* (40), widow, public house business, born Cradley Heath;

[2] *Laura Raybould* (21), daughter, born Cradley Heath;

[3] *Dorothy May Raybould* (13), daughter, born Cradley Heath;

[4] *Gertrude Ethel Linda Raybould* (10), daughter, school, born Cradley Heath;

[5] *Phoebe Evelyn Raybould* (8), daughter, school, born Cradley Heath;

[6] *Thomas Clement Raybould* (5), son, school, born Lye:

County Express 6/5/1911

"At Old Hill, on Wednesday, *Joseph Foulkes*, chain striker, Hightown, Cradley, was summoned for refusing to quit the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Cradley Road, Cradley Heath, assaulting the landlady, *Mary Ann Raybould*, and also doing wilful damage to seven panes of glass, a window, a partition, and two jugs on the 22nd ult.

Mrs. *Raybould* stated that on the night in question defendant, when under the influence of drink, visited her house and became quarrelsome. Witness asked him to leave, but he refused to go. Witness put defendant out, and whilst doing so he struck her a blow with his fist in the chest. He also threw a brick at her which missed her, but struck the partition doing damage to it. Defendant pushed his hand through the window of the outdoor department, and upon getting outside he hurled a number of stones at the windows, doing considerable damage to them.

Defendant who appeared with his arm in a sling, pleaded guilty.

In reply to the Chairman (Mr. J. W. Tilley), PC Foulkes said defendant badly injured his hand when he pushed it through the window.

Defendant was fined 10s for refusing to quit, ordered to pay the costs for the assault, and the damage and the costs in the third case. The total amount was £1 16s."

County Express 3/6/1911

"At Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, *Enoch Stokes* (18), chainmaker, Little Hill, Cradley, was charged with stealing a shilling from the till of the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Cradley Road, Cradley Heath, belonging to *Mary Ann Raybould*, on the 26th ult. *Sarah Stokes* (38), of the same locality, sister-in-law of defendant, was charged with receiving the shilling knowing it to have been stolen.

It was alleged that the male defendant went into the public house and ordered a drink. During the temporary absence of the landlord he was heard to go to a till in the bar, and afterwards hurry out of the house. The landlady went to the till, and missing the shilling, she went after Stokes, and told him if he did not return it she would give him into custody. He returned, and took 1s out of one of his boots, and threw it on the table. The woman, who was there, used insulting language towards the prosecutrix, and afterwards said, 'You shall not have it now,' and, taking up the money, hurried away with it.

The Chairman said it was a very impudent theft, and defendants were each fined 20s and costs, or 14 days' imprisonment."

County Express 30/9/1911

"At the Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, the temporary transfer of the JOLLY COLLIER was applied for from *Mary Ann Raybould* to *John Hill*. In answer to the Magistrates' Clerk (Mr. T. Cooksey), Mr. Hill stated that Mrs. *Raybould* refused to attend the Court and refused to do anything to help the transfer. The transfer was granted."

County Express 28/10/1911

"At Old Hill Police Court, on Wednesday, on the application of *John Hill*, licensee of the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Cradley Road, a certified copy of the license was granted to him. It was stated that the license had been lost."

County Express 4/11/1911

"Local Auction Summary.....

Furniture. Monday, November 6th. JOLLY COLLIER, Cradley Road, Cradley Heath, by Edward Stone, Hooper, and Pickard."

Dudley Chronicle 9/12/1911

“*John Philip Hill* applied for the transfer of the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Cradley Heath, from *Mary Ann Raybould*, who, it was stated, had absconded, the new tenant having served the notice upon the police and overseers. The magistrates granted the application.”

County Express 3/8/1912 - Advert

“Bicycle (gent’s), in good condition, 35s.
Apply JOLLY COLLIER INN, Cradley Heath.”

Ernest Hall was also a brewer. [1920]

William Botfield – see also BELL.

The first meeting of Cradley Heath Licensed Victuallers’ Association was held here in September 1925.

Birmingham Daily Gazette 24/11/1938

“Half of the roof of the JOLLY COLLIER INN, Cradley Road, collapsed under the weight of a falling chimney.....”
[This is from a report on damage done by a gale.]

Birmingham Daily Gazette 15/12/1938

“Chased by a policeman when seen talking to two girls in High Street, Cradley Heath, 19-year-old *Frederick Botfield*, of the JOLLY COLLIER, Cradley Road, Cradley Heath, wrote to Old Hill magistrates alleging that the policeman assaulted him. When he appeared in court yesterday on an adjourned summons for pavement obstruction his allegations were not substantiated. PC *Hinckley* said that *Botfield* and another youth were talking to two girls and as he approached *Botfield* broke into a run and mingled with the crowd. He was caught by PC *Hill* and when brought back was holding a handkerchief to his chin, which appeared to have a scratch on it. ‘I asked him what was the matter,’ added the constable, ‘and he replied ‘Nothing.’”
PC *Hill* said that he had just caught up with *Botfield* when he seemed to trip up. Witness was unable to stop himself and fell on top of him.

Inspector *Hughes*: Did you touch him in any way or offer any sort of aggression? – PC *Hill*: No, sir.

Asked by the Clerk, Mr. G. Lee, if he had anything to say, *Botfield* replied, ‘I have nothing more to say than was in the letter. I can’t remember tripping up. I was running, and the next thing I know was that I was on the floor with the policeman on top of me.’

Botfield, who was stated to have had two previous summonses for obstruction, was fined 30s.”

1939 Register

52, Cradley Road

[1] *Thomas Baker*, date of birth 7/9/1907, iron moulder, heavy work, married;

[2] *Ruby (E.) Baker*, dob 7/6/1912, unpaid domestic duties, married;

[4] *Rex Baker*, dob 9/4/1933, at school, single;

[5] *Madge (Baker) Hackett*, dob 31/3/1936, under school age, single:

AND (next entry)

[1] *Phoebe A. Botfield*, date of birth 13/10/1878, manageress of public house, widowed;

[2] *Fred Botfield*, dob 28/8/1919, carpenter, single;

[3] *Hilda Bennett*, dob 13/11/1916, unpaid domestic duties, married;

A team from here took part in the Cradley Heath Domino League. [1960]

John Paterson Parker – see also HEATH TAVERN.

It closed in 1985.

It reopened as the GARDEN HOUSE in May 1986.

John Welding was married to *Rosemary*.

It was renamed NEW COLLIERS.

Sandwell Evening Mail 18/3/1989

“A 19-year-old *Rowley Regis* youth was punched in the head and face as he waited outside a disco. The attack happened outside the NEW COLLIER pub, Cradley Road, Cradley Heath, last night.

Smethwick CID said the assault took place after a disturbance inside the pub. The youth was taken to hospital. His condition was said to be satisfactory.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 8/12/1989

“Gig Guide..... Friday.....
Road House Blues, NEW COLLIERS INN, Cradley Heath.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 13/11/1991

“It’s true – look after the pence and the pounds will look after themselves.
Customers at the NEW COLLIERS pub in Cradley Heath have built a foot-high pile of copper from 2p pieces. And they chose to donate it to the Light Up a Life campaign by the *Evening Mail*, Buzz FM radio and the TSB, to extend the cancer ward at Birmingham Children’s Hospital.
Hosts *Rose* and *Colin Smith* drank to the children before finding out the full measure of their customers’ generosity. The pile was knocked down, and the coins added up to £376.”

Sandwell Evening Mail 19/12/1991

“Well Done! Your hearts of gold have kept cash pouring in for cancer children.....
Other fund-raising events still running throughout the Christmas period include.....
NEW COLLIERS, Cradley Road, Cradley Heath, two-pence pile, organised by *Rose Smith*.”

Thomas A. McFadden was married to Coleen.

Halesowen News 3/6/1999

“The Free Corp Motorcycle Club is staging its annual rally in Cradley Heath to raise money for the Kingfisher Club Bikers will be at the NEW COLLIERS pub, Cradley Road, on Saturday June 12 to raise cash for the disabled club’s holiday fund.
On offer will be a custom and classic motorbike show, best bike in show and all-day activities and entertainment.....”

[2001]

Its name was changed to WIZARD AND GLASS. [2002]

In August 2015 the pub was damaged when a car, driven by a joy rider, crashed into it.

[2019]

Dudley News 17/8/2020

“Plans to convert a former Cradley Heath pub into a takeaway and flats have been submitted to Sandwell Council. The WIZARD AND GLASS pub on Cradley Road closed its doors in March. An application has now been submitted to convert the pub into a takeaway and two two-bedroom flats. Plans from Cradley Heath based firm Lins Property Management, do not state what type of takeaway, or what its opening hours would be. Under the proposal the car park would be extended to provide 15 spaces. There is currently eight spaces.
The pub closed its doors for the final time on March 12.”

WOMAN

New Pool, ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

LICENSEES

NOTES

[1868]

YEW TREE

4, Yew Tree Lane, (Carnegie Road), (Ross Hill), BLACKHEATH

OWNERS

William Butler and Co. Ltd.

LICENSEES

George Churchill [1855] – **1858**);
William Hadley (**1858 – 1860**);
Joseph Hadley (**1860 – []**)
Isaac Hadley [1861] – **1865**);
Noah Priest (**1865 – [1883]**)
James Southwick [1887] – [1916]
Mrs. Elizabeth Harper [1919] – **1921**);
William Henry Gaunt (**1921 – 1924**);
Albert Smith (**1924 – 1935**);
Isaac Bishop (**1935 – 1936**);
Jesse 'Jess' Smith (**1936 – 1961**);
Eliza Smith (**1961 – [c.1962]**)

NOTES

Ross Hill [1873]
Carnegie Road
4, Yew Tree Lane [1881], [1891], [1932], [1940]

Birmingham Journal 7/4/1855

“On Tuesday, an inquest was held before G. H. Hinchcliffe, Esq, at the house of Mr. *George Churchill*, of the YEW TREE, Rowley, on the body of Joseph Plant, aged thirty-three, who was killed while at work in a pit at Waterfall Lane, belonging to Mr. William Mills, by a quantity of coals falling from the roof upon him on the 31st ult. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.”

London Gazette 26/6/1857

“Whereas a Petition of *George Churchill*, now and for these six months past, living at Lillyport, in the parish of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, carrying on business as a Licensed Victualler and Publican, and also a Charter Master, under the employ of Messrs. Mills and Higgs, and for five years before that period, living in Yew Tree-lane, in the said parish of Rowley Regis, carrying on business also as a Licensed Victualler and Publican, and also being a Charter Master and Butty Collier, and for three years before that period, living in Powke-lane, in the said parish of Rowley, working as a Charter Master only, an insolvent debtor having been sued in the County Court of Worcestershire, at Dudley, and an interim order for protection from process having been given to the said *George Churchill*, under the provision of the Statutes in that case made and provided, the said *George Churchill* is hereby required to appear before the said Court, on the 10th day of July 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 *George Churchill*, 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.”

Wolverhampton Chronicle 12/8/1857

“At a sitting of the County Court on Friday, Mr. Serjeant Clarke disposed of the following cases.....
George Churchill, licensed victualler and publican of Lilly-pot, Rowley, came up on his first adjourned examination, supported by Mr. Smith, and opposed by Mr. Wright, of the firm of Hayes and Wright, Oldbury. The petition was dismissed with a view to make an arrangement with creditors.”

Staffordshire Advertiser 28/11/1857 - Advert

“Insolvent Debtors to be heard before the Judge of the County Court of Worcestershire, holden at Worcester, at the Guildhall, Worcester aforesaid, on Wednesday, the ninth day of December, 1857, at the hour of ten in the morning precisely.....
George Churchill, late of Rowley Regis, in the county of Stafford, out of business; previously of the same place, Licensed Victualler, Butty Collier, and Chartermaster.”

County Advertiser 28/8/1858

“Stewpony Annual Licensing Meeting. This meeting was held on Tuesday last.....
Forty complaints were made against licensed victuallers for having been convicted since the last license day for keeping open house during divine service, &c. The following were suspended.....
William Hadley, YEW TREE, Rowley.”

Worcestershire Chronicle 18/1/1860

“Wordsley Public Office, Monday, Jan. 16.....

The following transfers of licences were allowed.....

YEW TREE INN, Rowley Regis, from *William Hadley* to *Joseph Hadley*.....

Hadley's application was opposed by Mr. Burbury on behalf of the creditors of *William Hadley*, on the ground that it was an attempt to defraud the creditors of their rights by transferring the goods to the brother. The Bench decided that such was not a point for their consideration.”

1861 Census

Yew Tree Lane

- [1] *Isaac Hadley* (64), retired farmer, born Rowley;
- [2] *Rebekah Hadley* (58), wife, born Dudley;
- [3] *William Hadley* (26), son, labourer, born Rowley;
- [4] *Joseph Hadley* (24), son, labourer, born Rowley;
- [5] *Mary A. Hadley* (22), daughter, born Rowley;
- [6] *Rebekah Hadley* (15), daughter, born Rowley;
- [7] *Sarah L. Hadley* (3), daughter, born Rowley:

County Advertiser 7/10/1865

“Last week Mr. *Noah Priest*, of the YEW TREE INN, Blackheath, dug up a potato in his garden, in which two teeth, which had belonged to some large animal, were imbedded.”

County Advertiser 2/10/1869

“On Tuesday, Mr. E. Hooper, Coroner, held an inquest on the body of Mr. William Smart, at the YEW TREE INN, Blackheath, who met his death on Saturday, while at work at the Clipper Pits, Old Hill. Mr. Baker, Government Inspector, was present during the inquiry. The deceased, it transpired, was at work at some ‘hanging coal,’ when a fall of about five tons suddenly took place, and he was instantaneously killed. There did not appear to be blame attached to any one, and the Jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.”

1871 Census

Yew Tree Lane

- [1] *Noah Priest* (55), licensed vituler [sic], born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Jane Priest* (56), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Sampson Priest* (27), son, married, chain maker, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Lucy Priest* (25), daughter-in-law, nail maker, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] *Noah Priest* (3), grandson, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] *Jane Priest* (1), granddaughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *Esther Bird* (13), general servant, born Dudley:

County Advertiser 6/3/1875

“*Noah Priest*, landlord of the YEW TREE public house, was charged with having, on Sunday, the 7th ult, opened his house during prohibited hours, and also with having sold a quantity of rum. Mr. Smith defended. Police-constable Holland said that he visited the defendant’s house on the morning in question, and saw the landlady serve some rum in a bottle to a boy. He called the attention of the landlord to it, but he said he knew nothing about it. Mr. Smith admitted the facts, but stated that there was a person residing near the defendant taken ill, and the boy was sent to the house for some rum. Under the circumstances the rum was supplied. Mr. Superintendent Mills did not press the case, and defendant paid costs.”

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.....

Noah Priest, YEW TREE INN, Blackheath.”

County Advertiser 9/8/1879

“*Solomon Cooper* and *Joseph Nock*, charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the YEW TREE INN, Blackheath, were each fined 5s and costs (or fourteen days) on the evidence of the landlord, *Noah Priest*.”

1881 Census

4, Yew Tree Lane – YEW TREE INN

- [1] *Noah Priest* (64), widower, publican, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] *Noah Priest* (13), grandson, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] *Annie Poole* (36), domestic servant, born Rowley Regis:

Noah Priest married Ann Pool in the 1st quarter of 1882.

St. Giles, Rowley - Parish Register - Baptisms

3rd May 1882 - Noah, son of *Noah* and *Annie Priest*, publican, Yew Tree.

31st October 1883 - Samuel, son of *Noah* and *Annie Priest*, publican, Yew Tree Lane.

Birmingham Daily Post 21/7/1887

“At Old Hill Police Court yesterday, *James Southwick*, landlord of the YEW TREE INN, Blackheath; Isaac Mullett, landlord of the HAWTHORN INN; Joseph Tromans, landlord of the BOAT INN, Gosty Hill; James Lovatt of the PORTWAY TAVERN, Perris Lake, Rowley; Henry Cooper of the THREE FURNACES, Old Hill; and Joseph Tibbetts, Spring Fields, Rowley, were summoned by the Excise officials for adding sugar to beer after the duty had been taken, between the dates of April 18 and 27.

Mr. Davis stated that the defendants added a quantity of sugar to the beer after the Excise officers had been round and taken the duty. Books were supplied by the Inland Revenue, in which the quantity of sugar and other ingredients used was entered. Upon visiting the defendants' premises it was found that sugar had been added which was capable of raising the standard of ale from what was termed twopenny up to sixpenny.

Mr. Shakespeare, who defended, pleaded guilty to the charges, but pointed out that the defendants were ignorant of the law, and were not aware they were doing wrong. Their object in adding the sugar was to give the beer a 'head,' make it clear and palatable. There was no intention of defrauding the Inland Revenue Office.

Mr. Davis stated that in one case the gravity of the ale was increased from 66 to 77 degrees.

Mr. Shakespeare asked that a nominal penalty be inflicted.

Defendants were fined £20 each, including costs, the aggregated amount of the penalties being £120.”

1891 Census

4, Yew Tree Lane – YEW TREE INN

[1] *James Southwick* (29), widower, bricklayer, master, and publican, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Priscilla Southwick (27), sister, born Rowley Regis;

[3] Phoebe Priest (19), general servant, born Rowley Regis;

[4] Edward Darby (15), nephew, bricklayer's labourer, born Rowley Regis;

[5] Charles Smith (33), boarder, bricklayer's labourer, cripple from birth, born Rowley Regis:

County Advertiser 13/1/1894

“A shocking accident occurred on Wednesday morning at the Hawes Hill Colliery, Moor Lane, Rowley, which resulted in one man losing his life, and another being seriously injured. The colliery has recently come into the possession of a number of gentlemen who trade as the Hawes Hill Colliery Company, and during the week two men named Samuel Tucker, of Garratts Lane, Old Hill, and Richard Roberts, of Moor Lane, had been repairing the shaft preparatory to work being commenced by the miners. On Wednesday afternoon the two men descended the shaft a distance of about 20 yards, and, as usual, were lashed to ropes. Shortly after commencing work one of the men made the remark that he was afraid there was going to be a slip of the shaft, and they at once signalled to the banksman to be drawn up. The ropes were attached to a stave, or what colliers call a 'byatt.' The men, however, got into the 'bowk' to ascend before divesting themselves of the ropes, the result being that when they ascended the shaft a few yards, the ropes to which they were attached pulled them out of the 'bowk,' and both fell with great violence on the scaffold below. Some men immediately descended the shaft and found Roberts, who is twenty-one years of age, dead, his neck being broken. Tucker, who is about 50 years of age, was discovered with his right leg broken, his ribs fractured, and his face badly injured. He was able to explain to his rescuers how the accident occurred. He was then removed to his home, and attended by Dr. Beasley. Owing to his serious condition, he was the same afternoon, removed to the Guest Hospital.

The inquest on Roberts was held yesterday afternoon, at the YEW TREE INN, Rowley Regis, by Mr. F. W. Topham (deputy coroner). Mr. S. Hooper, of Dudley, represented the Hawes Hill Colliery Company, the owners of the colliery at which the deceased met his death. Mr. H. Scott, Government Inspector of Mines, was also present.

William Whitehead, miner, 15, Moor Lane, Rowley Regis, said he was called to the Scotwell Colliery at ten minutes past seven on Wednesday morning. When he reached the pit, Tucker was calling for help and a light. There was a light in the pit at the time, but not sufficiently far down for Tucker to see what he was doing. He ran home for a line to let down a light and when he returned Tucker had got into the 'bowk' and had been drawn up. He enquired of Tucker where deceased was, and Tucker replied, 'He's dead.' Witness then descended the shaft in company with the banksman, when they found deceased lying on his back at the bottom, dead. He had the rope, which was attached to a curb about nine yards up the shaft, still fastened round his body. He was unable to tell at the time the nature of the deceased's injuries. The rope was unfastened, and deceased brought to the top of the shaft and conveyed home. The shaft had not been in use for some time, and deceased, who was a labourer, was, at the time he met with his death, employed with Tucker in preparing it for work again. Deceased commenced work on Tuesday morning, and had been at work about an hour on Wednesday morning when the accident occurred. The men were engaged in clearing out the shaft at the bottom. There being a danger of the bottom giving way, each had a rope fastened round his body to curbs some distance above. When there were indications of a slip they signalled to be drawn up, and got into the 'bowk.' They neglected to detach the ropes, and as the 'bowk' was hauled above the curb the ropes became taut, and dragged them out of the 'bowk,' and they fell to the bottom.

By Mr. Hooper: The ropes were attached to the men by their own request.

Edmund Chambers, banksman, of Wrights Lane, Old Hill, said he was employed at the colliery on the morning of the accident.

Shortly after seven o'clock Roberts and deceased gave the signal to be drawn up. He communicated this to the engineman, and the latter started the engine. When the 'bowk' came to the top empty, he immediately ran and fetched the previous witness, who descended the shaft with him. He untied the rope which was round the waist of the deceased. Tucker told witness that the only cause of the accident was their neglect to take off the ropes before they commenced the ascent. The pit was about fifty yards deep,

and the men must have fallen a distance of about twenty yards.

By Mr. Hooper: It was customary to raise the 'bowk' three or four feet, and then to steady the rope at the top of the shaft, after which a second signal was given. Both the men signalled each time.

Police-constable Hyman stated that he had examined the body of the deceased, whose injuries consisted of a broken neck and severe bruises on the body. He had also visited Tucker, who said there was no blame attached to anyone but themselves.

The Coroner said he did not think the jury would have much difficulty arriving at a conclusion. The only reasonable one warranted by the evidence was that the occurrence was accidental.

A verdict of Accidental Death was accordingly returned."

County Advertiser 2/3/1895

"Yesterday morning, Mr. E. Hooper (coroner) held an inquest at the YEW TREE INN, Blackheath, concerning the death of Thomas Gould (50), nailer, of Cakemore, near Halesowen, who died suddenly on the 26th inst. The evidence showed that on the day named the deceased, whilst working near the Hawes Lane, Leasowes, was taken suddenly ill, and expired shortly afterwards. The wife of deceased said that deceased only brought her of his wages 8s and 6s per week, and they had for several days been obliged to go without food.

The Coroner said it was a very sad case.

The jury returned a verdict of Death from Natural Causes, accelerated by want of proper food.

At the close of the inquest, Mr. T. Brookes, the foreman of the jury brought up the question of a public mortuary. He thought that a public mortuary should be constructed. He pointed out that in this case had not proper arrangements been made the body would probably have been eaten by rats.

The Coroner said if it was the wish of the jury he would report the matter to the proper authority. A stable was not the proper place for a dead body.

The other jurymen agreed with the remarks of Mr. Brookes, and the Coroner intimated that he would lay the whole matter before the proper authority."

County Advertiser 25/5/1895

"A Raid On Publicans.....

James Southwick, landlord of the YEW TREE INN, Blackheath, was charged with permitting gaming on his premises on the 27th ult for money or money's worth. Mr. Waldron appeared for the police, and Mr. J. Sharpe defended.

Mr. Waldron briefly detailed the facts, and added that defendant was a most respectable man. Police-sergeant Winfield visited the house without the knowledge of the other officers, and soon after he came in a young woman, who was serving, came in and told the men to stop playing, thus showing that she knew what was going on. The men refused, and a young man came in and took away the cards.

Police-constable Rixson deposed to visiting the house of defendant in plain clothes on the night of the 27th ult. In the tap room there were about nine men, and five were playing 'don.' Several games were played for beer and money. The winner received a penny from each of the four losers, and paid it to 'kitty' towards a quart of four-penny. The beer was brought in and consumed, and the young man and woman supplied it. They were in and out most of the time, and the landlord came to a screen in the room once or twice and looked over it. He could see what was going on. The young woman told them the sergeant was there and they were to stop playing. They refused, and the young man came in and took the cards away.

George Badger corroborated.

Mr. Sharpe said in this case he had to urge that the landlord had no knowledge that card playing was going on in his house, and, therefore, did not connive at it. One of the men brought a pack of cards into the house without his knowledge, and when he knew of it he told them to stop playing and did all he could to make them desist. Defendant had a good record and he urged that it was a case in which they might dismiss the summons.

Defendant was called and said he had kept the house for ten years without any complaint of this character. He did not know of any card playing, and when he did he told them he should have no card playing here.

Mary Brace, servant, said she served the ale and did not see any money pass.

Southwick was fined £5 and costs, and the license was not endorsed."

Birmingham Daily Post 26/9/1895

"The Old Hill adjourned annual Licensing Sessions were held yesterday. Mr. Waldron applied for a renewal of the licenses to *James Southwick* which were adjourned from the annual licensing day. Mr. Bassano asked how the houses had been conducted in the meantime, and Inspector Given replied that everything had been satisfactory. The licenses were renewed."

1901 Census

4, Yew Tree Lane

[1] *James Southwick* (40), bricklayer and publican, born Rowley Regis;

[2] Annie Elizabeth Southwick (38), wife, born Beoley, Worcestershire;

[3] Alice Jones (22), servant, born Blackheath:

County Advertiser 20/10/1906

"*James Southwick*, of the YEW TREE INN, Blackheath, was summoned for allowing four horses to stray upon the highway, on the 10th inst. Police-sergeant Bentley proved the case. Defendant pleaded that he kept his fence good, but the fence belonging to another person was down. The Bench ordered defendant to pay the costs, and informed him that his remedy was against his

neighbour.”

County Express 25/7/1908

“On Wednesday, at Old Hill, Edward Willetts (53), insurance agent, Powke Lane, Blackheath was charged with stealing a bottle of brandy, value 5s 6d, belonging to *James Southwick*, landlord of the YEW TREE INN, Ross, Blackheath. Mr. Taylor prosecuted, and Mr. A Ward (instructed by Mr. R. Bate) defended.

Prosecutor said that on the 11th inst, he was arranging his stock and left defendant in the bar alone for a few minutes. When he returned witness missed a bottle of brandy from the top shelf, and speaking to the servant girl about the loss, requested her to fetch a policeman. Defendant was present and he then produced a bottle of brandy from his pocket, and said, ‘I don’t know what made me do it.’

In cross-examination, witness said he knew defendant had suffered from epileptic fits. He was all right until witness called for a police officer, then he commenced to tremble and could not keep himself still. He had known defendant for over forty years, and knew him to be a respectable man. Sometimes he scarcely seemed to be responsible for his actions.

For the defence, Mr. Ward admitted the theft, but raised a plea that defendant was not responsible for his action at the time of the offence. Defendant had lived all his life in the district and was highly respected.

Dr. A. D. McQueen stated that he had attended defendant for three years. He suffered from gall stones and lately developed epileptic fits. When he was seized in a fit he was hardly responsible for his actions.

Mr. J. H. Smith (chairman) said there was no possible doubt about the theft, but after hearing the medical evidence the Bench had come to the conclusion that there was no felonious intent. Under those circumstances the case would be dismissed.”

1911 Census

4, Yewtree Lane – YEW TREE INN

- [1] *James Southwick* (49), widower, publican, born Yew Tree Cottage, Rowley;
- [2] Florrie Lycett (25), barmaid, housekeeper in business, born 18, Dudley Road, Rowley;
- [3] Mary Pardoe (20), domestic servant, born Whiteheath:

Birmingham Daily Gazette 4/8/1913

“One of three brothers, each of whom was over twenty stones in weight and over six feet high, has died at Blackheath. This was Mr. George Southwick. He was a Volunteer for many years, and his brother Mr. *James Southwick*, who is landlord of a well-known hostel, is one of the oldest publicans in Rowley Regis.”

County Express 16/4/1921

“At Old Hill Police Court on Wednesday, the license for the YEW TREE INN, Ross, Rowley Regis, was transferred from Mrs. *Elizabeth Harper* to *William Henry Grant*. It was explained by the applicant that the usual notice had not been given to the police, it being necessary for Mrs. *Harper* to leave the house immediately. Supt. Robotham raised no objection to the transfer under the circumstances.”

1939 Register

Yew Tree Lane – YEW TREE INN

- [1] *Jess Smith*, date of birth 14/2/1905, licensee, haulage contractor, heavy work, married;
- [2] Eliza Smith, dob 8/3/1903, unpaid domestic duties, married;
- [3] Clifford Smith, dob 8/6/1926, at school, single;
- [4] Stanley Smith, dob 29/7/1930, at school, single;

The license was surrendered on the grant of the license for the TIMBERTREE.

Closed

It was demolished c.1964.

The site became a car park.

Beerhouse – Unnamed

49, Springfield Lane, (Blackberry Town), ROWLEY REGIS

OWNERS

LICENSEES

Mark Dunn [1857] – [1891]

Frederick Mark Dunn [1901] – [1911]

NOTES

[This was an off-licence and no evidence has been found indicating that an on-licence was granted.]

County Advertiser 27/6/1857

“*Mark Dunn*, a beerhouse-keeper, Spring-Fields, Rowley Regis, was summoned by PO Burton for having his house open for the sale of liquors after eleven o’clock on the night of the 15th inst. The officer found five men and several women drinking there at half-past eleven o’clock. Defendant who expressed contrition in very warm terms, was fined 2s 6d and costs.”

1861 Census

Springfield Lane – Public House

- [1] *Mark Dunn* (39), nailor, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Hannah Dunn (41), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] John Dunn (16), son, labourer, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Samuel Dunn (9), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Sarah J. Dunn (7), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Susan Dunn (6), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] George E. Dunn (4), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] *Frederick M. Dunn* (2), son, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [9] Phemelia Dunn (9 months), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [10] John Sheldon (20), visitor, unmarried, labourer, born Rowley Regis;
- [11] Elizabeth Sheldon (17), visitor, unmarried, nailor, born Rowley Regis;

County Advertiser 27/8/1870

“The annual licensing meeting for the Old Hill Petty Sessional Division was held yesterday.....

There were nine applications for beer licenses.....

Mark Dunn, Springfield. Refused.”

1871 Census

Blackberry Town

- [1] *Mark Dunn* (49), nail maker, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Susanna Dunn (51), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] John S. Dunn (30), son, labourer at blast furnace, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] Sarah J. Dunn (17), daughter, nail maker, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Susanna Dunn (16), daughter, nail maker, born Rowley Regis;
- [6] Georgina Dunn (15), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;
- [7] *Frederick M. Dunn* (13), son, labourer at pipe factory, born Rowley Regis;
- [8] Pamela Dunn (11), daughter, scholar, born Rowley Regis;

County Advertiser 28/8/1875

“Old Hill Licensing Sessions.....

Mark Dunn, Springfield, and Stephen Rollason, Blackheath, applied for beerhouse licenses. John Mathews and William Woodhall, both of Cradley Heath, for wine licenses. The applications of Mr. Mathews and Mr. Woodhall, were granted, and all the others were refused.”

Dudley Herald 28/8/1880

“The annual Licensing Session was held at the Police Court, Old Hill, on Wednesday.....

Police-superintendent Woollaston presented his annual statement of offending publicans during the past year.....

Mark Dunn, out-door beerhouse-keeper, Springfield, Rowley, allowing ale to be consumed on premises July 14th, 1880, to pay costs.....

Mr. Hayes applied for a renewal of an outdoor licence to *Mark Dunn*, of Rowley. Granted.”

1881 Census

49, Springfield Lane

- [1] *Mark Dunn* (59), beerhouse keeper, born Rowley Regis;
- [2] Susannah Dunn (61), wife, born Rowley Regis;
- [3] Georgina Dunn (24), daughter, born Rowley Regis;
- [4] *Frederick Dunn* (22), son, unemployed, born Rowley Regis;
- [5] Amelia Dunn (20), daughter, born Rowley Regis;

County Express 25/3/1882

“*Mark Dunn*, outdoor beerhouse keeper, Springfields, Rowley Regis, was summoned for selling ale to be consumed on the high-

way near his house. Mr. Cooksey defended.

At about four o'clock on the afternoon of the 10th inst, Police-constable Styles saw a man leave the defendant's house carrying a jug which contained ale. Having walked a short distance off the man drank the ale. The officer then entered the house and ascertained that defendant's daughter supplied the ale. He taxed the defendant's wife about it, but she replied that she could not follow people about, to see where they drank the ale. Defendant subsequently met the officer, and told him that if he would look over this case he would pay him well for his trouble.

For the defence Mr. Cooksey called evidence to show that the jug in which the man fetched the ale did not belong to the defendant, but that he had borrowed it from a neighbour. Under this circumstance the defendant could not be expected to know what was going to be done with the ale.

Mr. Bassano said the worst of these cases was that they seemed to have such a demoralising effect on people. The landlord tried to bribe the policeman, and the witnesses seemed to be prepared to say anything to make out a case. Not unfrequently they imposed on their own advocates. He thought that the Bench were bound to consider this in estimating the penalty, and though the offence itself was not a bad one, they should impose a fine of 40s 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 Beer-house Keepers.....

Mark Dunn, no sign, Springfields, allowing ale to be consumed on premises, paid costs; selling ale on premises, fined 40s 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."

1891 Census

49, Springfield Lane

[1] *Mark Dunn* (69), beer seller out licence, born Rowley Regis;

[2] *Susannah Dunn* (71), wife, born Rowley Regis;

[3] *Frederick M. Dunn* (32), general labourer, born Rowley Regis:

1901 Census

49, Springfield Lane

[1] *Frederick M. Dunn* (42), unmarried, brewer, born Rowley Regis:

1911 Census

49, Springfield Lane

[1] *Frederick M. Dunn* (52), unmarried, beerhouse keeper, born Rowley Regis: